

“BEYOND THE PITCH” PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST CONCLUDED

Three photographs won the Sille Sanat Sarayı Gold Medal across three categories.

The “BEYOND THE PITCH – 2026 FIFA World Cup International Photography Competition,” organized by Sille Sanat Sarayı in connection with the 2026 FIFA World Cup, has concluded. Held under the **FIAP Auspices**, the competition aimed to reveal through photography that football is not merely a sporting event taking place on the pitch, but also a phenomenon that creates an impact in the stands, on the streets, in cities and within the cultural lives of different communities.

Following the completion of the application process, it was observed during the evaluation that the overall level of participation this year did not reach the expected level and that, in some categories, the number of photographs eligible for evaluation remained limited. This particular situation was also discussed with FIAP Board Member responsible for Competitions and the members of the jury, in view of the fact that the competition was held under the FIAP Auspices.

As a result of these consultations, it was decided that, rather than cancelling the competition, it would be more appropriate to complete it based on the participation and submitted works received. Accordingly, in each category, one photograph that most strongly reflected the theme of the competition and best met the criteria of the respective category was awarded the Sille Sanat Sarayı Gold Medal.

Sille Sanat Sarayı Altın Madalya Kazananlar

“PROFESSIONAL AESTHETICS” CATEGORY



SİLLE SANAT SARAYI GOLD MEDAL

Muhammet Akar – Türkiye

“Milli Maça Hazırlık”

Muhammet Akar’s photograph **“Preparing for the National Match”** was awarded the **Sille Sanat Sarayı Gold Medal** in the **Professional Aesthetics** category for its powerful portrayal of the atmosphere surrounding a national team match and the identity of its supporters within a strong visual composition. At the center of the hall, adorned with Turkish flags, the supporter figure, together with the empty stands and the flag in motion, symbolically conveys the excitement of the approaching match and the distinctive atmosphere of a national team game.

"SNAPSHOTS" CATEGORY



SİLLE SANAT SARAYI ALTIN MADALYA

Bariş Barlas – Türkiye

“World Cup 2026”

Bariş Barlas’s photograph “World Cup 2026” was awarded the Sillesanat Sarayı Gold Medal in the Instant Moments category for successfully capturing, in a single moment, the universal character of the World Cup as an event that brings people from different countries together.

The sight of supporters from different countries gathered in front of the giant LEGO World Cup trophy replica displayed in New York, created as part of the World Cup-themed exhibition, highlights the international and unifying nature of football through a striking and spontaneous moment.

"GLOBAL FAN CULTURE" CATEGORY



SİLLE SANAT SARAYI ALTIN MADALYA

Muhammet Akar – Türkiye

“Tek Yürek, Tek Millet”

Muhammet Akar’s photograph “One Heart, One Nation” was awarded the Sille Sanat Sarayı Gold Medal in the Global Fan Culture category. Depicting a large crowd watching a football match together, the photograph powerfully captures, through an impressive wide-angle composition, how people of different ages and social backgrounds come together around a shared sense of excitement and emotion through football.

As Sille Sanat Sarayı, we would like to thank all the photographers who participated in the competition and shared their photographs with us. We warmly congratulate Muhammet Akar and Barış Barlas on receiving the Sille Sanat Sarayı Gold Medal.