

## Competition Notice MilanoVetro-35 V Edition

### Biennial of International Artistic and Design Glass Competition for young people under the age of 35

The international artistic and design glass competition is organized by the Museums of the Sforza Castle of the City of Milan, following as the “Organizer of the Competition” with the support of: the collector Sandro Pezzoli (who has always promoted initiatives connected to glass), the “Amici di Sala delle Asse” Association, and the artist Silvia Levenson.

The international artistic and design glass competition, proposes a process of development of the innovative work with the glass material both in art and in contemporary design. The choice of the City of Milan and the Sforza Castle has the intention of reiterating the historic continuity and the centrality of the Provincial capital of Milan in creating and exhibiting glassworks.

#### Preamble

The Sforza Castle has been home to the civic museums of the City of Milan since 1900. Amongst others, it has a collection of artistic glass, developed since the second half of the XIX century thanks to donations of private collectors, completed by purchases made by the museum administration. This first eminently historic core, representative above all of Murano production, was added to in the first forty years of the twentieth century by many examples of Italian and European glass acquired directly at the Biennials of Monza and at the Triennials of Milan, in such an extensive and systematic way that the civic museums of the Castle found themselves with a very sizeable and extremely representative core of glass art production in the first half of the twentieth century. The recent deposit of the Bellini Pezzoli collection (2016), donated in 2022, allowed some gaps concerning the last part of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first to be bridged, so that today the collection is one of the broadest, most complete and updated in Italy. This vocation to preserving and studying artistic glass has also been consolidated by publications and exhibitions and it is today carried on also through a biennial competition, now in its fifth edition, whose intention it is to keep the interest and the artistic mastery in glass processing alive.

For further information: [Sforza Castle, Museum of Decorative Arts](#)

#### General information

The competition is two-yearly and is open to young people who are under the age of 35 on the date the notice is published. The first edition was held in 2018.

The finalists will participate with the selected works in an exhibition from 27 May to 13 September 2026 at the museum rooms of the Sforza Castle of Milan.

The work winning Purchasing prize “Aldo Bellini” will become part of the Sforza Castle collections.

## RULES OF PARTICIPATION

### 1. Characteristics of the work

The competition envisages participation extended to different skills, artistic and design, professional and amateur, without restrictions of type or restrictions on the percentage of glass material used in making the work. The works can be made with any technique and using any material combined with glass.

The works will be accepted exclusively if they are made in a time range not exceeding the last two years starting from the publishing date of the Competition Rules (not realized before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023), and only if they are still unawarded.

### 2. Conditions of Participation

The competition is open to participants coming from any country who, at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, are still under 35 years old.

Candidates can participate with one work only.

### 3. Conditions and Instructions for participation

Applying to participate in the competition and in selection is absolutely free of charge.

The applicants must send the registration form filled out in all its parts and the annexes requested **by and no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, h 23:59 local time** to the email: [C.MilanoVetroUnder35@comune.milano.it](mailto:C.MilanoVetroUnder35@comune.milano.it).

**Deadline postponed to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026, h 23:59 local time .**

### 4. Delivering documentation

The applicants must send the registration form filled out in all its parts and signed to the email: [C.MilanoVetroUnder35@comune.milano.it](mailto:C.MilanoVetroUnder35@comune.milano.it) with the following annexes:

- **curriculum vitae** with personal data and contacts (name, surname, date of birth, residence address and domicile, mobile phone and e-mail)
- scan of a valid **Identity Document**
- **3** high resolution **images** of the work (300 dpi, long side 20 cm) copyright free with a caption (name, surname, title, date, technique) and photo credits.

The images and the texts may be used for disseminating and promoting the competition.

Incomplete documentation may lead to exclusion from the competition.

### 5. Selecting works and final stage of the competition

The selection of the finalists will be made, based on the documentation received, at the sole discretion of the Scientific Committee, by 31 January 2026.

The finalists will then be contacted by email and invited to send the selected work **by and no later than 10 May 2026**, under penalty of exclusion from the final stage of the competition.

The finalist works will then be displayed in an exhibition at the Sala della Balla in the Sforza Castle Museums of Milan. Here they will be evaluated, before opening to the public, by an international jury of experts in artistic glass and design composed of five members (an artist; a curator of the civic museums of Milan; a collector; a designer or design historian; a curator or director of an international museum).

