

The *Renaissance Arts Prize*

hosted by
**Italian Cultural Institute
London**

Created by **SharpCut Visual Arts Project** Director **Alessandra Masolini** and **Consul General of Italy in London David Morante**, and hosted by the **Italian Cultural Institute in London**, the ***Renaissance Arts Prize*** aims to create bridges between nationalities and individuals in the multicultural environment of London, one of the most vibrant capitals in Europe. It focuses on young talented artists based in Italy and the United Kingdom, giving them the opportunity to express their potential and present their work to a jury of professionals and a highly interested public of journalists, art dealers and institutions representatives.

The first edition of the ***Renaissance Arts Prize*** took place in 2008. Following a video presentation of short-listed works, two prizes were awarded in each category, to the best Italian artist, and to the best non – Italian artist. In addition to the official awards, two candidates were invited to a residency in Tuscany on the occasion of the 8th edition of *Atelier d'Artista* 2009.

We are proud to report that Anna Madia, best Italian artist in the painting category, was later awarded the first prize at the *Premio la Fenice des Artistes* of Venice, and that Maria Domenica Rapicavoli, best Italian artist in the video category, participated in the 2009 exhibition and prize *Emerging Talents* at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence.

Applications for the *Renaissance Arts Prize* 2009 are open until 3rd July at 12:00 pm and the awards ceremony will be held at the Italian Cultural Institute in London on 31st July 2009.

For further details and regulations please read below or contact the assistant at renaissanceprize@googlemail.com



Alessandra Masolini and David Morante with the 2008 winners



Public attending the awards in June 2008

Photography and Video Art Awards 2009

Back to the Futurism

Art is a cerebral secretion capable of exact calibration?

The *Renaissance Arts Prize* 2009 takes part in the celebrations for the centenary of Futurism and invites young artists to undertake a creative and transnational dialogue with an artistic movement that has crossed the borders of Italy and inspired many generation of artists, including the Cubists and the Dadaists.



Achivable dreams under the sun by Paolo Belluardo, short listed for the 2008 awards

This edition is restricted to the categories of Photography and Video Art, but is open to applicants of all nationalities based in the United Kingdom and in Italy. Twelve short-listed candidates will be invited to the awards ceremony on 31st July 2009, when their works will be presented to the public and the winners will be announced.

The jury and the committee

A jury of professionals will make a first selection of eligible candidates whose works will be submitted to a broader international committee. Every member of the committee can vote for the best Italian and the best non-Italian artist in each category.

Director of the prize and president of the jury is Dr. Alessandra Masolini, SharpCut Visual Arts Project.

Other members are Yvonne De Rosa, artist and photographer; Duncan Cartacus Clark, art consultant and non-executive director of the Association of Photographers; Veronika Wolf, art journalist, UK correspondent for Art + Antiques and Flash Art Magazine; Maria Domenica Rapicavoli, video artist, winner of the 2008 Renaissance video awards

Honorary president of the committee is David Morante, Consul General of Italy in London.

The committee is composed of representatives of the sponsors and a group of distinguished international curators, dealers, critics and journalists invited by the director of the prize and other members of the jury.

A full list of the committee members will be published a week before the awards ceremony.

REGULATIONS

Entry conditions for participants

1. Entry in the competition is free of charge.
2. **All participants must be born on or after 01/01/1974.**
3. Applicants can be born anywhere in the world but must be currently residing in Italy or the UK.
4. All applicants must respond to the theme *Back to the Futurism: Art is a cerebral secretion capable of exact calibration?* The jury will accept works new and inedited, or recently published/exhibited, so long as they respond to the theme and the technical requirements.
5. **Applications must arrive by post before 3rd July 2009 at 12:00 pm**, all documents and CD/DVD in one envelope.
6. All applications must be in English and must be sent to the following address:

Renaissance Arts Prize
Sharpcut Visual Arts Project
83 Thomas More House
Barbican
London EC2Y 8BU
United Kingdom

