



GHANI - Open Competition for Young Artists

Concept of the Competition

“Christianity is the religion of love; love means being of one soul, and love of God is, at the same time, the path to deification.”

(St. Gregory the Theologian)

“Ghani – Love as the Path to Deification” is a cultural and educational competition for young artists and students, aimed at rediscovering and reactivating the Christian understanding of divine love through the language of contemporary art. The project raises the central question: How can love transform the human being and the contemporary world?

The competition invites participants to reflect on divine love as a force that has historically shaped Georgian culture and that can still become the foundation of new artistic creation today – as a path of personal transformation and spiritual perfection, expressed through artistic thinking.

Our objective is the search for a new Georgian aesthetic – the formation of a visual language that unites the spiritual experience of the past with contemporary reality.

We seek new visions and solutions that respond organically to today’s spiritual and cultural challenges.

The long-term vision of the competition is linked to the creation of a nationally significant “Monument of Love,” which will become a symbol of unity and Georgian identity. Within this framework, the new artistic forms and concepts developed by the participants will serve as a source of inspiration for the realization of this vision.

Competition Conditions

1. General Provisions

- 1.1. The Tbilisi Architects and Sculptors Association announces an open competition titled “Ghani – Love as the Path to Deification,” implemented with the support of the Ghani Cultural Foundation.
- 1.2. The competition is dedicated to the 1700th anniversary of the Christianization of Georgia.
- 1.3. This document defines the objectives of the competition, the rules of participation, the evaluation criteria, and the deadlines for the submission of works.
- 1.4. The competition documentation and updated information are available on the Association’s official website: www.tasa.ge and on its official Facebook page.
- 1.5. The competition is open. It is open to students and young artists who are citizens of Georgia, participating either individually or as part of a group.

2. Objective of the Competition

- 2.1. The primary objective of the competition is the artistic interpretation of divine love – as the foundation of spiritual perfection and inner transformation – through the language of architecture and visual arts.
- 2.2. Participants are expected to represent love in their works as a visual expression of sacrifice, service, self-sacrifice, and free will within a contemporary cultural context.
- 2.3. The works created within the framework of the competition constitute a form of creative research, which may be used in the future for the development of the concept of a nationally significant Monument of Love.

3. Objectives of the Competition

- 3.1. To reflect on divine love within the context of the 1700th anniversary of the Christianization of Georgia.
- 3.2. To create works based on symbolic thinking and the exploration of new visual forms.
- 3.3. To express fundamental values in art — unity, service, and spiritual elevation.
- 3.4. To synthesize Georgian cultural heritage with contemporary artistic vision.
- 3.5. To support the creative development of young artists and promote the public presentation of their works.

4. Professional Categories and Registration

The competition is conducted in three professional categories:

I. Architecture

II. Sculpture

III. Painting / Graphics

4.1. Each participant (individual or group) is allowed to submit only one work in one specific category.

4.2. The use of both traditional materials and innovative technologies is permitted in the execution of the work.

4.3. Deadlines:

Pre-registration: April 15 – May 31

Submission of competition materials: June 1 – August 15

5. Competition Stages

5.1. The competition is conducted in the following sequence:

1. Online registration;
2. Submission of competition projects;
3. Initial evaluation of the works by the jury (Stage I);
4. Mentorship phase (for selected participants);
5. Final evaluation, selection of winners, and award ceremony.

5.2. In parallel with the competition, an educational program will be conducted, including thematic lectures and meetings, aimed at supporting participants in developing their theoretical foundation.

6. Pre-registration

6.1. Registration period: from April 15 to May 31, 2026 (inclusive).

6.2. Purpose of registration: to ensure efficient communication with interested participants and to provide them with information regarding the progress of the competition.

6.3. Registration format: registration is conducted electronically through a dedicated registration form, which will be available on the Association's website (www.tasa.ge) and its official Facebook page.

6.4. Status: Completion of pre-registration does not constitute automatic participation in the competition. In order to be officially registered as a participant, it is necessary to submit a complete competition application within the established deadlines (see Article 14: Competition Calendar).

