



UNITED STATES ISMAILI ARTS

2023

Frequently Asked Questions



National Event Details

When and where is the USIA National Festival happening?

The Festival will take place in Houston, TX in January 2024.

How do I qualify for the National Festival?

Regional Arts Festivals will serve as qualifiers for the National Festival.

When will my Regional Festival take place?

More information on these events will be shared in the coming weeks through Jamati Announcements, Ismaili Insights, US Festival Website Launch & Introduction of new social media channels.

Overall Festival Details

What Art Categories will be offered?

Primary categories will be the Art Gallery, Film Festival, Performing Arts Showcase with each having multiple sub-categories for submission.

Where can I get more details on the sub-categories for USIA?

Please visit gefestival.usa.ismaili for more details on the sub-categories for USIA.

Is there an overall theme for Arts submissions?

The theme this year is “Care”.

We make choices daily related to the things we care about. Our actions or our lack of actions impact others around us, which in turn can influence and inspire our collective efforts towards a promising and sustainable future.

We are interconnected as a Global Jamat. By exploring the relationship between our personal interconnectivity and how it influences the care we extend to the things we share, such as our planet, our environment, our Jamat, our heritage, and ourselves, we can



strengthen our identity and also unitedly address the crucial challenges of our era.

Jubilee Arts asks artists to engage in the discourses of our time through art.

Where can I get more details about the International Festival?

Please visit <https://the.ismaili/globalencounters/jubileearts>

When will my Regional Festival take place?

More information on these events will be shared in the coming weeks through Jamati Announcements, Ismaili Insights, US Festival Website Launch & Introduction of new social media channels.

How can I volunteer?

Please fill out this [form](#) and a team member will loop back with you on opportunities.

Eligibility Criteria

Who is eligible to participate as an artist at the GE Festival?

Ismailis and their multi-faith spouses and children are eligible to participate as artists at the GE Festival.

How old do I have to be to participate as an artist at the GE Festival?

There is no minimum age to participate as an artist at the regional, national, or the international GE Festival.

Please Note: Any artist under the age of eighteen as of 31 May 2024 will be considered a minor artist and must be accompanied by a chaperone at all times during the local, national and international GE Festival.

Will scores or feedback from judges be shared?



To maintain a fair and unbiased evaluation process, scores will not be shared with anyone. All participants will be asked to adhere to the decisions made by the judges and planning committee.

What is a World Class Artist?

World Class performing artists may be invited by National Councils or the International Team to submit their portfolio of work provided they meet the established criteria. Once submitted, these artists would be evaluated by the International Curatorial Team (ICT) to determine the appropriate engagement for the GE Festival 2024. The artists selected by the ICT may be invited to participate or showcase at the GE Festival.

How can I find out if I qualify as a World Class Artist?

Eligibility criteria and process for World Class Artist will be made available in the coming months.

Submission Criteria

Which region do I submit my artwork to?

An artist may submit work to the qualifying round for the Council jurisdiction in which the artist resides at the time of the first qualifying round in that Council jurisdiction or where the artist resided up to six months before the first qualifying round in that Council jurisdiction.

What if I am a student or am working on a temporary assignment outside of my Council jurisdiction?

A student attending school outside of their Council jurisdiction or a consultant who is working on a temporary assignment outside of their Council jurisdiction may submit work for the first qualifying round in the Council jurisdiction in which they permanently reside



or the one in which they currently study or work. Documentation will be required to prove that the individual is a student or on temporary assignment.

Does the submission have to remain the same from the regional event through to the international programme?

Yes, the performance or submission should stay the same. Artists may make minor tweaks to enhance their performances, but films and visual art submissions are collected at the regional event and make their way to the next levels without re-submission.

For the GE Festival, it is important for compliance and sensitivity purposes that performances stay similar to what is done at the national competitions, as those videos are used to ensure appropriateness of outfits, language of content and movements on stage.

Can I change my submission after I submit it?

No, the work may generally not be updated after submission, unless requested by the GE Organising Team.

In the case of films, non-substantial refinements may be submitted up to the first qualifying round of the National Festival.

Please note that all updates require the approval of the GE Organising Team.

What language should my submission be made?

Your submission can be in any language you choose it to be. All submissions selected to be displayed as part of the GE Festival should also be translated into the English language. Artists may do so with the support of the jurisdiction's National Arts Coordinator.

How should the creative prompts be incorporated in my submission?

Artists are encouraged to be creative with the use of the prompt - express what you care about through your art.



The intention is not that all submissions must be religious, but should relate to the creative prompt. The prompt can be interpreted by the artists freely. As part of the application process, each artist or group will be asked to describe how their submission connects to the creative prompt.

Are there limitations on what content I can submit at the GE Festival?

All content must be deemed appropriate for audiences of all ages. Following are some examples of content that would not be considered appropriate for the GE Festival:

- Images of the Imams or Mawlana Hazar Imam's family, Personal Standard of Mawlana Hazar Imam, Imamat Crest, Ismaili Flag, Nashid al-Imamah, Taj, Volunteer Badge, Jubilee Logos, AKDN and other Institutional logos
- Clear images of children (under 18) without the documented consent of a parent or legal guardian
- Foul or offensive images or language (e.g., nudity, excessive violence, sexually suggestive images or language, profanity) including public logos and insignias that are depicted in a defaming or libelous manner
- Subliminal messages to inappropriate or offensive statements
- Sexually suggestive or other provocative dance moves
- Content that has implied meanings/messages that are deemed inappropriate

Art submissions that include content relating to the practice of the faith, religious ceremonies, or rituals that are performed within the Jamatkhana will not be permitted at the National and international Arts Festivals. Use of dua, farmans, ginans, qasidas, madhohs, zikr, or other religious rituals as background music, backdrops, or dialogues for films are some examples that will not be permitted in the Film Festival.

