



## The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize: A new and prestigious Art Prize for Portugal

**9 December 2021**

**Lisbon, Portugal** - Associação SAF is the Portuguese arm of The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) and announces the launch of an award for contemporary artists from Portugal and its diaspora, set to be the biggest annual art prize in the country.

The Sovereign Art Foundation was founded in 2003 by Howard Bilton, a British businessman who also produces wine in the Alentejo and is now based in Portugal having moved from Hong Kong.

The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize will celebrate the practices of leading contemporary artists and aim to benefit them by increasing their international exposure.

A panel of independent art professionals have nominated artists to enter the Prize, resulting in over 200 online submissions. The online entries are currently being reviewed by an expert judging panel which includes artists **Ai Weiwei, and Joana Vasconcelos** as well as **Vicente Todolí** – Founding Director of Serralves Contemporary Art Museum.

The competition will culminate in an exhibition tour of 30 shortlisted artists, starting at Palacio das Artes in Porto (13-30 April 2022), before moving to Sociedade Nacional de Belas-Artes in Lisbon (24 May-18 June) and the Museu Berardo in Estremoz (22 June-15 August), followed by a further exhibition in the Algarve, venue to be confirmed.

A Grand Prize of €25,000 will be awarded to the finalist whose work receives the highest score from the judging panel. The artist whose work proves the most popular with the public will also be recognised with a Public Vote Prize of €2,000. Public votes will be collected online and at the exhibitions.

The shortlisted artworks will then be sold with the aim of raising significant funds to be split equally between SAF and the participating artists. SAF will use these funds to develop expressive arts programmes aimed at supporting disadvantaged children in Portugal. Through similar projects, including its coveted Sovereign Asian Art Prize, SAF has raised US\$10 million for artists and charitable organisations worldwide.

**Howard Bilton, Founder and Chairman of SAF**, commented: “As a new resident of Portugal, I was keen to get involved in the art scene. The obvious way to do this seemed to be to start an art prize, having done so successfully in Asia for the past 18 years and recently launched one in Africa. The reaction from galleries, artists, art professionals and the art community in general has been overwhelmingly positive and we are delighted with the discoveries we have made, showing great depth in the Portuguese art market. This prize will assist both established and newer artistic talent by showing their work to a wider audience whilst raising substantial funds, which we will use to support disadvantaged children throughout Portugal. As a leading arts charity and organiser of the largest art prize in Asia-Pacific, SAF are thrilled to be able bring this expertise to 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 30 shortlisted artists will be announced in February 2022, before the judges complete a second round of judging to determine the Grand Prize winner. Joining **Joana Vasconcelos**, **Ai Weiwei** and **Vincente Todolí** on the judging panel are: **David Elliott** – freelance writer, curator and formerly 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; **Tim Marlow** – Former Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Arts.

Details on Prize schedule, nomination and entry process, list of nominators and terms and conditions are available on the [SAF website](#).

SAF will also be simultaneously hosting The Sovereign Art Foundation Students Prize, Portugal 2022; an annual award that celebrates the importance of art in the education system and recognises the quality of artworks produced by secondary-school students in Portugal. Teachers have been asked to nominate their 5 most talented students to enter works online. The 30 finalists, as selected by a separate panel of judges, will be exhibited together with the professional works in Porto and Lisbon, giving visitors the wonderful opportunity to view the works of established professional artists alongside the potential talent of the future.

**Carla Mouro, CEO of Fundação da Juventude**, said of the Students Prize initiative: "We are delighted to be partnering with Associação SAF and be part of The Sovereign Art Foundation Students Prize, Portugal and can't wait to see the works produced by the young artists of this country. We are so excited to see what talented contemporary artists will be shortlisted and exhibited in the beautiful rooms of Palácio das Artes in Porto. Fundação da Juventude, since its foundation, has been connected with arts and believes in the potential of the youngsters. Fundação da Juventude has developed many programs connected with arts and its headquarters has the name of Palácio das Artes, so we are very excited with this partnership."

**ENDS**

### **Key Dates**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Shortlist announcement                    | 7 February          |
| <i>Finalists' Exhibitions:</i>            |                     |
| Palácio das Artes, Porto                  | 13 – 30 April       |
| Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes, Lisbon | 24 May – 18 June    |
| Museu Berardo, Estremoz                   | 22 June – 15 August |
| Venue to be announced, Algarve            | August              |

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**#SovereignArtFoundation #SPAP**

## **Editors' Notes**

### **Partnership Opportunities**

If you or your business are interested in supporting or partnering with the The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize, a wide range of packages are available. Please get in touch for more information.

### **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 US\$10 million for artists and charities worldwide.

In 2013, SAF launched Make It Better (MIB), an initiative that supports children from low-income backgrounds and with special educational needs in Hong Kong. MIB works in local schools and community centres to offer children a programme of expressive arts workshops designed to build self-esteem, confidence, self-awareness and interpersonal skills. SAF also supports teachers, social workers and caregivers of these children by introducing them to the therapeutic benefits of art.

SAF also runs a series of Students Prizes, annual awards that celebrate the importance of art in the education system and recognise the quality of artworks produced by secondary-school students across the world. There are now 10 Student Prizes, the first was established in 2012 in Hong Kong, followed by further prizes in Guernsey, Bahrain, Singapore, Mauritius, Portugal, the Isle of Man, Malta and Gozo, Gibraltar and London.

SAF has also launched this year The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize with the objective of increasing the international exposure of artists in Africa, whilst raising funds for local arts education programmes. [SovereignArtFoundation.com](http://SovereignArtFoundation.com)

### **Howard's Folly**

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. Howard's Folly are sponsors of The Sovereign Portuguese Art Prize.

### **The Sovereign Group**

Howard Bilton founded The Sovereign Group in Gibraltar in 1987, which 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.

They 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.

The Sovereign Group offers a complete, complementary suite of services:

- **Sovereign Corporate Services** – offers company formation and management across all major jurisdictions, together with the necessary support to assist companies of all sizes to establish and sustain operations successfully.
- **Sovereign Private Client Services** – provides trustee services, wealth management and succession planning to internationally mobile families and entrepreneurs.
- **Sovereign Retirement Planning** – devises and administers individual and corporate international pension schemes that offer choice, transparency and portability across multiple jurisdictions.
- **Sovereign Insurance Services** – offers bespoke corporate and personal insurance services for our clients.

Sovereign has established a network of offices or agents in all major international finance centres, allowing clients to access a global service from a local point of delivery and holds appropriate authorisations in all jurisdictions that require it to be licensed.

[SovereignGroup.com](http://SovereignGroup.com)

### Fundação da Juventude

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.

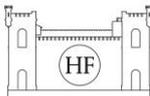


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SOCIEDADE  
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HOWARD'S FOLLY