7. Professional Categories and Participation Conditions

7.1. Architecture

Eligibility: Students and young architects (up to 40 years of age), participating individually or as a group.

Architectural Vision and Objectives

In contemporary architectural practice, where creative freedom is often constrained by economic, functional, or formal requirements, the “Ghani” project creates a space for free professional thinking.

One of the key objectives of the initiative is to restore to the architect their essential role – that of a creator who, through shaping the environment, can influence human spiritual experience. The submitted works should reflect an understanding of space and environment that, through the creation of emotional impact, contributes to personal development, spiritual growth, intellectual concentration, and other virtues.

General Conditions

- Each participant/group may submit only one project.
- The project must present an architectural interpretation of the theme “Divine Love as Spiritual Perfection” within the context of the 1700th anniversary of the Christianization of Georgia.

The competition entry may take the form of:

- an architectural object;
- a public or landscape spatial concept;
- a monumental or symbolic architectural form;
- an urban (city planning) proposal;
- an interior design project.

Design Principles

Creative Freedom: Participants are given full freedom to determine the location, function, and purpose of the project.

Conceptual Priority: The work must be based on a clear architectural concept and spiritual content; priority is given to conceptual depth expressed through architectural language.

Sketch Format: The style of project presentation is unrestricted.

Cultural Context: The project should reflect an understanding of Georgian architectural and cultural heritage and its contemporary interpretation within the context of national identity formation.

Conceptual Framework

The project should explore the following aspects of divine love through architectural and artistic means:

- Love as inner human perfection;

- Love as a form of unity;
- Love as sacrifice and service;
- Love as self-sacrifice;
- Love as a path toward spiritual elevation and deification.

Submission Materials (Submission Stage)

Participants must submit the following electronically:

1. **Graphic component (PDF format):** a conceptual project including site plan, main plans, sections, elevations, and renderings.
2. **Text component:** a description of the project concept (maximum 1 page).
3. **Application form:** completed registration form (Annex 1).

Exhibition Requirements (for Selected Participants)

Projects selected for the second stage will be presented in the form of exhibition boards:

- Format: A0 (841 × 1189 mm), vertical orientation;
- Quantity: maximum 2 boards;
- Content: graphic materials (site plan, sections, elevations, renderings) and a brief concept description;
- Technical requirements: boards must follow the unified template (Master Layout) provided by the organizer. Printing will be arranged by the organizer.

Physical Model (Optional)

- If a physical model is submitted, its parameters (size, material) must be agreed upon with the organizer at least 20 days prior to the exhibition.
- The model must be stable and technically suitable for exhibition display.

⚠ Important Notice

- Anonymity: It is strictly prohibited to include the author's identity, logo, or contact information on any submission materials (boards, PDF files, or descriptions).
- Confidentiality: The submitted work must not be publicly disclosed (including on social media) before the end of the competition. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

7.2. Sculpture

Eligibility: Students and young sculptors (up to 40 years of age) — individually or as a group.

General Conditions:

- Each participant/group may submit only one artwork;
- The artwork must present an original interpretation of the competition theme – “Divine Love – Spiritual Perfection” – within the context of the 1700th anniversary of the Christianization of Georgia.

Conceptual Framework:

The artwork is encouraged to reflect the following aspects of love:

- Love as inner human perfection;
- Love as a form of unity;
- Love as sacrifice and service;
- Love as self-sacrifice;
- Love as a path toward spiritual ascent and deification.

Authors may employ symbolic, allegorical, traditional, or innovative artistic forms.

Monumental Approach:

- The artwork should be conceived as a monumental object.
- Participants are encouraged to select and indicate a specific location for its potential placement.

Submission Materials (Application Stage)

1. For Physical Sculpture:

- 3–5 images of the sculptural sketch from different angles (minimum 300 dpi);
- Conceptual description of the artwork (maximum 1 page);
- Completed application form (Annex 1).

2. For Digital Sculpture:

- 3D model file (.obj / .fbx / .stl / .glb formats);
- 2–3 high-quality renders (*.jpeg, minimum 300 dpi);
- Technical description (software, scale, form);
- Optional video presentation: up to 30 seconds (.mp4).

