

The Koschatzky Art-Award (KA) is a bi-annual competition launched in 2005 to honour and promote young, ambitious artists under the age of 35. The competition usually attracts between 600 and 800 artists from some 80 countries who submit approximately 2,400 works of art to be put before the KA's renowned jury. The Koschatzky Art-Award is the largest graphic arts award in Europe and has in the past been a springboard for numerous artists who have gone on to enjoy successful international careers. The initiative was launched in 2005 by the Rotary Club Wien-Albertina which this year, together with the Rotaract Club Wien-Albertina (youth organisation), is organising the KA for the 9th time. However, in view of the covid-19 pandemic, special measures will be in place at the KA'21.

“As a Rotary organisation, making a contribution to supporting artists is hugely important to us”, says Reinhard Backhausen, Executive Coordinator of the Koschatzky Art-Award '21. According to Backhausen, this year's event faced special challenges, namely the need for a totally different organisational concept, as for the first time ever, the competition will be held purely online. The paramount concern is to protect the health of the artists, jury, organising team and of course visitors.

For the 645 artists, who each submitted 3 works to the KA'21 and for the many Rotary Club members and guests with an interest in the fine arts, 26 May is the most important day of the KA'21, as starting at 7.00pm the event will be streamed for the first time ever over diverse social media channels from the Palais Schönborn-Batthyány in Vienna. To begin with, Eleonora Frolov (an expert in contemporary art and curator with a wealth of international experience) will introduce the works that have been nominated for the award. The 3 winners will then be announced at the KA'21 award ceremony and receive their prizes from the President of the Rotary Club Wien-Albertina, Christian Norden, the President of the Rotaract Club Wien-Albertina, Pamina Strobl and the Chair of the Jury, the General Director of the “mumok“ (Museum of Modern Art, Vienna), Karola Kraus.

Art lovers and anyone wishing to buy a work will have the opportunity to view the paintings chosen by the jury for the KA'21 between 20 and 28 May (except on 23 and 24 May) from 11.00am and 4.00pm at the Palais Schönborn-Batthyány in Vienna.

