



## Call for Applications

### International Contest for Minority Artists

#### 2024 Theme

## Memory in the Present

Deadline: 15 February 2024

### ANNOUNCEMENT:

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Minorities, adopted on 18 December 1992, the [UN Human Rights Office](#) (OHCHR) and the organizations [Minority Rights Group International](#) and [Freemuse](#) launch the **2024 Edition of the International Contest for Minority Artists**, with a focus on the theme of **Memory in the Present**.

Applications will be accepted from 18 December 2023 to 15 February 2024 (deadline for submissions). Artists who identify as belonging to a minority are invited to submit high-quality electronic images of up to five works of art related to minorities and memory in the present.

The application form for the contest is housed here:  
[International Art Contest for Minority Artists \(freemuse.org\)](https://freemuse.org)

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024 CONTEST SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON THAT LINK.**

More information on the International Contest for Minority Artists, including the 2022 and 2023 editions, as well as a detailed Concept Note for the 2024 contest, is available [here](#).

### **Background**

The effective exercise of minority rights is intimately linked with visions and understanding of history in the present. Minority inclusion is frequently driven by public understanding of society as welcoming diversity. Minority exclusion, by contrast, often derives from an understanding of “our history” which defines minorities outside the circle of the legitimate. At the same time, minorities often carry with them the imprint of unrectified historical injustice.

The international human rights system has increasingly grappled with public memory as a condition of human rights-based justice. For example, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence has held that [memorialization is a pillar of transitional justice, and necessary to address contemporary forms of exclusion and discrimination](#), including those facing minority communities.

In countries where minorities have been confronted with histories of human rights abuses, the recognition of past histories and the work of memorialization cut across all aspects of full reparation and reconciliation. Shedding light on past histories and advancing the process of memorialization are also key to ensuring the preservation and transmission of past memories to future generations. Furthermore, memorialization is an instrument of forward-looking social transformations that can foster dialogue, trust, inclusion, and ultimately reconciliation.

The 2024 Edition of the International Contest will shed light on the role and work of artists in the process of memorialization in different countries and contexts, and give visibility to the narratives, histories and memories expressed through arts by minority individuals and communities.