



A MOUNTAIN
OF...
PASTURES

International Graphic Design and Illustration Competition

A MOUNTAIN OF... PASTURES

Second Edition 2026

Theme: PASTURES, ALPINE PASTURES AND SHEPHERDS

Organized by the Forte di Bard Association with the technical support of the Alina Art Foundation and the Inarttendu Cultural Association as part of the European project: **TransiT - Transition towards Creative Cultural Tourism Sustainable**

PREMISE

2026 has been declared **the International Year of Pastures and Pastoralists** by the United Nations General Assembly. In this context, "A Mountain of...Pastures" dedicates its second edition to a cultural, landscape, and ecological heritage at risk of extinction: Alpine pastoralism, transhumance, high-altitude pastures, and the communities that have inhabited and protected these lands for millennia.

We're not looking for Alpine postcards or nostalgic celebrations. We're looking for works that speak to the **fragility, threatened beauty, and urgency** of this world: the relationship between humanity and the land, the crisis of mountain depopulation, the ecological value of sustainable pastoralism, the stories of those who resist, guarding increasingly empty valleys.



COMPETITION THEME: PASTURES AND SHEPHERDS

Participants are invited to develop works that explore one or more of the following aspects:

- > The **historical dimension**: transhumance routes, sheep tracks, the material culture of pastoralism, rural architecture, traditional knowledge
- > The **The present dimension**: who are shepherds today, how do they resist, what challenges do they face, what relationship do they have with the territory
- > The **ecological dimension**: the role of pastures in biodiversity, climate mitigation, and mountain land management
- > The **future dimension**: what are we at risk of losing, what legacy are we leaving, what possibilities for revitalization exist
- > **Personal stories**: seasonal rhythms, solitude and community, relationships with animals

The works must possess **civic and human awareness**, as well as artistic and technical quality.

TECHNICAL CATEGORIES

Participants may submit works in one of the following categories:

1. TRADITIONAL DESIGN

- > Pencil, charcoal, sanguine, pastel drawing
- > Watercolor, tempera, gouache
- > Mixed media on paper
- > Artistic collage

2. DIGITAL GRAPHICS AND ILLUSTRATION

- > Digital illustration (raster)
- > Vector illustration
- > Graphic design and visual storytelling
- > Artistic infographic
- > Motion graphics and animation
- > Video art

3. TRADITIONAL GRAPHIC ARTS

- > Engraving (etching, aquatint, drypoint, soft ground)
- > Xylography (woodcut printing)
- > Linocut
- > Lithography
- > Artistic screen printing



PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES

Category A: OPEN

Artists, illustrators, graphic designers, creative professionals with no age limits.

Category B: STUDENTS

Students enrolled in Fine Arts Academies, art and design universities, graphic design and illustration schools (upon documentation of student status).

Each participant may compete in only one participant category, but may submit works in multiple technical categories.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS

STATIC WORKS (Traditional Drawing, Illustration, Graphic Arts)

Accepted formats:

> **50 x 70 cm** (large format)

> **35 x 50 cm** (small format)

Orientation: horizontal or vertical

File specifications for online submissions:

> Resolution: **300 dpi**

> File format: **JPEG, PDF o PNG**

> Maximum file size: **50 MB**

> Color profile: **sRGB o Adobe RGB**

> Traditional works must be photographed or scanned in high quality

> The file must show the complete work, without visible borders, watermarks or signatures

Project Presentation. Participants may submit:

> **Single works** (1 image in the chosen format)

> **Series or sequences** (up to 4 thematically linked images, each respecting the indicated formats)

> **Complex projects** composed of multiple frames/boards, provided that the overall composition falls within the 50x70 cm or 35x50 cm formats



WORKS IN MOTION (Motion Graphics, Video Art, Animation)

Duration: 30 seconds to 2 minutes

Technical specifications:

- > Minimum resolution: **Full HD 1920x1080 px**
- > Recommended resolution: **4K 3840x2160 px**
- > Frame rate: **24, 25 or 30 fps**
- > File format: **MP4 (codec H.264) or MOV (codec H.264 o ProRes)**
- > Maximum file size: **500 MB** (for larger files, use file sharing services, providing download links)
- > Audio format (if available): **AAC or PCM, 48 kHz stereo**
- > Aspect ratio: **16:9** (horizontal), **9:16** (vertical), **1:1** (square)

Required content:

- > It is mandatory to provide **1 representative frame** of the video in JPEG format (1920x1080 px, 300 dpi) to be used for communication and the jury
- > Possible **subtitles** in Italian or English (if the video contains dialogue)

INTERACTIVE OR MULTIMEDIA WORKS

Each participant must submit:

1. **WORK(S)** according to the indicated technical specifications
2. **REGISTRATION FORM** (form downloadable from the website www.alinaartfoundation.com)
3. **ARTISTIC STATEMENT** ((PDF, maximum 3000 characters) explaining:
 - Concept of the work
 - Relationship to the theme "Pastures, Alpine Pastures and Shepherds"
 - Techniques used
 - Any field research or documentation
4. For Category B (Students): **certificate of enrollment** at the academic institution

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

REGISTRATION

Registration is exclusively online using the dedicated form on the website:

www.alinaartfoundation.com



REGISTRATION FEE

- > **Category A : € 25,00**
- > **Category B (Students): € 0**

The registration fee covers organizational expenses and is non-refundable.