Exhibition Requirements (for Selected Works)

Physical Sketch:

- Maximum dimensions – 80 × 80 × 80 cm;
- Material – any solid or semi-solid material (technically ready for exhibition).

Digital Sketch:

- 3D model or virtual installation.
- Environmental Visualization:
- Submitted materials (photo/video) must clearly demonstrate the monumental scale of the work and its integration into a real environment selected by the author (as photomontage or rendering).

⚠ Important Notice

Anonymity: Submission materials must not contain the author's name, logo, or any identifying mark.

Confidentiality: The artwork must not be publicly disclosed (including on social media) before the competition ends. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

7.3. Painting / Graphics

Eligibility: Students and young artists (up to 40 years of age) – individually or as a creative group.

General Conditions:

- Each participant/group may submit only one artwork;
- The artwork must present an artistic interpretation of the theme – “Divine Love as Spiritual Perfection” –within the context of the 1700th anniversary of the Christianization of Georgia
- Artistic Language: The use of symbolic, allegorical, traditional, or contemporary (including digital) visual forms is permitted.

Conceptual Framework:

The artwork is encouraged to reflect the following aspects of love:

- Love as inner human perfection;
- Love as a form of unity;
- Love as sacrifice and service;
- Love as self-sacrifice;
- Love as a path toward spiritual ascent and deification.

Submission Materials (Application Stage)

1. For Physical Artwork:

- 1–3 high-quality images of the artwork (minimum 300 dpi);
- A conceptual description of the project (maximum 1 page);
- Completed application form (Annex 1).

2. For Digital Artwork:

- Static image: .jpeg or .png (maximum 4K – 3840×2160);
- Video / animation: .mp4 (maximum 30 seconds);
- Technical sheet: brief description and exhibition requirements (screen, projector, lighting, etc.).

Exhibition Requirements (for Selected Participants)

Physical Artwork:

- Technique – unrestricted (painting, graphic art, mixed media);
- Recommended maximum size – 150 cm (on one side);

- The artwork must be ready for exhibition (framed, mounted, or equipped with an appropriate hanging system).

Digital / Multimedia Artwork:

- Includes digital painting, animation, .gif, video art, or interactive projects;
- Submission format – .mp4 or high-resolution static file (4K).

⚠ Important Notice

Anonymity: Submission materials (images, file names, text) must not contain the author's name, logo, or any identifying mark.

Confidentiality: The artwork must not be publicly disclosed (including on social media) before the end of the competition. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

8. Submission of Applications

8.1. Deadlines: Submission of competition applications will be open from June 1, 2026, until August 15, 2026, at 18:00.

Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

8.2. Submission Format: The complete competition package must be sent via email to: ghanicompetition@gmail.com The subject line must indicate: Category (e.g., Sculpture) – Project Title.

8.3. Application Package Must Include:

- Completed application form – Annex 1;
- Conceptual description of the artwork;
- Images or visual materials of the artwork (in accordance with the requirements of Article 7).

8.4. Language Requirement: Applications must be prepared in the Georgian language.

8.5. Responsibility: The participant is responsible for submitting complete, technically accurate, and substantively sound application materials.

8.6. Authenticity and Liability: By submitting an application, the participant guarantees that all provided information is accurate. At any stage of the competition (including after the awarding of prizes), if false information or submission of another person's work is identified, the organizer reserves the right to cancel the participant's registration and refuse to award the prize.

8.7. Registration Confirmation: A participant is considered officially registered only after receiving an email confirmation from the competition coordinator acknowledging receipt of the application.

9. Evaluation Procedure and Jury

9.1. Evaluation: The evaluation of the submitted works will be carried out by an independent professional jury, whose composition is approved by the Tbilisi Architects and Sculptors Association.

9.2. Composition of the Jury: The jury will be composed of representatives from the fields of art, architecture, art history, and the humanities. The identities of the jury members will remain confidential until the conclusion of the competition.

9.3. Decision-Making: The jury's decision is made by a majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the jury chairperson shall be decisive.

9.4. Right to Disqualify: The organizer and the jury reserve the right to remove any submission from consideration in case of violation of the competition rules or ethical standards.