This is not a complete list. The National Council or equivalent authority may establish additional parameters for content that is deemed inappropriate, which are not included



in the list above. The Jubilee Arts - Organising Team reserves the right and sole discretion to deny entry into the GE Festival to any submission that (1) does not meet its standards of high quality and excellence or (2) fails to meet any of its policies or submission guidelines.

All National Council submissions for the GE Festival must be reviewed and approved by the GE Organizing Team prior to advancing to the GE Festival

What happens if an artist plagiarizes the work of another?

Plagiarism is strictly not permitted in any way, shape or form. If the GE Organizing Team learns at any time that the artist responsible for submitting an entry was not the original creator of the work that he/she claims he/she created or plagiarized the work in any way, the artist will be disqualified from participation at the GE Festival.

Who is responsible for obtaining the licenses and necessary copyright allowances?

Each artist is responsible for obtaining the necessary copyright allowances for use of published works in their art forms (e.g., music for dances, footage for films, etc.). Artists are solely responsible for obtaining all necessary licenses, rights and permissions for third-party materials included in their artistic pieces, including but not limited to music, trademarks, logos, copyrights, and other intellectual property rights. Artists must retain written documentation of all licenses obtained and may be asked to produce such documentation in the event of a dispute. Jubilee Arts expressly disclaims all liability or responsibility for any violations of the foregoing.

Performing Arts Showcase

What is the Performing Arts Showcase?



The Performing Arts Showcase seeks to uncover and present the best talent from across the world.

The Showcase will feature the following four (4) submission categories: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Dance, and the Creative Arts (Acting, Monologues, Narrative Storytelling, Spoken Word, Standup Comedy, Martial Arts, Magic, etc.). It will also feature a new Youth category to elevate and inspire skilled Youth Artists.

Does a submission for the Performing Arts Showcase need to be an original work?

No. Artists are not required to create an original performance for the Showcase. Artists may perform music, poetry, songs, dance styles and other performances that were created by others. However, artists must obtain all necessary licenses and permissions from the authors of the work. Artists must provide evidence of these permissions upon request. Credit must be given to the creators and owners of all performances.

Do I need to attend the Performing Arts Festival in-person?

Artists that are participating in the performing arts category must be present at the arts festival.

What are the specific requirements for uploading a video of my performance?

Guidelines can be found [here](#).

Film Festival

What is the Film Festival?

The Film Festival will provide a grand platform for exceptional directors and producers from around the world to showcase the global culture of filmmaking. It will be a space to celebrate the collaborative efforts of the various components of filmmaking including production, direction, writing, motion graphics, animation, storytelling, scoring and



acting. The Film Festival will also feature a new Youth category to elevate and inspire skilled Youth Artists.

In addition to screening films, opportunities to engage with filmmakers should be explored. This interaction could be between the filmmaker's peer group or with attendees. Finding these opportunities will open doors for promoting literacy and mentorship and could provide a lens into the film industry, making it more accessible.

What are the Film Festival submission categories?

- Reels (Under 90 seconds)
- Shorts (Under 5 minutes)
- Shorts (Under 20 minutes)
- Immersive- Augmented and Virtual Reality (Up to 3 minutes edited recording)

Does my submission for IFF need to be a recently produced film?

There is no date restriction on when a film was produced.

Can films that were submitted to a previous Jubilee Arts Festival be submitted again?

No, films submitted to previous Regional, National, or International Jubilee Arts Film Festivals may not be submitted again.

Should I own the film being submitted to IFF?

You may submit a film that you do not own, provided you 1) Played a significant role in the production of the film (ie: director, producer, cinematographer, composer, lead actor etc); 2) You confirm that you have permission from the owner (copyright holder) of the film prior to submitting the film to the Jubilee Arts Festival. You may be asked to provide proof of written permission from the owner.

Should all content in the film be created by myself or even the owner of the film?

No, however any third party content (ie: stock footage, photos, graphics, audio etc) included in the film, must have permission from the original copyright holder of that



content. You may be asked to provide proof of written permission from the copyright holder of the third party content.

How do I learn more about copyright?

There are many sources online, and it is best to consult a copyright lawyer for legal advice. [Here is a useful link explaining the basics of copyright.](#)

What are the specific requirements for uploading a film?

Guidelines can be found [here](#).

Do I need to attend the Film Festival in-person?

Artists that are participating in the film category are highly encouraged to attend the festival but are not required.

Art Gallery

What are Art Gallery Submission Categories?

- Canvas media
- Paper media
- Print media
- Photography
- Graphic design and digital art
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Art
- 3D and sculpture
- Mixed mediums
- Installation
- Fashion and textile



Does my submission for the IAG need to be an original work?

Yes, all submissions for the Art Gallery must be conceived by and created by the artist(s) who submit(s) the work.

Do I need to attend the Arts Festival in-person?

Artists that are participating in the art gallery category are highly encouraged to attend the festival but are not required.

What are the specific requirements for uploading an image of my artwork?

Guidelines can be found [here](#).