

STATUTE

Rings in Water 2026
Craft-oriented design competition

Preamble

The Rings in Water competition has been organised by the Centre for Folk Art Production at regular, two-yearly intervals since 2000. Its philosophy is based on the belief that design rooted in traditional craftsmanship is a driving force for innovation in the area of handmade practical and decorative objects.

The competition creates a platform for confronting works of applied craft, applied art and design, as well as creative approaches of authors inspired by traditional folk culture or manufacturing processing methods. The emphasis is on the aesthetic and, above all, functionality of the object.

Art. 1
Competition Organiser

The competition organiser is the Centre for Folk Art Production (ÚĽUV), a contributory organisation of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Art. 2
Competition Objectives

Objectives of the competition are:

1. to encourage the creation of innovative works of design or artistic craft inspired by folk culture or traditional craftsmanship;
2. to promote the continuity of the craftsmanship approach in contemporary design;
3. to present publicly the conjunctions of craft and design;
4. to support the creation of limited series of products in order to include them in ÚĽUV's product range;
5. to support cooperation and creative partnerships between designers and artists and craftsmen, both nationally and internationally, with a view to strengthening European cultural values.

Art. 3
Subject of the Competition

1. The subject of the competition is the creation of works of applied art, design or artistic craft that freely interpret traditional folk art while respecting the trends and demands of contemporary design. Accepted are objects made of wood, metal, textiles, ceramics, glass, natural knitted fabrics, horn, leather, or other natural materials, and to a lesser extent alternative materials.

2. Works submitted in the form of a visualisation, photo documentation or model will not be accepted.

Art. 4
Competition Condition

1. The terms and conditions of the competition are approved by the general director of ÚĽUV on the basis of a proposal discussed by the management board of ÚĽUV.
2. The competition conditions must contain a clear definition of the sections, the criteria for submitting works, the criteria and deadlines for the evaluation of the works by the jury and the date of the public presentation of the results of the current edition of the competition.
3. The following may not be entered into the competition:
 - a) Works more than three years older than the date of the announcement of the current competition,
 - b) design projects in the form of a visualisation, photo documentation or draft,
 - c) works that weigh more than 50 kg (organiser may make exceptions).
4. The competition will be judged in two rounds:
 - a) In the first round, the jury will evaluate the works online, based on the submitted photographs of the works,
 - b) in the second round, the jury will evaluate the selected works sent to the headquarters of the completion organiser physically.
5. The completion organiser will inform the contestants about the results of the evaluation by e-mail or.

Art. 5
Competition participants and competition sections

1. The competition is open to designers, artists, craftsmen and manufacturers, university and high school students who meet the competition requirements.
2. The competition is open to individuals and collective internationally.
3. Competitors are judged in three sections:
 - a) **Section A** – designers, craftsmen and producers, artists, university students taking into account craft approaches in the realisation of contemporary design
 - b) **Section B** – craftsmen and producers of folk-art products who emphasise the functional, aesthetic and ecological aspects of the work and take into account the possibility of its reproducibility in series.
 - c) **Section C** – secondary school students with innovative works inspired by traditional craftsmanship practices and patterns and produced using natural or, to a lesser extent, alternative materials.

Art. 6
Conditions for inclusion in the competition

1. *Application*

The condition for entering the competition is a correctly completed and submitted online application form via the form published on the website of the competition organiser. Each of the entries (or collection of works) must be completed on a separate application form. In the case of student work that is a school assignment, the name and address of the school, the field of study and the name of the teacher must also be included in the entry form.

By submitting the application, the contestant declares that he/she is the author of the work, agrees to the terms and conditions of the competition and accepts the jury's decision. The jury's decisions are free, final and excluding any legal challenge. The contestant also agrees to the free presentation and publication of the entries.

2. *Competition entry*

Prototypes or products, not visualisations or drafts, may be entered into the competition. A competitor (or a collective of authors) may enter a maximum of 5 individual objects or 2 collections. They are also responsible for the delivery of the works to the headquarters of the competition organiser (in case the work is selected for the second round of competition). In the case of works sent by post, the competition promoter is not responsible for any damage to the works during transportation.

