

# Invitation and competition program – new artwork for The Honorary Award of Arts Council Norway

Arts Council Norway invites all artists to an open prequalification for the design of a new artwork to be awarded to the recipients of the Arts Council Norway's Honorary Award. The prequalification will be followed by a Closed Competition where up to five participants will each receive 40,000 NOK to develop a proposal.

Application deadline: May 7, 2025, at 13:00

- Announcement in Northern Sami
- Announcement in Lule Sami
- Announcement in Southern Sami
- Announcement in Kven
- Announcement in Norwegian (Nynorsk)

Since 1968 the Arts Council Norway has annually awarded an honorary prize to individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to Norwegian art and cultural life. The honorary award can be given to individuals, groups, or projects. The recipient receives a monetary prize and an artwork. From 1994 to 2025, the recipient received a sculpture by sculptor Elena Engelsen. Starting in 2026, a new artwork will be given to the recipient.

## **About the artwork:**

- It should be an artwork that will be presented to the winner in connection with the prize ceremony of the Arts Council Norway's Honorary Award.
- The artwork should reflect the fundamental values of the Arts Council Act and Arts Council Norway's strategy.
- The artwork should preferably be a permanent object, but other types of artworks will also be considered.
- The artwork must be reproducible and/or possible to repeat annually.

All artists/artist groups can express their interest in this assignment by submitting an application. The application should include documentation of previous works, a biography/CV, and a short motivation text. The prequalification is not remunerated.

## **About the prequalification:**

- Interested artists should submit an application in the form of a single PDF document, with a maximum of eight pages in landscape A4 format.
- The document should be titled with the artist's name and contain the following:
  - Page 1: Artist's name.

- Page 2: A motivation text of up to 10 lines/1000 characters.
- Page 3: Biography/CV.
- Pages 4-8: A maximum of five pages documenting relevant previous works. The document should include the title of the work, year, materials, dimensions, and any links to audio or video files. Links to other websites will not be opened.
- We do not want sketches or concrete proposals in connection with the prequalification.

The PDF document should be a maximum of 12 MB. →The application should be sent to [aeresprisen@kulturradet.no](mailto:aeresprisen@kulturradet.no) by the deadline on May 7, 2025, at 13:00.

The Arts Council Norway will evaluate the applications received for the prequalification and, will in a meeting on June 11-12, 2025, select up to five artists for the closed competition. The criteria for selecting artists for the closed competition are: 1) artistic quality, 2) understanding of the assignment, and 3) ability to deliver.

#### **About the closed competition:**

Artists selected for the closed competition will be notified on June 15 and must submit a competition draft by October 15, 2025. The competition draft should include sketches, a physical model and/or graphical representation in physical format, a progress plan, and a budget. The remuneration is 40,000 NOK. The Arts Council Norway will evaluate the competition drafts in a meeting on December 10-11, 2025.

The winner will be notified on December 15, 2025, and will receive a budget of 400,000 NOK to create the final artwork. This budget is in addition to the remuneration for participating in the closed competition.

#### **About the competition drafts to be submitted:**

The competition drafts should be submitted both digitally and physically:

- The digital PDF should include 1) visual presentation, 2) project description with progress plan, and 3) budget and cost estimate (see below). The project description should address artistic intent, production process, materials, dimensions, and environmental considerations. The presentation should be in landscape A4 format and sent to [aeresprisen@kulturradet.no](mailto:aeresprisen@kulturradet.no).
- The physical model and/or graphical representation in physical format up to A2 size should be sent to Kulturdirektoratet P.O. Box 4808 Nydalen, or delivered to Kulturdirektoratet, Mølleparken 2, 0459 Oslo. Delivery should be arranged with Jonas Ekeberg at [jonas.ekeberg@kulturdirektoratet.no](mailto:jonas.ekeberg@kulturdirektoratet.no).
- The competition drafts must be submitted by the deadline on October 15, 2025.

#### **About the budget and cost estimate to be submitted:**

The competition draft should include a budget and a cost estimate:

- The budget should show how the artist plans to dispose the budget of 400,000 NOK. It should include production costs and the artist's fee for the first delivery in August 2026. The budget should indicate how many copies of the artwork the artist can deliver within

the budget framework. The number of copies to be delivered is subject to negotiation based on the artist's budget.

- The cost estimate should show the expenses for delivering additional copies of the artwork, either at the same time as the first delivery or later. There is an open budget framework for this. The estimate should cover production costs and artist's fees.

### **Criteria for evaluating the competition drafts:**

The Cultural Council will assess the competition drafts based on the following criteria:

#### **1. Artistic qualities**

The Arts Council Norway will evaluate the competition drafts based on artistic and cultural judgment. The Arts Council Norway's concept of quality is open to deliberation and encompasses various understandings of professionalism and expertise.

#### **2. Fulfillment of the assignment**

The artwork will be awarded along with the monetary prize during an annual ceremony organized by Arts Council Norway. Typically, in such contexts, an art object is presented as something the recipient can take home as a lasting memory. The Arts Council Norway preferably wishes the artwork to be such a lasting object. However, Arts Council Norway will also consider, for example, auditory, performative, or literary artworks that deepen and challenge the idea behind the award, function ceremonially, and provide the recipient with a lasting memory.

#### **3. Other qualities of the delivery**

It is important for Arts Council Norway to balance professionalism and economic considerations. It will be viewed positively if artists can deliver multiple copies of the honorary award at a moderate price, without compromising production quality and the artist's fee. The Arts Council Norway encourages participants to consider environmental sustainability in the choice of materials and the production of the artwork.

The winner shall deliver the first copies of the artwork in August 2026. The competition is open to different types of artistic solutions. The exact number of works to be delivered, as well as the fee and timeframe for the delivery of additional copies, will therefore be negotiated with the winning artist.

### **About rights:**

- The artist retains copyright to the artwork.
- Artists participating in the closed competition grant Arts Council Norway Cultural Council the right, without additional compensation, to publish images and brief information about the competition drafts. This right applies to publication in the Arts Council Norway's publications, and traditional social media in connection with the closed competition.

- The artist who wins the competition grants the Arts Council Norway the right, without additional compensation, to publish images and brief information about the finished artwork. This right applies to repeated publications in the Arts Council Norway's publications, and social media. The right is not time limited. The artist has the right to use images of the work for marketing their own artistic practice. Any other use must be clarified with the Arts Council Norway.
- The Arts Council Norway obtains exclusive rights to use the finished artwork as an honorary award and in other public contexts. However, the artist has the right to produce up to three copies of the artwork for exhibitions in their own name. The artist's copies may not be sold on the open market.

Timeline:

- March 26, 2025: Invitation to open prequalification is published
- May 7, 2025, at 13:00: Deadline for prequalification application
- June 15, 2025: Participants in the closed competition are notified
- October 15, 2025: Deadline for submission in the closed competition
- December 15, 2025: Winner of the competition is notified
- August 2026: Artwork is fully produced
- Autumn 2026: Arts Council Norway's Honorary Award 2026 is presented

The Arts Council Norway is the jury for the competition.

Questions can be directed to Jonas Ekeberg, Visual Arts Lead at Arts and Culture Norway at [jonas.ekeberg@kulturdirektoratet.no](mailto:jonas.ekeberg@kulturdirektoratet.no).