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THE SOVEREIGN PORTUGUESE ART PRIZE, SPONSORED BY EON REALITY, ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL SHORTLIST

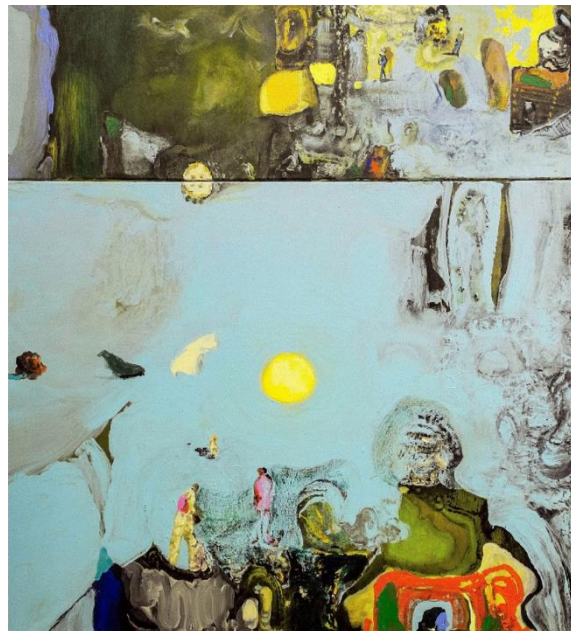


Photo credits from L-R: The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize Judge and contemporary artist Ai Wei Wei. Photo credit Ai Weiwei Studio; *Duende* by Jorge Queiroz; courtesy of the artist and Associação SAF.

- **30 contemporary artists from Portugal and its diaspora have been shortlisted for the inaugural Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize by an esteemed judging panel, including artists Ai Wei Wei and Joana Vasconcelos.**
- **The Finalists' Exhibition will tour venues in Porto, Lisbon, Estremoz and the Algarve from April to September 2022.**
- **All proceeds raised from sale of the artworks will benefit the artists and be used to fund arts programmes, identified by Associação SAF, that support disadvantaged children across Portugal.**

Lisbon, Portugal – Associação SAF (SAF) today announced the 30 finalists shortlisted for the inaugural Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize, which celebrates the practices of leading contemporary artists living in Portugal, and its diaspora. Proceeds from the public sale of the artworks will be split equally between the artists and SAF; where they will be used to fund expressive arts programmes that support disadvantaged children in Portugal. The recipient of the Grand Prize of €25,000 will be announced on 12 April, followed by a Finalists' Exhibition tour across Portugal.



A board of independent arts professionals comprising curators, collectors and academics – nominated artists to enter The Prize. Thirty artists were then shortlisted by an esteemed judging panel, including artists **Ai Weiwei** and **Joana Vasconcelos**; **Vicente Todolí**, Founding Director of Serralves Contemporary Art Museum; **David Elliott**, freelance writer, curator and former Founding Director of the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; **Maura Marvão**, Head of Phillips in Portugal and Spain; **Phillippe Vergne**, French curator and Director of the Serralves Contemporary Art Museum and **Tim Marlow**, Chief Executive and Director of the Design Museum, London.

The shortlisted artists are: Ana Mendes; André Príncipe; António Júlio Duarte; Avelino Sá; Cecília Costa; Edgar Martins; Horácio Frutuoso; Inês Botelho; Isaque Pinheiro; João Jacinto; Jorge Queiroz; José Loureiro; Luísa Mota; Manuel Caeiro; Manuela Pimentel; Maria Almeida; Cunha Alegre; Maria Trabulo; Miguel Branco; Nuno Sousa Vieira; Paulo Arraiano; Pedro Batista; Pedro Vaz; Rui Moreira; Rui Pedro Jorge; Salomé Lamas; Saskia Moro; Teresa Esgaio; Vasco Araújo; Vasco Mourão; Yuri Firmeza.

Judge **Ai Wei Wei** commented: "It's a pleasure to be involved in The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize as a jury member. It helped me understand the Portuguese contemporary art scene and the activities relating to it. I hope that the endeavour will have an impact on today's world. Art has always been used as decoration rather than the questioning of aesthetics and ethics. With the efforts of the participating artists, art may hopefully re-immers itself in philosophical arguments rather than just being pretty or a mere display of skills. If so, no jury can judge art, and art can only be judged by viewers."

The Finalists' Exhibition tour will start at Palácio das Artes in Porto (13-30 April 2022), before moving to Sociedade Nacional de Belas-Artes in Lisbon (24 May-18 June 2022), then the Museu Berardo Estremoz (22 June-15 August 2022), culminating in August at a venue to be announced shortly in the Algarve. Visitors to the exhibitions will be invited to vote for their favourite artwork and together with [online votes](#), the most popular artist will be awarded the Public Vote Prize of €2,000.

Fellow judge **Vicente Todoli** commented: "It was so interesting to see the range of perspectives and breadth of artistic practices from entries into The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize. I am delighted by the shortlist which, I'm sure, will produce a fascinating and insightful Finalists' Exhibition – representative of the talent of contemporary artists in Portugal."