The award ceremony and exhibition opening are scheduled for 26 May 2026.

The exhibition of the finalist works will be open to the public from 27 May to 13 September 2026.

A digital catalogue of the finalists' works will be created and it will be published on the website [Competition MilanoVetro-35](#).

#### 6. Transport and insurance of the finalists' works

The transport and insurance costs of the finalists' works, both for sending and returning them are at the sender's expense, together with eventual custom expenses.

The works of the finalists exhibited at the Sforza Castle of Milan will be covered by the insurance at the expense of the Museum, limited to the duration of the exhibition and to transport from Milan storage to the Museum and back to Milan storage at the end of the exhibition. The works must be collected by the participants within 30 days of the closing of the exhibition.

In case of failure to pick up within the above indicated term, the work will be sent to the participant's address with all costs at his/her expense and if, for any reason, this is not accepted, the work will be considered to be **relinquished** by the participating owner and the Organizing Body of the competition will have the full and unconditional right to sell the work itself to recover the shipping and transport costs without any indemnity of any kind for the owner.

Non-EU participants are invited to gather information in their own countries of residence as early as possible:

-on the procedure of "temporary exportation" of works of art and on the customs expenses required for a temporary exhibition in an Italian public museum;

-works coming from Non-EU countries sent without authorization of a "temporary exportation" **will be rejected** as the Organizing Body is unable to bear their incoming costs.

#### 7. Prizes

All the works selected for the final stage of the competition will be on show in a dedicated exhibition in a room of the Museums of the Sforza Castle of Milan.

The finalists will compete for the following prizes:

- Purchasing prize "Aldo Bellini" of 3,500.00 euro. The winner of the acquisition prize will give the work to the City of Milan and it will become part of the Sforza Castle collections.
- Innovation prize "Inspirational", a week residency at SilviaLevensonLab, to be carried out between October 2026 and May 2027.
- Material prize, consisting of a supply of glass offer by "Amici di Sala delle Asse" Association.

#### 8. Technical-Scientific committee and Jury

The technical-scientific committee, made up of 7 members of proven skill and experience on the themes of the competition, (Rosa Chiesa, design and contemporary glass researcher; Maria Christina Hamel, designer; Maria Luisa Martinez, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Glass Art of Alcorcón-MAVA in Madrid; Fiorella Mattio, Head curator of Arts Collections of the Sforza Castle; Sandro Pezzoli, collector and expert in glass art; Lucia Pini, director of the Galleria Ricci Oddi in Piacenza; Francesca Tasso, director of the Sforza Castle Museums, Archeological Museums and Risorgimento Museum), organizes the event, carries out the first selection of the works participating and appoints the jury for the final stage of the competition.

The international jury, made up of five members (an artist; a curator of the civic museums of Milan; a collector; a designer or design historian; a curator or director of an international museum) evaluates the selected works on display in the exhibition and awards the prizes.

The composition of the scientific committee and the jury are published online on [Competition MilanoVetro-35](#).

### **9. Exclusivity of the work and rights of reproduction**

The participants in the competition declare their exclusive ownership of the work, as regards copyrights. The organizers are, therefore, exempted from any responsibility for any disputes as regards the originality and the paternity of the work and from any imitations or copies by third parties of the work itself.

The author also declares to grant the rights to reproduce the images of the work and the documentation issued that will be necessary to promote the competition and the exhibition of the finalists, on the web and social networking channels, with paper and digital materials.

### **10. Liability**

The Competition Organizing Body declines any responsibility for any delays, loss, failure to deliver and/or damage to the packages-works deriving from shipping and transport by means of private courier or postal services.

### **11. Authorization to the processing of personal data**

The candidate expressly authorizes the Competition Organizing Body, as well as its direct delegates to process the personal data of the participant as laid down by Legislative Decree 196/2003 (Privacy Code) and by the GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation EU Regulation no. 2016/679, also for the purposes of entering them in databases managed by the City of Milan and organizing partners.

For any information regarding processing the data, you can contact the Data Protection Officer of the City of Milan at the following address: [dpo@comune.milano.it](mailto:dpo@comune.milano.it).

### **12. Acceptance of the regulations**

Participation in the competition corresponds to totally accepting the conditions contained in these regulations.

Milan, 1° September 2025

**Updated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 (Art. 3)**