SENDING OF WORKS

All the information needed to complete the required information and upload files will be available directly in the Jotform registration form.

Maximum total file size per participant: 100 MB (excluding videos via external links)

CALENDAR

- > **January 10, 2026:** Registration opens and announcement
- > **April 10, 2026 (11:59 PM CET):** Registration closes and submission deadline
- > **April-May 2026:** Evaluation of works by the jury
- > **May 15, 2026:** Announcement of finalists
- > **July-August 2026:** finalists' group exhibition at Forte di Bard (Aosta Valley)
- > **August 2026:** Award ceremony

JURY

The jury will be composed of professors from various art academies and experts in the fields of art, graphics, and illustration. The final composition will be announced by February 2026.

The jury will choose up to a maximum of 40 finalist works, 10 for each category therefore A Traditional Drawing, B Digital Graphics, C Graphic Art, D Academies Section

The jury will evaluate:

- > **Artistic and technical quality**
- > **Relevance and depth in the interpretation of the theme**
- > **Originality and innovation of the visual language**
- > **Communicative ability and emotional impact**

The jury's decisions are final and binding.



AWARDS

MAIN PRIZES (by technical category)

A Traditional Design:

- > 1st Prize: € 1.000
- > 2nd Prize: € 500

B Digital Graphics:

- > 1st Prize: € 1.000
- > 2nd Prize: € 500

C Graphic Art:

- > 1st Prize: € 1.000
- > 2nd Prize: € 500

SPECIAL PRIZES

D Academy Award

- > 1st Prize Academies: € 1.000
- > 2nd Academies Prize: € 500

The awarding of the *Forte di Bard Prize* will be officially announced by May 2026.

Finalists' Exhibition

All finalist works (approximately 30-40 works) will be exhibited at:

- > **Forte di Bard** (Aosta Valley) - July/August 2026
- > The exhibition may subsequently travel to other exhibition spaces. The finalist works must be delivered to Forte di Bard by a date to be communicated (shipping costs are paid by the artists for the shipment, and the organizers for the return). The works will be returned to the authors at the end of the exhibition, with the procedures assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- > **IMPORTANT:** All projects must be created on paper or cardboard and must be transportable in a rolled-up (tube) format. This requirement is essential to allow the curators to arrange the exhibition uniformly, using the same support and fastening systems for all works.

PUBLICATION

The finalist works will be included in:

- > Downloadable digital catalogue and exhibition catalogue
- > Project communications and promotional materials
- > Website and social media channels of Forte di Bard, Alina Art Foundation and Inarttendu



RIGHTS AND PROPERTY

- > Authors retain all copyright on the submitted works
- > By participating, the authors grant Forte di Bard, Alina Art Foundation and Inarttendu the non-exclusive right to:
 - > Reproduce the works for promotional, educational and documentary purposes related to the competition
 - > Publish works in catalogues, websites, printed materials and social media
 - > Exhibit the works in the exhibitions organized within the project
 - > Each use will always be accompanied by the correct attribution to the author
 - > The original physical works remain the property of the artists and will be returned after the exhibition

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- > The competition is open to artists of any nationality
- > The works must be unpublished and not awarded in other competitions
- > Each participant can submit up to 3 works in different technical categories
- > The works must not violate the rights of third parties
- > Works with offensive, discriminatory or illegal content are not permitted.
- > Registration implies full acceptance of these regulations

RESPONSIBILITY

- > The organization declines all responsibility for damages during transport of physical works (insurance is recommended)
- > The organization reserves the right to exclude works that do not comply with the regulations or technical specifications.

PRIVACY AND DATA PROCESSING

The personal data provided will be processed in accordance with the GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679) exclusively for the purposes of the competition. Full information is available on the website.

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

E-mail : info@alinaartfoundation.com

A mountain of... signs - Pastures, Alpine pastures and
Shepherds Because every sign on the map is a sign on the territory.
Because every story told is a story saved.

Forte di Bard With the technical support of **Alina Art Foundation** and **Inarttendu**
As part of the **TransiT project - Transition towards Sustainable Cultural Tourism**

This announcement will be available in Italian and English. In case of discrepancies, the Italian version will prevail.