

The Highlander Magazine: Vahé & Lucie Creative Awards Competition for AUA Students

Funded by the Vahé and Lucie Foundation

Categories

Best Design (Illustration/Graphic Design)

Martiros Saryan prize

1st Place - **\$3,500** scholarship award

2nd Place - **\$2,500** scholarship award

Best Music

Charles Aznavour prize

1st Place - **\$3,500** scholarship award

2nd Place - **\$2,500** scholarship award

Best Photographer

Yousuf Karsh prize

1st Place - **\$3,500** scholarship award

2nd Place - **\$2,500** scholarship award

Best Videographer

Sergei Parajanov prize

1st Place - **\$3,500** scholarship award

2nd Place - **\$2,500** scholarship award

Best Writer

Paruyr Sevak prize

1st Place - **\$3,500** scholarship award

2nd Place - **\$2,500** scholarship award

Theme

Original submissions should be inspired by the artist of the chosen category. Students are encouraged to do research on the artist's life, works, and creative mindset in order to draw inspiration to create their own work. Participants can explore specific works by the artist, the artist's unique style or philosophy, the historical and cultural context in which the artist created their works, and more. This research will allow participants to create their own original artwork that will either align with or challenge the artist's signature style.

Eligibility

1. Full-time students
2. Minimum 2.0 GPA (undergraduate), 3.0 GPA (graduate)
3. Enrolled in the 2025-26 academic year (undergraduate: current rising sophomores/juniors/seniors, graduate: current first-year)

Rules for Submission

1. All submissions will be judged based on originality (unique and personal expression), engagement with the theme, and technical skill.
2. All pieces must be original works created specifically for this competition.
3. The use of AI tools and software is not permitted.
4. Participation in the competition includes the consent for submissions to be publicized in the Highlander Magazine, as well as various AUA publications.

Submission Guidelines

Best Writer

Paruyr Sevak prize



Writing Style:

Narrative nonfiction or fiction writing only (no poems or hybrid genres)

Nonfiction could include:

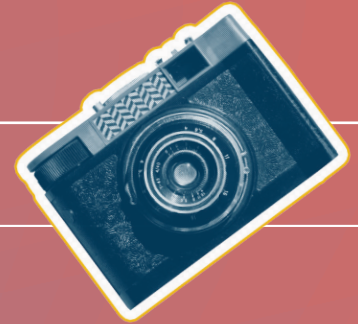
- Feature articles in journalistic style that research and explore the theme in some way or that take a unique angle or perspective on the theme
- Essays (personal, memoir, etc.) that connect to the theme in a relevant way, either topically or stylistically

Fiction could include:

- Short stories that fit with the theme in a relevant way, either topically or stylistically

Word Count: 800-1,500 words

Format/File Naming: PDF document
FullName_WorkTitle_Category



Best Photographer

Yousuf Karsh prize

Photo series: 6 -15 photos

Submit a short caption for each photograph describing the content of each image, typically including who, what, where, and when. The captions must be in the same file as your Project Description (PDF).

File Size/Format: JPG format. No smaller than 2,000 pixels (long side)

File Naming: Rename files with your name and a sequential number for viewing order.
Example: JohnSmitho1, JohnSmitho2, JohnSmitho3

Best Music

Charles Aznavour prize

Music: Original songs or musical compositions

Duration: Up to 5 minutes

Format: Audio recording or a musical score. If the recording contains live performance, the names of the performers must be included in the project description.

File Naming: FullName_WorkTitle_Category



Best Videographer

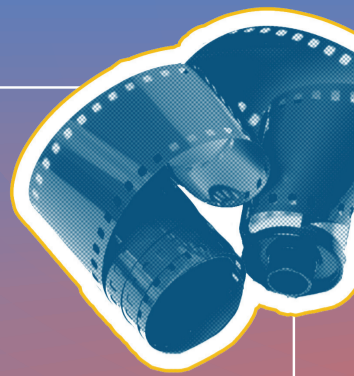
Sergei Parajanov prize

Video Style: Documentary

File Size/Format:

- Uploaded to one of the following platforms – Google Drive (viewing access), YouTube (unlisted or public), Vimeo (password-protected or public link)
- The recommended resolution is Full HD (1920x1080) or higher. Preferred file format is MP4
- Copyrighted images must be credited at the end of the film with proper text acknowledgment
- In case of Armenian dialogues, English subtitles must be included

File Naming: FullName_Category.mp4



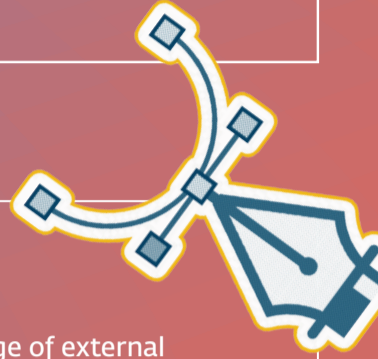
Best Design (Illustration/Graphic Design)

Martiros Saryan prize

Visual Arts: Illustration/Graphic Design created either digitally or by hand. Usage of external images should be credited. Project Description should include information of the software/medium used. In case of digital creation, the working file must be available upon request.

Format: PDF

File Naming: FullName_Category



Project Description

All category submissions, with the exception of the writing category, must include a short text (200-400 words) providing insight into the theme, concept, and connection to the artist.

Prize/Award

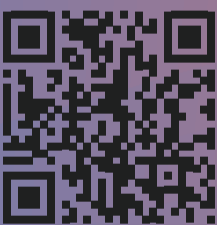
The winners of each category will receive a \$3,500 (1st place) and a \$2,500 (2nd place) scholarship award, which will partially cover their tuition for the 2025-26 academic year.

* *Note: This is not a cash prize. The amount will be exclusively directed toward tuition at AUA.*

Resources

AUA's AGBU Papazian Library has set aside resources for participants of this competition, including a limited number of books, as well as access to e-databases. Should students wish to utilize these resources, they may visit the circulation desk for digital/ print materials.

The AUA Media Lab provides resources including access to equipment and spaces. Please follow the requirements for becoming a member and undergo training.



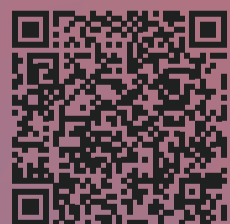
Membership/Training



List of Resources

How to Make Your Submission?

- Please submit your work by April 30, 2025.
- In case of submitting multiple documents (e.g. for photography), please combine all documents in one zip file and make a single submission.
- Please contact The Highlander magazine at thehighlander@edu.aua.am with any questions (ccmbabayan@aua.am).



Submit Here

Info Session

An info session will be held on **Thursday, February 27, at 4:30 p.m. in the AUA Akian Art Gallery**. You are welcome to attend if you have any questions. A Zoom link will also be provided for those who wish to join online. More details will be shared soon.