



Italian Award for Paleoart – IV Edition

Rules and guidelines

What is the Italian Award for Paleoart?

The *Italian Award for Paleoart* (Premio Italiano di Paleoarte) is an art competition organised and promoted by the *Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio* and the *Paleontological Museum of Montevarchi*. Among the goals pursued with the organisation of the *Italian Award for Paleoart*, there is the will to spread the knowledge of Paleoart (the representation of prehistoric life through different artistic techniques) and therefore offer a showcase for professional and aspiring paleoartists that want to promote their creations.

The First Edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart* was successfully held during 2021, collecting more than 120 works created by 75 different artists from all over the world. The Second and Third Edition took place in 2022 and 2023, respectively, with an equally large number of participants.

The *illustrations* and *projects* submitted for the IV Edition of the competition will go to make up an exhibition that will be presented to the public at the *Palaeontological Museum of Montevarchi* from **12 October 2024**.

The *Italian Award for Paleoart* is assisted by the *Associazione Paleontologica e Paleoartistica Italiana* (Italian Paleontological and Paleoart Association) which has been organising and promoting events related to palaeontology and paleoart in Italy for years, by the *Società Geologica Italiana* (Italian Geological Society), Italy's oldest and most representative scientific association in the field of geosciences, which strives for the advancement, promotion and diffusion of geological knowledge in its theoretical and applied aspects, by the *Società Paleontologica Italiana* (Italian Paleontological Society), the Italian association founded in 1948 to promote research in palaeontology and related sciences, and the *Associazione Nazionale dei Musei Scientifici* (Italian Association of Scientific Museums), which for over fifty years has been promoting discussion, collaboration and growth between science museums, botanical gardens, zoological gar-

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dens, aquariums and anyone involved in communication, conservation and research in science.

The categories: *illustrations and projects*

On the occasion of the IV Edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart*, in addition to the classic category dedicated to **illustrations**, a new category of works that can be entered in the competition is introduced: the **project** category.

Original projects dedicated to paleoart and, more generally, to palaeontology illustrated through images such as books, comics, articles, short animated films, collections of original sculptures, augmented reality experiences, applications for mobile devices, etc. can be entered in the *projects* category and must be told through the creation of a poster.

The *project* category includes all those paleo-artistic creations that cannot be represented by a single image.

An author may participate by submitting entries in both categories, with a maximum of two *illustrations* and one *project*.

Who can participate

For the *illustration* category, artists are allowed to participate without distinction of gender, age, nationality. Participation is open to both professional and aspiring artists.

For the *projects* category, the participation of individual artists and/or collectives, groups containing at least one artist.

The ILLUSTRATIONS category

Illustrations submitted to the IV Edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart* may depict any kind of prehistoric animal and plant life form, a particular environment, biotic community and prehistoric ecosystem.

The *illustrations* must be original and unpublished, not published in any other context; all works submitted to other illustration competitions or published in books, websites and/or social networks prior to the opening of the exhibition will be excluded from the competition. Each author will be free to submit works in black and white or colour, accompanied by the following personal information:

- Name, surname and nationality;
- Biography (even short) of the author;
- Author's date of birth;
- The work's title, the technique used, description of the work;
- E-mail address;
- The author's website and/or social network.

The name of the species, biotic community, fossil reference or palaeontological site reconstructed in the work must be indicated in the title or description, possibly citing publications that mention the subject(s).

Given that originality and complexity will be amongst the assessment criteria for evaluating the works, the following types of reconstructions are allowed:

- Realistic reconstructions depicting one or more subjects, on a monochrome background or within an environment;
- Reconstructions of prehistoric environments of every type.

Skeletal reconstructions or reproductions of fossil finds are not admitted to the *illustration* category of the IV Edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart*.

Illustrations made, even partially, by image-generating programs (e.g. Dall-E, Midjourney and others) are not admitted; works made with the use of these tools will be excluded from the competition.

Works without scientific validity will be excluded from the competition.

The size of the illustrations must be 42 cm x 29.7 cm (paper size A3) and it can be created with any technique, whether classical (e.g. pencil drawing, watercolours, oil paint, etc.) or digital (e.g. digital painting, 3d sculpture, etc.).

Sculptors can participate by supplying photos/renderings of their sculptures, provided that they follow the specified sizes and are in high definition.

