

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS AMONG MEMBERS OF SİLLE SANAT SARAYI FOR 2026

SUBJECTS AND ENTRY RULES:

IMPORTANT NOTE: The deadline for submission to the final competition of 2026 has been set as **November 30, 2026**.

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CLOSING DATE	SUBJECT	JURY	SSS PATRONAGE
28.02.2026	SOKAK FOTOĞRAFI / STREET PHOTO	AHMED AL BUSAIDI - OMAN	2026/007
30.04.2026	SOSYAL YAŞAM/ SOCIAL LIFE	PAUL STANLEY - IRELAND	2026/008
30.06.2026	YANSIMALAR / REFLECTIONS	CRISTINA GARZONE - ITALY	2026/009
31.08.2026	TARIM VE İNSAN / AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN	ALİ RIZA AKALIN - TURKIYE	2026/010
31.10.2026	YÜZ DIŞINDA KALAN DUYGULAR / EMOTIONS WITHOUT FACES	ROMAIN NERO - LUXEMBOURG	2026/011
30.11.2026	SPOR / SPORT	PEDRO LUIS AJURIAGUERRA SAIZ - SPAIN	2026/12

Note: Photographs that have won awards in past competitions cannot be submitted to SSS member competitions.

- a. Participation in the competition is free of charge.
- b. Each participant may submit up to 4 (four) works for each competition. Each work will be evaluated individually. The same photograph or its color and/or black-and-white versions cannot be submitted.
- c. There are no limits to the edits or interventions a participant may apply to their work, as long as the source images belong to them.
- d. Only works submitted through <https://sss.yarismasistemi.com/> will be accepted for the competitions. Submissions via print, CD/DVD, or email will not be accepted.
- e. Photographs submitted to the competitions must be in jpg/JPEG format (highest compressed quality), with a resolution of 300 dpi, suitable for large-scale printing. The long side should be at least 1980 pixels, and the file size should not exceed 4 MB. Submitted photographs will automatically be assigned a code number by the system, regardless of the file name, and will be evaluated by the jury based on these numbers. The jury will not see the name of the work or the participant under any circumstances.

f. The participant accepts, declares, and guarantees that the submitted work is entirely their own and that all necessary permissions have been obtained.

g. Participants who manipulate or alter the submitted photograph to falsely claim it as their own, or attempt to mislead the evaluation committee, will be considered in violation of the rules.

h. Awarded and exhibited photographs will be archived by Sille Sanat Sarayı. These photographs may be used by Sille Sanat Sarayı for news, advertising purposes, and social responsibility projects, provided that the owners' names are credited. No additional copyright fee will be paid. (In cases where the photographs are used in collages or other graphic works, crediting the name may not be possible.)

AWARDS

The following awards will be presented in each competition:

- **First Award:** SSS Gold Medal
- **Second and Third Awards:** Photography Book
- **Ali Rıza Akalın Special Award:** Photography Publication
- **Honorable Mentions:** Certificates for three photographs

The awards are designed to honor and support the winners of the competition.

For each competition in 2026, the scoring system will be as follows:

- First Award: 5 points
- Second Award: 4 points
- Third Award: 3 points
- Honorable Mentions and Ali Rıza Akalın Special Award: 2 points each
- Acceptances: 1 point each

The year-end prize, as in previous years, will be a photography book featuring the works of the winning member.

We wish all participating members the best of luck!

To participate in the competitions:

<http://yarisma.sillesanat.com/>

Note: If a member who has already had their book published as a year-end winner in previous years wins again, the book will be prepared for the member next in line based on the scoring system.

DEFINITIONS OF SUBJECTS:

1 – STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

In this "Street Photography" themed competition, participants are expected to capture the order within the chaos of public spaces, extraordinary moments within the ordinariness of daily life, and the instantaneous interaction between the urban fabric and human beings from an honest perspective. In submissions where spontaneous, non-staged compositions are at the forefront, the primary evaluation criteria include the graphical use of light and shadow, the documentation of that singular second known as the "decisive moment," and an aesthetic narrative that reflects the soul of the city. The competition seeks original frames that will leave a mark on visual memory, proving that the street is not just a place, but a living, breathing, and dynamic stage that harbors a different story in every corner.

2 – SOCIAL LIFE

This "Social Life" themed competition aims to draw a visual map of the bonds individuals form with one another, their environment, and society; capturing the purest forms of human relationships, cultural habits, and social sharing. Participants are expected to document the state of human "togetherness" across a wide spectrum—from cheerful bargaining in a marketplace to quiet moments of sharing in a park, and from traditional rituals to the new forms of socialization brought by modern urban life. Beyond technical perfection, priority will be given to frames that evoke feelings of belonging, solidarity, or social interaction, demonstrating empathy and a strong narrative. The competition seeks works that provide an aesthetic perspective while sincerely reflecting the social fabric of the society we live in, all while capturing the common moments shared within life.

3 – REFLECTIONS

In this "Reflections" themed competition, participants are expected to create new perspectives between reality and imagination by using projections of the physical world on surfaces such as water, glass, metal, or mirrors. Beyond a mere visual repetition, the competition seeks works that skillfully handle the aesthetics of symmetry, abstract narratives formed by the distortion of shapes, and the ironic dialogue between the reflection and the primary subject. The core focus of the competition lies in frames with technical and artistic depth that uniquely capture the refraction of light on surfaces, optical illusions that alter the perception of depth, and the layered stories created by the merging of inner and outer worlds through a window pane, inviting the viewer to look beyond what is seen.

4 – AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN

In this "Agriculture and Human" themed competition, participants are expected to capture the abundance of the land, the sacredness of human labor, and the unique cycle where ancient agricultural traditions blend with modern production processes. Works that reflect the story within a farmer's calloused hands, the sweat rising in the fields, and the unbreakable bond between humans and nature in its most sincere and aesthetic form—from the moment the seed meets the soil to the joy of the harvest—will be highlighted. In submissions where light, texture, and seasonal colors are masterfully utilized, the primary focus of the competition is on original frames with strong storytelling that convey not just a production process, but also our agricultural identity, which is the foundation of sustainable life, and the cultural depth of rural living.

5 – EMOTIONS WITHOUT FACES

In this competition titled "Emotions Without Faces," participants are expected to convey the depths of the human inner world—feelings such as sorrow, joy, loneliness, or belonging—without relying on facial expressions, but instead through body language, the posture of hands, the arrangement of objects, or environmental elements. Instead of the straightforward storytelling provided by the face, works that frame grief through a slumped shoulder, loyalty through intertwined hands, or the sense of abandonment created by an empty chair will stand out, building an emotional atmosphere through visual metaphors and powerful compositions. In submissions where light, shadow, and texture are used as instruments to amplify emotion, the primary focus of the competition is on original frames that push the boundaries of creativity and observation, leaving the viewer alone not with a direct expression, but with a silent yet striking sensation that permeates the entire image.

6- SPORT

In this "Sports" themed competition, participants are expected to capture the limits of physical performance, the aesthetics brought by discipline, and the intense emotional atmosphere created by competition. The focus lies not only on moments of victory but also on the perseverance within the struggle, the critical second of a photographer's focus, and the intimate moments where sweat and tears blend. Through a wide range of methodologies—from high-shutter speed shots that freeze dynamic movement to panning techniques that reflect a sense of speed—the primary objective of the competition is to showcase original frames that most strikingly reflect the unifying power of sports, team spirit, or individual willpower, making the viewer feel the adrenaline and passion of that very moment.

