

Guidelines «Call for Artworks: Art in Embassies – The Intersection between Art, Science, Technology and the Environment 2015»

1. General Information

In U.S. Embassies all over the world, the State Department, through its Art in Embassies Program, displays unique artworks and collections. For more than fifty years, the Art in Embassies Program has played a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding between cultures and countries.

The theme of the U.S. Embassy in Bern collection is the intersection between art, science, technology, and the environment. The collection of artworks, which includes works by Dale Chihuly, Lynda Lowe and Todd Johnson, was curated by the Art in Embassies Program in close collaboration with U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Suzan G. LeVine.

However, the exhibition will be complete with two works from Swiss artists that express the collection theme: the intersection between art, science, technology and the environment. Artworks in any medium can be submitted and are eligible for consideration: artworks can be “traditional,” such as paintings or sculptures, as well as those that include interactivity, digital components or video.

The adjudication of the submitted works will be performed by an international jury of experts. The two winning artworks will be displayed as part of the Arts in Embassies collection in the residence of U.S. Ambassador Suzan G. LeVine.

This initiative is the result of a partnership with the Arts Council of Switzerland Pro Helvetia in the frame of its Programm «Mobile. In touch with Digital Creation».

2. Conditions of Entry

The "Art in Embassies – The Intersection between Art, Science, Technology and the Environment" competition is open to all Swiss artists. Submission must meet the following criteria:

- Artworks should have a connection to science, technology or the environment
- Artists who are Swiss nationals or permanent residents of Switzerland (i.e. holders of a Swiss passport or C permit)
- Submissions may include existing artwork that has been displayed before
- The format of the artworks is open: "Traditional" artworks, such as paintings and sculptures, as well digital and/or interactive works will be considered
- Wall-mounted artworks should not exceed a size of 1m width and 1.10m height, sculptures and free standing objects should not be bigger than 1m width, 1m depth and 2m height
- If the artwork requires technical equipment, artists should provide said equipment
- The winning artists agree to have high-resolution photos of their artwork displayed digitally on a Website designed specifically for the Art in Embassies exhibition
- The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2015
- The jury reserves the right to exclude artworks it deems discriminatory, racist or offensive against human dignity
- Artworks that plagiarize other artworks are excluded

3. Competition Documents

Submissions should be sent either electronically to bernPA@state.gov or printed to U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Section, Sulgeneckstrasse 19, 3007 Bern. Artists should NOT submit their artwork, but a folder containing the following documents:

- A written description of no more than 3 pages of A4 in length and including details on the form, content and artistic aspirations of the art. The description should include considerations on how the artwork interfaces with science, technology and/or the environment
- A CV of everyone involved in the creation of the artwork
- Documentation should include several high-resolution photos of the artwork, if possible. If the project is purely digital and/or includes interactive elements, artists should send a working prototype or a video documenting their work.

The application form, project description and CVs must all be in English. Application documents in other languages cannot be considered. Submission should be sent either electronically to bernPA@state.gov or printed to U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Section, Sulgeneckstrasse 19, 3007 Bern by May 1, 2015 (Date of Post stamp). Late entries will not be considered.

4. Adjudication Criteria

Projects will be adjudicated according to the following criteria:

- Convincing connection to technology, science and the environment
- Quality
- Overall impression
- Entrants will be notified of the jury's decision no later than June 1, 2015

5. Grant

- A grant will be awarded to the two selected artists. The amount of the grant will be determined at the discretion of the jury and organizers. When deciding on the amounts to be awarded, the jury and organizers take into consideration such factors as whether the work is newly created or an existing artwork, and whether extra costs are incurred to the creator to display the artwork in the Residence (e.g. computers or tablets necessary for display).

This grant is financed in the frame of the Programm «Mobile. In touch with Digital Creation» from Pro Helvetia.

6. Final Provisions

The jury will be comprised of Suzan G. LeVine (U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein), Marc Bodmer (journalist, expert at Pro Helvetia) and Ariane Koek (International Arts Development at CERN). No grounds will be given for the selection or non-selection of projects. The jury's decision is final and incontestable.

The selected artworks will be displayed with the collection in the Residence until a mutually agreed upon date after the first six months are completed.

The U.S. Embassy and Pro Helvetia reserve the right to use details of the selected projects (e.g. the project title and names of the developers) as well as photos for communication purposes.

By submitting a project, the entrant is at the same time indicating his or her acceptance of these guidelines.

7. Contact

bernPA@state.gov
U.S. Embassy
Public Affairs Section
Sulgeneckstrasse 19
3007 Bern