

Erarta Museum Has Awarded the 2023 Erarta Prize

On 8 June, a special gala event was held to announce the winners of the 2023 Erarta Prize – the first ever contemporary art prize awarded through a public vote rather than by a closed board of experts. The total prize value of 3.2 million rubles was divided between artists (2.5 million rubles) and viewers (700,000 rubles).

A brief reminder: in August 2022, Erarta Museum proudly unveiled its new ambitious project – the **Erarta Prize**, the first ever contemporary art Prize to be judged by the viewers. This premise is consistent with the museum's core philosophy: art is being created by the artist, but it is the viewers' perception that makes it truly powerful.

Following an open call for entries, the museum's team selected a total of 61 **Prize nominees**. Their artworks were showcased at the special exhibition organised to determine the winners through a public viewer vote. The **2023 Erarta Prize** exhibition featured paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, installations, photographs, video art, as well as other contemporary art media. Over the span of four months, exhibition visitors voted for their favourite artists. The viewers supporting the artwork of their choice not only took part in awarding the Prize but could also win prize money.

The closing gala event of the 2023 Erarta Prize took place on 8 June. Erarta team members, nominated and shortlisted artists, and of course the viewers assembled at Erarta's Grand Hall for the announcement of the project's final results. The 10 winning artists were already determined at the close of the **first voting round**, while the second round lasted through 8 June. Its outcome finalised the exact distribution of prize money: the final prize amount depended not on the ranking among the 10 winners, but on the exact number of viewer votes received. The 2.5 million rubles of prize money have been distributed among the artists in proportion to the number of viewer votes as follows:

Tamerlane Tles, *Eclipse* — 30.05%

Elena Grishayeva (Dj Le Nochka), *Suprecatizm. Love dose. Our loves and lovers. 44 famous cats*¹ — 29.12%

Anastasia Kuznetsova-Ruf, *Bus Stop* — 11.43%

Galina Kazarinova, *The Madonna of St. Petersburg* — 6.89%

Alexey Apish, *Peaceful Bombing* — 5.22%

DASHA ART, *Accents & Form* — 4.45%

¹ The English title supplied by the artist has been left unedited

Maria Bogoraz, *Pack* — 3.76%

Rinat Akhmetov, *Don't Leave Your Room, Don't Commit That Fateful Mistake . . . From the Beyond the Fence Series* — 3.16%

Andrey Shatilov, *Gaidai's Pictures* — 3.08%

Dmitry Kawarga, *Great Toxicisma. From the Anthropocentrism Toxicosis Series* — 2.85%

By actively supporting the artists, the viewers also became prize winners. **After the close of the first and second voting rounds**, out of the entire pool of viewers who voted, created video campaigns, came up with alternative titles for the works by Prize nominees, and shared their impressions of the shortlisted artworks, 45 winners were awarded a share of the 700,000 ruble prize money. The museum received so many entries that, in addition to the challenge winners who received prize money, five more participants were granted a special mention and had their Erarta Tickets/Memberships gratuitously renewed.

Erarta Museum would like to thank everyone who took an active part in determining the 2023 Erarta Prize winners. Together we could carry through this one-of-a-kind project that perfectly embodies the museum's core values.

This year, Erarta Prize was awarded the title of Project of the Year in the Arts category by the *Delovoy Peterburg* daily business newspaper. The high appraisal of the professional community and the enthusiastic feedback from everyone involved proved that Erarta Prize should continue as an annual event. We are looking forward to new exciting discoveries!

Details of the next open call for entries will be announced in September 2023: stay tuned to our website erarta.com and Erarta's social media for updates.

See you at the 2024 Erarta Prize!

About the Prize

Erarta Prize is an annual contemporary art prize inaugurated by Erarta Museum. Prize winners will be determined by the majority of votes given by the viewers for their favourite artwork in an open public vote rather than by a closed board of experts. The voting will take place at a special exhibition curated and staged by Erarta Museum.

Please visit prize.erarta.com to learn more about the Prize.



About Erarta Museum

Erarta is the largest private museum of contemporary art in Russia. Its permanent collection features over 2,800 works by more than 300 artists from all across the country as well as several unique projects created by Erarta: U-Space total installations, Audio Installations, Art-Literature, Art-Animation, and others. Erarta Museum was repeatedly mentioned as a top choice tourist attraction by the world's leading Lonely Planet guidebooks, ranks among the top 10 museums in Russia on TripAdvisor travel website, was spotlighted as one of the '5 Cultural Gems in St. Petersburg' by National Geographic, and became the country's first contemporary art museum to be featured on Google Arts and Culture Project.

In addition to the permanent collection, Erarta annually stages more than 40 exhibitions alternately focusing on painting, sculpture, photography, fashion, design, architecture and video art. Every year, Erarta attracts nearly half a million visitors.

Please visit erarta.com to learn more about Erarta Museum.

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