

27 May 2022

THE INAUGURAL SOVEREIGN PORTUGUESE ART PRIZE OPENS IN LISBON



Howard Bilton with Jaime Silva, Vice-President of the SNBA, in front of the artwork that won the SPAP Grand Prize, Duende by Jorge Queiroz.

- **The *Finalists' Exhibition*, comprising the work of 30 contemporary artists from Portugal and its diaspora goes on display at the Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes, open to the public 27 May – 18 June.**
- **The shortlisted artworks are now for sale in an online auction, with all proceeds benefiting the artists and supporting disadvantaged children across Portugal through arts programmes identified by Associação SAF.**
- **The exhibition will also tour venues in Estremoz and the Algarve, until September 2022.**
- **The Grand Prize winner announced on 13 April as Jorge Queiroz; as voted for by a judging panel, including artists Ai WeiWei and Joana Vasconcelos.**

Lisbon, Portugal – Associação SAF will open the first Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize, sponsored by EON Reality, in Lisbon on Friday 27 May at the Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes. This is the inaugural edition of the Prize, which celebrates the practices of leading contemporary artists living in Portugal, and its diaspora.

The *Finalists' Exhibition* presents 30 finalists, who were nominated to enter by a board of 19 independent arts professionals comprising curators, collectors and academics. 30 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.

On 13 April, Jorge Queiroz was named the Grand Prize winner for his work, *Duende*. He won €25,000.

The Finalists' Exhibition started touring Portugal in Porto on 13 April. It will be at the Sociedade Nacional de Belas-Artes in Lisbon 27 May - 18 June 2022, then the Museu Berardo Estremoz 22 June - 15 August 2022, culminating in August at a venue, to be announced, in the Algarve.

Visitors online and in person are 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 in August.

All shortlisted artworks, except Queiroz's, are now being sold via [silent auction](#); reserve prices range from €1,700 - €24,000, with the option to pay a premium and 'buy it now'. The online auction will close in early September 2022. Proceeds will be split equally between the artists and SAF, where they will be used to fund expressive arts programmes supporting children who most need it, in Portugal.

Howard Bilton, Founder and Chairman of SAF, commented: "This prize showcases the very best artists working in Portugal today as judged by our two boards of independent art experts – the nominators and the judges. Our aim is to give these artists a platform which will allow their work to be seen and appreciated by a new and wider audience. At the same time we will sell the works to raise substantial funds which we will use to support disadvantaged children throughout Portugal."

Prof. João Paulo Queiroz, President of the Board of SNBA, said of the initiative: "The Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes is thrilled to take part on this great art prize by The Sovereign Art Foundation. Together we are sure we can accomplish a better society with greater social and cultural awareness, and to present innovative projects regarding visual arts."

The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) Students Prize, Portugal 2022

The SAF Students Prize, Portugal 2022 is an annual award championing the importance of art in the education system and will also be exhibited at the Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes between 24 May - 18 June. The [SAF Students Prize, Portugal, 2022](#) is sponsored by Maria João Bahia. Secondary schools across Portugal nominated their best art students to submit art works online. A separate judging panel then shortlisted the 30 best art works for the Finalists' Exhibition, which is touring concurrently with the Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize, paralleling the artists of today alongside the talent of tomorrow.

Student artworks will be sold through silent auction at the agreement of each student, with sale proceeds and fundraising income split equally between the student and SAF. Maria João Bahia commented: "Maria João Bahia is delighted to be lead sponsor of the SAF Students Prize, Portugal 2022, a hugely worthy initiative which recognises and rewards the incredible artistic talent amongst our youth, as evidenced in the work of the thirty finalists exhibited at the SNBA".

ENDS

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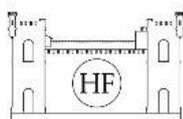
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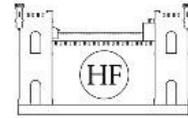
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About The Sovereign Art Foundation

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.
SovereignArtFoundation.com [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

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.

Sovereign offers a complete, complementary suite of services:

- **Sovereign Corporate Services** – assisting companies of all sizes to establish business operations across all major jurisdictions, together with the necessary support and employee benefits packages to sustain operations successfully.
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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.

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About Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes, Exhibition & Venue Partner

Founded in 1901, the Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes is the oldest and most representative artistic association in Portugal. In the magnificent display space of its headquarters, it has exhibited almost all of the fundamental Portuguese artists of the 20th century. The SNBA maintains its activity to this day with the aim of promoting and assisting the progress of art, holding individual and collective exhibitions, fairs and other cultural events, with the participation of national and foreign artists. It also maintains a wide reaching educational purpose and is constantly innovating to reach new audiences.

<https://snba.pt/en/> [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

About Optylon Krea

Optylon Krea is an investment management and real estate development company that caters to the needs of international Golden Visa investors, with €1.7 billion managed to date from Portugal to Turkey. They were the first to explore the Golden Visa eligible fund route in 2018 and are currently leading that market segment with more than € 200M under advisory. In Portugal Optylon Krea have more than 100,000sqm under development across the country. They are planning to expand and revolutionize the branded apartment industry with an ambitious and international project to be launched soon. Optylon Krea's core mission is to bring momentum to Portugal and so they are proud to contribute to this country's artistic development by supporting the 2022 Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize.

<https://www.optylonkrea.com/> [LinkedIn](#)

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. www.tivolihotels.com/en.

[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#): @TivoliHotels

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.
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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> [Facebook](#)

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.

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About Maria Joao Bahia, SAF Students Prize. Portugal 2022 Sponsor

Maria João Bahia is a name recognised in Portugal and abroad as one of the most original authors of jewellery today. Her creations combine noble metals and precious stones with a unique design. The author, who has more than 35 years of career, has in her portfolio a wide range of creations with special emphasis on jewellery, but also a vast collection of design pieces, highlighting a special collection dedicated essentially to Gastronomy and many trophies of prestige. With an unmistakable design, the designer creates unique pieces of art. Her jewellery carries a strong symbolism, arouses emotions and feelings. In her atelier, shop and workshop in the centre of Lisbon, at Avenida da Liberdade 102, Maria João Bahia idealizes her world of creativity and offers to national and international tourists unique and luxurious creations, sold with a certificate of authenticity and guarantee, being the only store in this avenue where all products are national and signed by Maria João Bahia.

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