The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize is sponsored by EON Reality. **Anna Lejerskar**, President of the Learn for Life Foundation, the non-profit arm of EON Reality said of the partnership: "Creativity is viewed as the driving force behind innovation, as a fuel to inspire and enrich. For EON Reality, the parallels between art and technology are evident, both provide the means to learn about ourselves and the world in new and different ways, and an invitation to rethink and reinvent. EON Reality, through its not-for-profit arm Learn for Life Foundation is proud to be sponsoring The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize in a cause that is closely aligned with the organisation's commitment to education, arts and the community. The cooperation between Learn for Life Foundation and The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize marks our shared vision to harness the power of creativity and empower the dreams of the generations to come."

ENDS



Associação SAF

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Press Kit: [Click here](#) to download a full press kit with high-resolution artwork images, artist portraits, quote sheet, factsheets and EON Reality Press Release. For images please credit the artist where appropriate and Associação SAF.



About The Sovereign Art Foundation

The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) is a charitable organisation founded in 2003 to recognise, support and promote contemporary art talent; and to bring the therapeutic benefits of art to disadvantaged children.

In the same year, SAF launched The Sovereign Asian Art Prize, now recognised as the most established and prestigious annual art award in Asia-Pacific. The Prize increases the international exposure of artists in the region, whilst raising funds by auctioning shortlisted artworks and sharing proceeds equally between the participating artists and SAF. SAF uses these proceeds to fund programmes that support disadvantaged children using expressive arts. This model has so far raised over US\$10 million for artists and charities worldwide.

This year, SAF launched two new international art prizes: The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize and The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize, each with the objective of increasing the international exposure of artists in these countries, whilst raising funds for local arts education programmes.

SovereignArtFoundation.com

About The Sovereign Group

Sovereign began in Gibraltar in 1987 and has since grown into one of the largest independent providers of corporate, private client, retirement planning, insurance and tax services. With a network of 23 offices spanning Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Sovereign's global headcount is now over 500. We currently manage over 20,000 structures for a wide variety of clients – companies, entrepreneurs, private investors or ultra-net-worth individuals and their families – and have assets under administration in excess of US\$20 billion.

Sovereign pride themselves on the exceptional breadth and depth of technical knowledge, with an entrepreneurial culture but a commitment to maintaining compliance and promoting ethical conduct.

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Associação SAF

About EON Reality, Lead Sponsor

EON Reality is the world leader in Augmented and Virtual Reality-based experience creation for education and industry as well as the creators of the Knowledge Metaverse. EON Reality's 23 years of success are tied to its belief that knowledge is a human right and should be available, accessible, and affordable for every human on the planet. To carry this out, EON Reality developed and launched EON-XR, a SaaS-based platform dedicated to the democratization of XR content creation that brings code-free XR development and publishing to smartphones, tablets, laptops, and XR-focused devices. EON Reality's global network of more than 1.4 million users is building the Knowledge Metaverse in more than 100 locations and has created the world's leading XR library for education and industry with over 2.16 million 3D assets and counting.

<https://eonreality.com>

About Sutton, Cultural Communications Partner

Sutton is an international team of cultural strategists, expertly engaging audiences locally and internationally through multi-dimensional cultural strategy that integrates communications, marketing and partnerships. Sutton provides creative and sustainable solutions, inspiring connections between people, ideas and places and believe culture has a vital role to play in enhancing everyone's lives.

<https://suttoncomms.com>

About Tivoli Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Partner

Tivoli Hotels & Resorts is part of the Minor Hotels and currently operates 16 properties in Portugal, Brazil, and Qatar. With over 80 years of experience, Tivoli Hotels & Resorts differentiates through a range of unique and authentic experiences offered to guests along with innovative and outstanding service.

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About NH Collection

NH Collection is NH Hotel Group's upper-upscale brand, noteworthy for its unique and emblematic hotels in principle cities of Europe and Latin America. Based on the chain's premium value proposition, these hotels retain their local character to inspire and captivate their guests.

About Iberomail, Logistics Partner

Iberomail is a postal operator with a wide range of logistics solutions for mail, parcels and express services. The company is specialised in various sectors, one of them being the transport of antiques and art works. With Iberomail, the world is at your door.

<https://iberomail.com/pt>

About Howard's Folly, Hospitality Partner

Howard Bilton and David Baverstock founded Howard's Folly in 2002, which now includes a state-of-the-art winery and a restaurant in Estremoz. Howard's Folly are long term sponsors of SAF and many of the labels were designed by winners of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize in the year the wine was bottled.

<https://www.howardsfollywine.com>



Associação SAF

About Fundação da Juventude, Venue Partner

In activity since 1989 and currently based in Palácio das Artes, in Porto, the Fundação da Juventude is a private institution, of public interest and non-profit, focused on Training, Entrepreneurship and support to Youth Employment. Created by notary deed on the 25th of September 1989, by the hand of 21 public and private institutions, it was declared a public utility institution in March 1990. With national scope, in addition to the Head Office in the city of Porto, the Fundação da Juventude also has a Delegation in the Lisbon and Tagus Valley Region.

<https://www.fjuventude.pt>