Sculptors will have the opportunity to provide several photos of the same sculpture to allow the judges a more careful and thorough evaluation, bearing in mind that only one can be entered in the competition and used for printing; it will be the duty of the sculptor to specify which one.

In anticipation of possible cuts and readjustments of the image, it is advisable not to place fundamental elements for interpreting the image near the edges of the image, but rather to place the protagonists at least a few millimetres away from the edges. Likewise, the author's signature or logo, if present, must be placed at least 5 mm from the edges and must not exceed two centimetres in size.

In order to guarantee quality printing, all images must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and must be delivered in one of the following formats: PDF, JPG, TIFF. The weight of each image must not exceed 35 MB.

It is required to send two versions of each image, one with CMYK colour profile, useful for printing, and one with RGB colour profile, to facilitate the judges' evaluation.

For the 2024 edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart*, each author may submit a maximum of two separate works, bearing in mind that the same artist may not win more than one prize in this category.

In the case of sculptors, the two images may not show the same sculpture framed from different angles.

The PROJECTS category

Projects entered for the IV Edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart* may relate to any kind of creativity not comparable to a single image. By projects we refer to books, comics, articles, short films, animated shorts, collections of original sculptures, augmented reality experiences, applications for mobile devices, etc., which must be told through a poster.

Projects submitted by the respective authors must be original and unpublished, not published in any other context; *projects* released online before the launch of the competition will be excluded from the competition.

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Projects realised by individual authors or by collectives are eligible, they will have to share the following personal information:

- Name, surname and nationality of the author(s);
- Biography (even short) of the author(s);
- Date of birth of the author(s);
- Project title and description
- E-mail address;
- Website and/or social network of the author(s).

Images created, even partially, by image-generating programmes (e.g. Dall-E, Midjourney and others) are not permitted in the entries.

Each project shall be represented through the creation of a poster measuring 84.1 cm x 59.4 cm (A1 format). The graphic design, colours and the amount of text and images within it is at the discretion of the author(s).

In anticipation of possible cuts and readjustments of the image, it is advisable not to place fundamental elements for interpreting the image near the edges of the image, but rather to place the protagonists at least a few millimetres away from the edges. Likewise, the author's signature or logo, if present, must be placed at least 5 mm from the edges and must not exceed two centimetres in size.

In order to guarantee quality printing, the poster must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and must be delivered in one of the following formats: PDF, JPG, TIFF.

The weight of the poster must not exceed 50 MB.

It is required to send two versions of the poster, one with CMYK colour profile, useful for printing, and one with RGB colour profile, to facilitate the judges' evaluation.

For the 2024 edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart*, each author (or collective) may submit only one project/poster.

How and when to send your entries

The illustrations and/or the poster you wish to enter in the competition must be sent to the email address premioitaliano@paleoarte.com with the words "Italian Award for Paleoart" in the subject line.

Additional information (participant's details, biography, title and description) may be included in the body of the message or, alternatively, in an attached text document.

Entries may be submitted **from 1 March 2024 until the end of 31 August 2024**.

The jury and assessment criteria for the illustrations and projects

The jury will be made up of influential figures from the palaeontological and artistic scenes in Italy and abroad, as well as by palaeontologists, paleoartists and professional artists.

All works will be assessed primarily for their scientific accuracy and validity, as well as for the technique used, their complexity and the skill demonstrated by the artist. Works that do not demonstrate any scientific validity, with obvious exaggerations or fantasy elements, will be excluded from the competition. Fur-

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thermore, the jury reserves the right to exclude works that do not comply with the spirit of the competition, the dimensions indicated or that have already been published elsewhere.

The winners of the III Edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart* (2023) will have the faculty to enter their illustrations in the IV Edition (2024) with the same modalities indicated in these regulations; however their works will be inserted in a special section called "out of competition" and will not be able to compete for the podium in the *illustration* category.

Likewise, the winners of the IV Edition (2024) will not be able to compete for the podium during the 2025 edition of the *illustration* category.

Artists who received special mentions during the III Edition (2023) will be able to compete regularly for the podium in the IV Edition (2024).

Winners of the III Edition of the *Italian Award for Paleoart* (2023) can enter a project in the competition and can compete for the 'best project' prize.

The outcome of the competition

The competition's results and the jury's choices will be revealed on Saturday 12 October at the opening of the exhibition and subsequently communicated by email to all participants, and on the *Paleontological Museum of the Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio in Montevarchi* and *Italian Award for Paleoart's* social networks.

