

S+T+ARTS



PRIZE '23

S+T+ARTS Prize 2023 Submission Now Open

January 11, 2023

STARTS Prize – Grand prize of the European Commission honoring Innovation in Technology, Industry and Society stimulated by the Arts

The **STARTS Prize 2023** of the European Commission is calling on artists, scientists, technologists, institutions, labs and companies to submit their best projects starting today. The call for entry is open to groundbreaking works at the intersection of science, technology and the arts that can contribute to innovation. The call is open until **March 3, 2023**.

The Prize competition is part of S+T+ARTS (**S**cience, **T**echnology and the **A**rts) an initiative funded by the European Commission since 2016. STARTS focuses on projects that strive to master the social, ecological and economic challenges that Europe is facing or will be facing in the near future. STARTS is driven by the conviction that, combined with an artistic viewpoint, science and technology open valuable perspectives for research and business in the field of ICT innovation, through a holistic and human-centred approach. From 2016 to 2022, this remarkable initiative funded 151 residencies with 4.5 Mio € and honored 208 STARTS Prize projects. 14,291 submissions from 96 different countries have applied to the STARTS Prize competition from 2016 to 2022.

Two prizes will be awarded, each endowed with €20,000 euros. The “**Grand Prize – Innovative Collaboration**” will be awarded to projects that combine industry or technology and the arts, with the goal of opening new paths for innovation. The “**Grand Prize – Artistic Exploration**” will honor artistic research and works that have the potential to influence or change the way technology is used, applied or perceived. In addition, twenty eight more projects will receive a Nomination or an Honorary Mention. The winning projects, which will be announced in June, will be then featured at **Ars Electronica Festival** in September 2023 and other events of the consortium partners **BOZAR, Waag Futurelab, INOVA+, T6 Ecosystems, French Tech Grande Provence** and **Frankfurt Bookfair**.

Key-dates:

- January 11, 2023: Submission phase for the STARTS Prize 2023 starts
- March 3, 2023: Submission deadline
- April 20 – 23, 2023: Jury Meeting
- S+T+ARTS Prize 2023 winners will be notified by Mid-June 2023 at the latest
- September 6-10, 2023: Exhibition and talks at Ars Electronica Festival
- September, 2023: STARTS Day at Ars Electronica Festival

Winners in recent editions of the Prize:

Grand Prize – Artistic Exploration 2022

Holly+, Holly Herndon, Mathew Dryhurst, Herndon Dryhurst Studio (US)
Grand Prize – Innovative Collaboration 2022
Antarctic Resolution, Giulia Foscari (IT) & UNLESS

Grand Prize – Artistic Exploration 2021
Oceans in Transformation, Territorial Agency – John Palmesino and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog (INT)
Grand Prize – Innovative Collaboration 2021
Remix el Barrio, Food Waste, Biomaterial, Makers Anastasia Pistofidou, Marion Real and The Remixers at Fab Lab Barcelona, IaaC (INT)

Grand Prize – Artistic Exploration 2020
EDEN – Ethics – Durability – Ecology – Nature, Olga Kisseleva (FR)

Grand Prize – Innovative Collaboration 2020
Design by Decay, Decay by Design, Andrea Ling (CA)

Further information about key impact areas – What are the most interesting and illustrative fields in which STARTS Prize has identified projects

Which social, ecological and economic challenges do the leading artistic researchers see for today's Europe? And which alternatives do they propose?

1 .Digital commons

With digital technologies dominating people's everyday lives, artists and creatives are pointing their efforts toward improving digital literacy, developing ways to share the benefits of digital solutions, and, if necessary, activism.

2. Media literacy STARTS projects offer good insights into media literacy and misinformation issues: how we use the potentials of technological innovation is ultimately up to us. Digital artists invite people to think critically and proactively about their relationship with digital technologies: how technology impacts our daily lives, how we produce and consume information, identifying (or missing to identify) misinformation, how it may influence opinion, and its impacts on democracy.

3. Digital information and data visualization

Over the recent years, STARTS Prize has observed a stronger focus and effort on improving our collective digital understanding of the environment, focusing on the art-driven interpretation of environmental challenges, concerns and urgencies, supported by AI, data-driven, computational and media works. Projects also raise concerns about the use of data technologies and visualization possibilities: unlocking creation potentials but also highlighting risks and pitfalls, by identifying the public values underlying novel digital technologies.

4. Citizen empowerment and engagement

Focusing on societal impact of STARTS projects, mainly through citizen empowerment, engagement and citizen science. Within the Industry 5.0 context, some of the most successful projects within S+T+ARTS Prize focus on how ICT innovation can improve the ways in which we produce and use data, to advance health care systems. They intend to reflect on one's capacity and agency towards their own health, to question our relationship to other living organisms and to inquire into the relationship between humans and

technologies, including AI. More broadly, if we are to regain some control and agency over the technologies we use, it is key to find ways to better understand the complexity of AI systems and make the most of their innovative potentials, in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

5. Data democratization of environmental commons

While novel technological, ecological and business solutions enter the markets, artists make them truly inclusive and sustainable for society. Art and collaborative innovation more broadly, contribute to a more inclusive understanding of concerns such as climate change, the quality of climate infrastructures, how to sustain life, or biocentrism; which ultimately allows for a broad audience to own these questions and challenges, and regain the capacity to act and participate in social transformation.

6. Sustainability & circularity

Looking at different ways environmental and industrial worlds intertwine through topics of energy, waste and material research. Both industry and consumers aspire to alternatives to materials derived from fossils energy or animals, with the view to using technology in new ways to create a more efficient and sustainable organization and improve alignment between technology initiatives and business opportunities.



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



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