

COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Rings in Water 2026

Craft-focused design competition

This competition acts as a platform for confronting works of artistic craft, applied art and design, as well as the creative approaches of artists inspired by traditional folk culture or production methods. The emphasis is primarily on the aesthetic and functional value of the work.

Objectives of the competition are:

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

The competition is open to designers, artists, craftsmen and manufacturers, university and high school students who meet the competition requirements.

The competition is open to individuals and collectives internationally.

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.

Works submitted in the form of a visualisation, photo documentation or model will not be accepted. Entries must not be older than three years from the date of the announcement of the current edition of the competition and their weight must not exceed 50 kg (possible exceptions are granted by the promoter).

Competition sections

Competitors can enter one of three sections:

- a) Section A - designers, craftsmen and producers, artists, university students taking into account craft approaches in the realisation of contemporary design, or using tradition in a broader sense as inspiration for experimental 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 serial reproducibility,

- c) Section C - secondary school students with innovative works inspired by traditional craftsmanship practices and patterns and realised using natural or, to a lesser extent, alternative materials.

Conditions for inclusion in the competition

Competition work

Prototypes or products, not visualisations or models, can be entered in 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 publisher (in case the work is selected for the second round of judging). In the case of works sent by post, the competition promoter is not responsible for any damage to the works during their transport by post.

Application

The condition for inclusion in the competition is a duly completed and submitted online application form via the form published on the website of the competition organiser (www.uluv.sk). A separate entry form must be completed for each of the works (or collection of works) entered.

In the case of student work that originated as 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 application form.

By submitting the entry form, the entrant 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 without legal challenge. The entrant also agrees to the free display of the entries and to their publication.

Accompanying documentation

- a) Each competition work must include an accompanying text (maximum of 10 sentences) with a description of the connection of the work with traditional culture or craft production.
- b) Each competition work must include a photograph of the submitted work which is suitable for publication and presentation.: graphic format jpg., pdf, print quality at least 300 DPI taken against a white background. Every photograph must include: the name of the designer, the name of the work, the name of the photograph. Competition work and photos cannot be encumbered with the moral rights of another physical entity.

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.

Pricing of the works

The prototypes and products entered into the competition must include in their accompanying documentation the price estimated by the artist, separately for each work, mainly for the exhibition organisers to arrange the insurance of entered works.

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.

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.

Assessment method

The works entered in the competition are evaluated by a jury composed of experts from the field of folk culture, artistic craft, design, applied arts, or other related fields. The evaluation will take place in two rounds:

- a) In the first round, the jury will evaluate the works online, based on the submitted photographs of the works; all works selected for the second round of evaluation will be presented at the exhibition;
- b) in the second round, the jury will evaluate the selected works sent to the headquarters of the publisher physically; the jury will decide on the awards.

Each section will be evaluated separately. In the first and second rounds, the jury will evaluate the entries by scoring. 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. The points obtained in the first and second rounds of evaluation are not added together. The prizes in the respective section will be awarded to the entries with the highest sum of points in the second round.

The publisher will inform the contestants about the results of the evaluation by e-mail or by phone.

Prizes and awards

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).

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).

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).

Deadlines

Opening of the competition: December 18th 2025

Deadline for applications: June 30th 2026

Assessment of the first round competition: by July 31st 2026

Assessment of the second round competition: by September 16th 2026

Announcement of the results of the competition: by October 20th 2026

The works going to the second round of the competition will be presented publicly within 3 months of the completion of the jury's work.

Address for submitting (sending) competition works:

ÚĽUV

Obchodná 64

816 11 Bratislava

Works sent by post must be clearly marked „Rings in Water 2026“.

Further information: kruhynavode@uluv.sk

Return of competition works

After the end of the presentation activities, the individual authors will be invited to pick up their works at the ÚĽUV headquarters or, by individual agreement, the works will be sent by post at the expense of the participant. The competition organiser is not liable for works that are not collected by the contestant within 2 months from the deadline set by the organiser.

Promotion of the competition results

The organiser is responsible for the medialisation of the competition, the publication of a catalogue, presentation of the awarded and selected works in the form of an exhibition, the publication in the RUD journal and on the website www.uluv.sk.

Final provisions

By 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.

Bratislava, December 18th 2025

Mgr. Eva Ševčíková
general director of ÚĽUV-u