ITALIAN AWARD FOR
PALEOART

The exhibition

Images accepted by the jury will be exhibited from 12 October 2024 at the *Paleontological Museum of the Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio in Montevarchi* and will remain on display for a period of approximately one month.

The exhibition will not include works that are excluded from the competition due to violation of these regulations or that are not considered suitable by the jury.

The Museum may decide to exhibit the works in other contexts such as other museums, art galleries and virtual exhibitions, informing all participants in advance.

The costs of any other exhibitions will be covered in full by the organising committee and without any commitment on the part of the artists.

Within the exhibition, works will be divided into two categories: 'illustrations' and 'projects'. The illustration category will in turn be divided into three sub-categories: 'adults', 'budding artists' and 'out of competition'.

Conditions and copyrights

All the artists who participate by sending one or more works will grant the *Paleontological Museum of the Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio in Montevarchi* and the organisers of the competition the right to use them to produce exhibitions, panels, posters related to the *Italian Award for Paleoart* and other future and possible stages of the exhibition.

In particular, each author authorises and grants: the right to publish the works and their photographic and digital reproductions on any medium or means of communication (art. 12 Copyright Law, l. 22 April 1941 no. 633, also "LdA"); the right to exhibit the works in public for promotional purposes; the right to

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communicate the works and the exhibition to the public (art. 16 LdA); the right of distribution, with the purpose of circulating and promoting the works (art. 17 LdA); the right of lending and processing for publication purposes (art. 18 LdA).

Following the opening of the exhibition, all authors will have the right to display on their website, portfolio, social network the works created for the competition provided that they mention the *Italian Award for Paleoart*.

The competing authors agree not to use the work for commercial purposes (books, posters and other materials for sale) for a period of one year from the day of the award ceremony, while they will be able to do so freely from 12 October 2025.

The *Paleontological Museum of the Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio in Montevarchi* and the organisers will use the works received and the relative prints in full respect of the author's work and his/her rights, citing him/her, communicating in good time the future stages of the exhibition and the use for illustrative purposes in any advertising material (e.g. flyers, posters and billboards to promote future and eventual stages of the exhibition).

The works received will never be ceded or resold to third parties.

Participation in the *Italian Award for Paleoart* implies the acceptance of the regulations and of the conditions contained herein. The authors who violate what is indicated will be prosecuted according to the law.

Each artist participating in the award expressly authorises the *Italian Award for Paleoart* and the *Paleontological Museum of the Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio in Montevarchi*, as well as their direct delegates and the partners of the award, to process the personal data transmitted in accordance with the privacy law and the European Regulation (GDPR 2016/679).

Prizes

There is a podium with first, second and third place for the 'adults' in the *illustration* category. There is also a prize for one of the authors in the 'budding artists' category (under 18), also for the *illustration* category.

There is also a prize for the best entry in the *project* category. The author or group of authors who wins the prize for the best project will have the opportunity to illustrate it in front of an audience in the spaces of the *Paleontological Museum of Montevarchi*.

1st Place: € 350 + free guided museum tour + A.P.P.I. membership year 2025

2nd Place: € 200 + free guided museum tour + A.P.P.I. membership year 2025

3rd Place: € 100 + free guided museum tour + A.P.P.I. membership year 2025

Budding artist category prize: Gadget + free guided museum tour + A.P.P.I. membership year 2025

Best project prize: presentation with audience + A.P.P.I. membership year 2025

Each winning author will also receive a certificate.

Cash prizes for the artists on the podium will be sent by bank transfer within 15 days of the publication of the verdict.

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Contact

The organisers of the *Italian Award for Paleoart*, the *Accademia Valdarnese del Poggio* and the *Paleontological Museum of Montevarchi* remain at the participant's disposal, to clarify any doubts and uncertainties regarding the competition (during and after its conclusion) and the exhibition.

We recommend, therefore, sending all inquiries and questions to the email address: premioitaliano@paleoarte.com

Alternatively, it is possible to contact the organisers on the principal social networks, including Facebook and Instagram, through the following links:

<https://fb.me/museopaleontologicomontevarchi>

<https://instagr.am/museopaleontologicomontevarchi>

<https://fb.me/paleoappi>

<https://instagr.am/paleoappi>

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