7. Applications must include the following: application letter, statement, authorization, curriculum vitae, and CD/DVD containing 10 images or a 4 minutes video.
8. Chosen category (i. e. either photography or video art) name, surname, date of birth, home address, contact details (email address and telephone number) and title of the work presented must show clearly on all submitted documents and on the CD/DVD.
9. Participants must authorize publication and public display of their work during the awards ceremony and the exhibition. All winners should agree to donate a small signed artist proof of their work to the institutions or sponsors awarding special prizes, if requested.
10. Short-listed candidates will be contacted via email before 15th of July 2009. They must confirm their attendance to the awards ceremony on 31st July 2009.
11. Winners will be announced on the night, after the video presentations. They will receive an award and additional prizes courtesy of the sponsors. Two of the short-listed artists will be invited to a one-week residency in Tuscany in occasion of *Atelier d'Artista 2010*.

Application letter

All participants must submit the following application letter together with the statement, the authorization, the curriculum vitae and the CD/DVD:

Date

Object: Application Renaissance Arts Prize 2009 - Photography/Video art (*please chose the appropriate*)

I, the undersigned Name Surname, born in City, Country, on dd/mm/yyyy and residing in City, Country at home address, apply for the Renaissance Arts Prize 2009 in the photography/video category.

I hereby submit the work Title, year, number of images or duration of video and enclose with the present letter a statment, an authorization, a curriculum vitae and a CD/DVD, in accordance with the regulations published on www.shrpcut.eu.

I declare that, in the event of admission, I will attend the awards ceremony held at the Italian Cultural Institute in London, 39 Belgrave Sq, London, United Kingdom on 31st July 2009.

I am aware that travel expenses will not be covered by the organizers and that failure to attend the awards ceremony may result in exclusion from the competition.

I permit the use of my personal data, which will remain confidential, for the purposes of this application.

In faith,

Signature

Statement

The statement has to be in English, between 150 and 200 words long. It has to clearly explain the relation between the work presented and a chosen concept, aspect, work or artist of the Futurist movement. Artists should not reproduce the futurist aesthetic or embrace its concepts, but rather meditate on past forms and ideas to create original work. Participants can submit recently published/exhibited projects so long as they respond to the theme and the technical requirements.

The artistic director suggests the following quotes as a starting point for reflection, alongside the famous eleven points listed in *The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism 1909* by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti

Umbro Apollonio

The Merit of Futurism as a movement lies in the fact that it refuted the idea of an art which is nothing but personal pleasure, remote from the complexities of everyday life. Indeed, the Futurists saw the practice of art as a fount of energy capable of playing a role in the management of civil affairs, to such an extent that no productive element of the environment should remain untouched by it.

Anton Giulio Bragaglia – Futurist Photodynamism 1911

We are not interested in the precise reconstruction of movement, which has already been broken up and analysed. We are involved only in the area of movement which produces sensation...We despise the precise, mechanical, glacial reproduction of reality...

Bruno Corradini, Emilio Settimelli – Weighs, Measures and Prices of Artistic Genius – Futurist Manifesto 1914

1. *Art is a cerebral secretion capable of exact calibration.*
2. *Thought must be weighed and sold like any other commodity.*

Quotes from U. Apollonio (ed. by) *Futurist Manifestos*, Tate Publishing, London, 2009

Authorization

All participants should submit the following authorization together with the application letter, the statement, the curriculum vitae and the CD/DVD:

Date

I Name Surname hereby certify that the photographs/video I am submitting with this application, entitled video title/ photographs titles is my original work and that I am the sole copyright owner. I understand that my work will not be disseminated for profit and I consent to its public display in such a manner as the Renaissance Arts Prize jury deems necessary in its discretion.

I hereby waive any right, claim or actions that I may have to receive payment, consideration, compensation or royalties for the display of my work.

Signature

Curriculum Vitae

It must be in English and indicate name, surname, date of birth, nationality, home address, email address and telephone number of the applicant.

It should be no more than two pages long and include a list of all major exhibitions and awards in reverse chronological order.

CD/DVD

Author, title, year, number of images/duration of video have to be printed or hand-printed on the cover

Photography:

10 photographs on CD ROM Windows/Mac compatible (saved as jpg at 300 dpi).

Video art:

1 video maximum duration 4 minutes on DVD Pal format.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the assistant for technical inquiries at renaissanceprize@googlemail.com