3. *Additional documentation*

- a) A mandatory part of the competition entry is an explanatory text (max. 10 sentences) describing the connection of the work with traditional culture or handicraft production.
- b) A photograph of the work suitable for presentation purposes is a required attachment to the competition entry: graphic format jpg, pdf, print quality min. 300 dpi, preferably taken on a white background. Each photograph must be titled with: the name of the author, the title of the work, the name of the photographer. The competition entries and photographs may not be encumbered by the property rights of another author.

4. *Manner, extent and duration of the use of photographs*

The author grants the organiser his agreement to use the photographs in the following manner:

- a) Making copies of photographs in an unlimited extent, including direct and indirect copies, permanent and temporary, in whole and in part, using any technical means/equipment (manner) and in any form, and in the case of copies in an electronic format, both in an online and off-line regime,
- b) the public exhibition of photographs for the competition's promotional purposes,
- c) including the photographs in a collective work related to the presentation of the competition,
- d) editing/processing the photographs,
- e) public transfer of the photographs including making them accessible.

5. *Pricing of the work*

Prototypes and products registered in the competition must have the estimated price set by the author, separately for each work, indicated in the documentation to ensure that the exhibitor insures the works presented in the competition.

6. *Insurance of the work*

Shipping costs, including insurance, are the responsibility of each contestant selected for the second round of judging. The competition organiser does not provide legal protection for the entered works. The insurance protection of the exhibitor's works starts from the moment of their delivery to the premises of the publisher and ends when they are handed over to the author after the end of the presentation.

Art. 7
Competition Deadlines

1. The competition is held biennially (in the even numbered years).
2. The announcement of the new edition of the competition must be published on the website by the end of December of the calendar year before the year the competition is held.
3. The evaluation of the first round of the competition (online evaluation of the photographs of the works by the jury members) will be completed no later than the end of July of the calendar year in which the competition is held.

4. The evaluation of the second round of the competition (evaluation of physical works by members of the jury at the headquarters of the competition organiser) will be completed no later than the end of October of the calendar year in which the competition takes place.
5. The works advancing to the second round of the competition will be presented publicly at an exhibition which will take place at the latest within 3 months of the end of the international jury's deliberation.

Art. 8
Competition Officer

1. The officer is responsible for the organisation and coordination of the competition in the year in which it is held.
2. The competition officer ensures:
 - a) the preparation, initiating its launch and organising its course,
 - b) is responsible for communicating with registered participants in the competition,
 - c) suggests members of the jury,
 - d) participates in the jury meeting,
 - e) written minutes of the sitting of the jury,
 - f) the processing of the results of the competition,
 - g) the preparation and publication of promotional materials,
 - h) cooperates with the team of producers for the exhibition,
 - i) cooperates with team of producers,
 - j) organises the conclusion the activity and the return of works to the participants,
 - k) maintains and updates an electronic database of participants and teachers involved in the competition during its individual years.

Art. 9
Jury

1. Works entered in the competition are assessed by a jury composed of experts from the area of folk culture, artistic craft, design, applied art, or other related fields of study. One member of the jury is a representative of the organiser.
2. The jury of the competition is named by the general director of ÚLUV.
3. The competition officer is not a member of the jury.
4. The jury has at least 5 and at most 7 members. The jury is able to make a judgement if a majority of its members is present at its sitting.
5. The jury shall be chaired by a president. The organiser submits a proposal for the president via the medium of the competition secretary; the other present members of the jury vote on the proposal.
6. The president of the jury leads the sitting, is responsible for its course and signs the minutes from the sitting of the jury.

Art. 10
Assessment criteria

In particular, the following aspects are taken into account when evaluating the works in the competition:

- a) the extent to which traditional crafts is linked to creation,
- b) practical function,
- c) reproducibility,
- d) originality and creativity,
- e) quality of its technical processes,
- f) artistic and aesthetic qualities of the product.

