

Guidelines for the awarding of the "Hans Purrmann Awards of the City of Speyer for Visual Arts"

(Updated 22/04/2026)

§ 1 General

In 1965, on the occasion of Hans Purrmann's 85th birthday, the City of Speyer established the **Advancement Award "Hans Purrmann Prize of the City of Speyer for Visual Arts"**. The prize was to be awarded to young artists worthy of promotion.

Since 2012, another prize (**Grand Hans Purrmann Prize of the City of Speyer**) has been awarded, supported by the Hans Purrmann Foundation, as has the **Advancement Award** since 2017.

Both prizes are offered every two years and are to be awarded to one artist each, if possible.

§ 2 Prize money, award and publication

The **Grand Prize** is endowed with 20.000 euros, the **Advancement Award** with 6.000 euros.

In addition, each prize-winner receives a separate publication.

Furthermore, all the artists selected on the basis of the jury's proposal, including the prize-winners, will be presented to the public in an exhibition at the Kulturhof Flachsgasse, Speyer. It is intended to present the two prize-winners at a later date in a larger exhibition venue.

The City of Speyer and the Hans Purrmann Foundation reserve the right to make appropriate purchases from the award winners.

§ 3 Jury

The decision on participation in the exhibition and on the awarding of the prizes is made by an independent jury consisting of at least five members (full jury). In addition to at least three renowned and internationally respected artists chosen by the foundation, the jury should include: a museum director, (whose focus lies on contemporary art) and, if applicable, a former Purrmann Prize Winner, both nominated together by the City of Speyer and the Foundation as well as a guest appointed by the Foundation (single), if possible also a finalist of the Hans Purrmann Prizes or a curator.

The jury shall be chaired by the Mayor of the City of Speyer if it decides on the **Advancement Award**; if it decides on the **Grand Prize**, it shall be chaired by a person nominated by the

foundation. The chairpersons shall hold office without voting rights. They shall be present at all jury meetings, with the right to speak.

For both prizes, a preliminary selection shall take place, the implementation of which is handled by a part of the juries in question.

The pre-selection for the **Grand Prize**, in which the two of the three renowned artists of the overall jury take part, chaired by a chairperson chosen by the foundation. This pre-selection is carried out in Munich.

The pre-selection for the **Advancement Award** will be held in Speyer, chaired by the Mayor of the City of Speyer (with voting rights for this pre-selection); further members will, if possible, include a museum director (whose focus lies on contemporary art) and, if applicable, a former Purrmann Prize Winner, both nominated by the City of Speyer as well as a guest appointed by the Foundation (single), if possible also a finalist of the Hans Purrmann Prizes or a curator.

The meeting of the full jury will take place in Speyer, where decisions on both awards will be made. The meetings of the jury are not open to the public, it decides by simple majority. The decision is final.

§ 4 Eligibility and Procedure

Nominations must be made for the **Grand Prize**. Self-nomination is not possible. Approximately 50 renowned artists, curators and art critics with international experience who are invited to submit a proposal are eligible to submit proposals.

The **Advancement Award** is open to anyone who, like Hans Purrmann (born in the Palatinate, lived and worked in Munich, Berlin, Paris, Rome, Florence, Switzerland and Lake Constance), has a European perspective and connection, but also a link between European metropolises and rural areas. The City of Speyer publicly invites applications for the award.

All media of the visual arts are permitted. Applicants for the **Advancement Award** must not be over 35 years of age, those nominated for the **Grand prize** must not be over 40 years of age. The jury reserves the right to decide on the admission of individual borderline cases.

A two-stage selection procedure will take place for both prizes with the aim of inviting up to 8 applicants each for the exhibition and the respective main selection procedure.

For the **Grand Prize**, the following documents must be submitted in the first stage:

- a curriculum vitae (in tabular form) showing the stages of artistic career
- the fully completed online application form and individually uploaded image documentation of a maximum of 6 single- or multi-part works (from the past 5 years at most), including standard work details and an optional accompanying text (recommended); web links to video and sound works are only permitted for audiovisual art forms
- a portfolio featuring additional recent works (photos and texts regarding your artistic practice)

- Digital submission is preferred (e.g. via download link or online portfolio); physical storage media are also possible if needed.

The following documents must be submitted in the first stage for the **Advancement Award**:

- the fully completed online application form and individually uploaded image documentation of a maximum of six single or multi-part works (from the past three years), including the usual work details and optional accompanying text (recommended); web links to video and sounds works are only permitted for audiovisual artworks
- a curriculum vitae (in tabular form) outlining the applicant's artistic development
- a portfolio with other recent works (photos and texts on the artistic work)

These submitted presentation documents of the first stage are not insured at any time, no liability is assumed.

The works selected for the main selection (second stage) of the two prizes will all be presented as originals in an exhibition at the Kulturhof Flachsgasse, Speyer. Applicants will be informed shortly after the preliminary jury meetings about the outcome in the pre-selection and will be asked to submit their original works as well as a dossier with further works from the recent past (photos, catalogues, texts on the artistic work).

The conditions of the exhibition rooms must be taken into account when selecting the works. The maximum ceiling height is 2.80 m. Hanging from the ceiling is not permitted. If possible, the existing hanging system is to be used for hanging on the wall.

The respective exhibition space will be allocated taking into account various parameters (coherent presentation of the partial awards, number of nominees, type of works submitted, etc.). Self-selection is not possible. The works must be in good condition in terms of presentation. The works, in particular sculptures and installations, must be set up on site by the participants themselves.

All works are insured for the entire duration of the exhibition, transport, pre-storage and post-storage.

As soon as the exhibition with the original works has been set up, the jury will deliberate and decide on the awarding of prizes. The jury meeting is not open to the public.

The documents of all other applications will be returned immediately after the preselection.

§ 5 Timing

For the **Grand Prize**, those entitled to submit proposals will generally be invited to submit proposals 8 months prior to the awarding of the prizes.

The call for application for the **Advancement Award** is usually published 6 months prior to the awarding of the prizes.

The submission deadline for the required documents for both prizes is usually 3-5 months before the prizes are awarded. The pre-selection for both prizes usually takes place 2-3 months before the prizes are awarded.

The award ceremony will be held by the Mayor of the City of Speyer in the Historischer Ratsaal. Afterwards, the exhibition of the nominees will be opened in the Kulturhof Flachsgasse and will run for a minimum of four week, usually.

The specific timetable, including submission deadlines, the required documents and the application procedure will be announced in letters to the nominated artists for the **Grand Prize** and in the announcement for the **Advancement Award**.

§ 6 Legal Process

With the submission of the application or the required documents, these guidelines are acknowledged.

Artists who have been awarded the Hans Purrmann Prize may not apply again.

Legal recourse is excluded.

City of Speyer, Cultural Office and Twinning Cities