Evaluation Stages

The selection of competition entries will be conducted in two stages:

Stage I (Selection):

- The jury will review the submitted electronic applications remotely and select finalists in each category.
- Selected participants will be granted the status of "Exhibition Participant."

Stage II (Final):

- Within the framework of the final exhibition, the jury will directly evaluate the exhibited works and, through a secret ballot, determine the winners (I, II, and III places) in all three categories: Sculpture, Architecture, Painting/Graphics.

Evaluation Criteria

The submitted works will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Conceptual Depth** – the extent to which the idea is well-developed and its relevance to the competition theme;
- **Innovative Approach** – the originality and creativity of the interpretation;
- **Artistic and Spatial Resolution** – aesthetic quality of form, creative vision, composition, and visual expression;
- **Technical Execution** – precision of realization and overall quality of execution;
- **Relevance of Digital Technologies** (if applicable).

10. Mentorship Program

10.1. Mentorship Period: The mentorship program will take place from September 1 to October 10, 2026 (inclusive). This stage constitutes an essential part of the second (final) phase of the competition and is intended exclusively for participants who have successfully passed the first-stage selection.

10.2. Scope of Mentorship: Mentors will provide participants with guidance on the following aspects:

- Further development of the conceptual framework of the artwork;
- Refinement of artistic and spatial solutions;
- Improvement of the technical execution of the exhibition work.

11. Exhibition

11.1. The exhibition constitutes the second and final stage of the competition and aims to present the selected works to a wide audience.

11.2. Eligibility for participation in the exhibition is granted to authors selected by the jury during the first stage, across all three categories: Sculpture, Architecture, Painting/Graphics.

11.3. Participants are required to submit the exhibition versions of their works in a timely manner, in accordance with the format and technical requirements agreed upon with the organizer. All works must comply with the technical specifications defined in Article 7.

11.4. The award ceremony for the competition winners will take place within the framework of the exhibition. The exact date of the ceremony will be announced at a later date. Participants will be informed by the organizers no later than one week prior to the event.

12. Awards

12.1. Each competition project selected during the first stage and presented at the final exhibition will be awarded a one-time honorarium of 500 (five hundred) GEL.

Note: This honorarium will not be granted to projects that, by decision of the jury, receive prize placements (I, II, or III place) and are awarded the corresponding monetary prizes.

12.2. In each category (Sculpture, Architecture, Painting/Graphics), three winning projects will be selected and awarded the following one-time monetary prizes:

I Place – 5,000 GEL

II Place – 2,000 GEL

III Place – 1,000 GEL

12.3. Prizes will be awarded to the winners no later than 30 calendar days after the announcement of the results.

Note:

- A formal agreement will be concluded with the authors for the disbursement of the prize;
- The monetary award is fixed per project and does not vary based on the number of authors.

13. Copyright

13.1. All works submitted to the competition remain the property of their respective authors.

13.2. By participating in the competition, the participant guarantees that they hold authorship of the submitted work. The organizer reserves the right to verify the authorship of any winning work. If necessary, the participant is obliged to provide appropriate supporting documentation. In the event of a third-party claim regarding authorship, the work will be withdrawn from the competition.

13.3. The organizer reserves the right to use the submitted works for promotional and informational purposes related to the competition, including:

- Electronic and printed publications;
- Social media platforms;
- Exhibition-related materials;
- The organization's official website – www.tasa.ge

Such use will be carried out with proper attribution to the author.

14. Competition Calendar

- **Official announcement of the competition** – April 15, 2026
- **Pre-registration period** – April 15 – May 31, 2026
- **Application submission period** – June 1 – August 15, 2026
- **Stage I evaluation** – August 16–31, 2026
- **Mentorship program** – September 1 – October 10, 2026
- **Exhibition** – October 2026 (exact date to be announced)

15. Approval of the Competition Terms

15.1. This document has been approved by the decision of the Tbilisi Architects and Sculptors Association and enters into force on April 15, 2026.

- For additional inquiries, please contact the Association.

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[Tbilisi Architects and Sculptors Association](#)