Art. 11

Method of Assessment

1. The selection of works by the jury is a two-round process. Each section is evaluated separately. In the first round, the jury selects the works that will be presented at the exhibition. In the second round, the jury decides on the awards. A member of the jury cannot judge a school work in which he/she is a teacher.
2. In both the first and second rounds, the jury evaluates the entries by scoring them according to the criteria set out in Article 10 of these Statutes. Each juror evaluates the entries independently. For each criterion fulfilled, the jury shall award a score between 0 and 5 to the entry, i.e. a maximum of 30 points.
3. Entries that have obtained at least two thirds of the highest possible number of points awarded by the judges will be admitted to the second round.
4. The points obtained in the first and second rounds of evaluation are not added together. The first prize in the respective section will be awarded to the entry with the highest sum of points in the second round.
5. In the event of a tie, the jury decides by a vote (supermajority). In the event of a tie, the chairman's vote is worth two votes.
6. The jury is under no obligation to award the prize.

Art. 12

Prizes and awards

1. **Section A** – designers, craftsmen and producers, artists, university students
Prizes may be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place without limitation of material group. The jury has the right not to award any of the prizes or to award two prizes for 2nd place and two prizes for 3rd place. A maximum of 5 prizes in total may be awarded in Section A (diploma, publication and non-cash prizes from ÚLUV production).
2. **Section B** – craftsmen and producers of folk-art products
Prizes may be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place without limitation of material group. The jury has the right not to award any of the prizes or to award two prizes for 2nd place and two prizes for 3rd place. A maximum of 5 prizes in total may be awarded in Section B (diploma, publication and non-cash prizes from ÚLUV production).
3. **Section C** – secondary school students
Prizes may be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place without limitation of material group. The jury has the right not to award any of the prizes, or to award two prizes for 2nd place or two prizes for 3rd place. A maximum of 3 prizes in total may be awarded in Section C (diploma, publication and non-cash prizes from ÚLUV production).

Art. 13

Delivery and return of competition entries

1. The participants will deliver or send the competition works to the headquarters of the competition organiser at their own expense, based on the selection of the expert jury in the first online round by the deadline set by the publisher.
2. The collection of rewarded and selected works will be agreed with the artists individually. In certain cases, and by agreement with the participant, the competition works will be returned by post at the participant's cost within four weeks of the end of the exhibition, unless the organiser and participant agree otherwise.
3. The organiser reserves the preferential right to purchase the rewarded works with the aim of documenting artistic design, for use in the Open Workshop and exhibition and presentation activities as part of the presentation of craft design focused on craft.
4. The organiser does not vouch for any works which the participants do not collect without 2 months of the deadline set out by the organiser.

Art. 14
Public presentation of the works

1. All the works recommended by the jury will be presented publicly at an exhibition prepared by the organiser. The rewarded works will be labelled separately at the exhibition.
2. Participants going through to the second round of the assessment for the current edition of the competition will be mentioned in the promotional material published by the organiser. The promotional material (catalogue) will be provided free of charge to each participant in the current edition of the competition.
3. All rewarded works will be presented in the form of a results sheet on the organiser's website and introduced in information for the media.

Art. 15
Final Provisions

1. submitting the signed application form, the contestant gives their consent to all the terms and conditions of the competition, to the manner of exhibiting, promoting and distributing free of charge the photo documentation of the submitted work or making it available to the public, as well as to the use of their personal data for the purposes of the competition and related activities.
2. By submitting a signed application the contestant expresses agreement with the fact that in the event of receiving one of the prizes, a non-exclusive licencing contract will be concluded between the author of the rewarded work and the Centre for Folk Art Production, enabling both interested parties together or each contracting party separately, depending on the specific wording of the contract, to spread multiple (authorised copies), or craft-made reproductions of the concerned design.
3. This statute can be changed and added to only in writing.
4. The statute, terms and conditions of the competition and application form will be published and communication in two versions: Slovak and English.
5. This statute becomes valid on December 18th 2025. At the same time, the validity of the "Rings in Water" statute dated December 18th 2023 is annulled.

Mgr. Eva Ševčíková
CEO ÚĽUV