

VISUAL ART COMPETITION FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS "Big Blue: The World Yet to Be Discovered"

The Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association – HELMEPA, one of Greece's most historic environmental organizations advocating for clean and healthy seas, invites **middle and high school** students to participate in the 3rd Nationwide Visual Art Competition themed: **"Big Blue: The World Yet to Be Discovered."**

Through this competition, participants are inspired by the vastness of the sea and create works of art that promote environmental awareness, cultivate environmental consciousness, and mobilize the public to take action to save our seas.

Two (2) artworks will be selected:

- **One artwork from a high school student** will be featured on HELMEPA's new thermos bottle, along with the artist's full name.
- **One artwork from a middle school student** will be featured on HELMEPA's new reusable tote bag, along with the artist's full name.

Both items will be distributed to HELMEPA's network of members, institutions, partners, and supporters. Any potential proceeds from the thermos sales will be exclusively allocated to HELMEPA's mission.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The judging committee is composed of **distinguished and well-established figures in the field of art and culture** (listed alphabetically):

1. CATTALMI Michal, Visual Artist
2. THEODORIDIS Filippou, Painter
3. KARAKOSTANOGLU Nikomachi, Visual Artist
4. KOUROUMALI Marina, Educator
5. MAVROMICHALI Elena, Cultural Strategy Consultant
6. OIKONOMOPOULOS Timos, Art Expertise
7. PAPADOPOULOU Christina, Gagosian Gallery
8. TSIGRI Aliki, Visual Artist
9. FILOPOULOU Maria, Painter

All artworks meeting the competition's criteria may be included in a group exhibition titled "Ocean Aware Through Activism" and showcased on HELMEPA's social media channels and website.



COMPETITION DURATION & SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Participants must submit their entries both electronically and in physical form by **Monday, March 31, 2025**:

- Electronic submission: A scanned version of the artwork, along with the appropriate declaration form (for participants under or over 18), must be uploaded [here](#).
- Physical submission: The original artwork must be sent to HELMEPA's offices at the following address: HELMEPA, 7 Ymittou Street, 17564 Palaio Faliro – Athens, Greece, with a postmark no later than 31/03/2025.

ELIGIBILITY & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

To be eligible, entries must meet the following requirements:

- Must be submitted by middle or high school students.
- May include painting, photography, collage, slogans, or any medium that supports HELMEPA's mission to protect the seas.
- Must be individual entries (one entry per participant).
- Must be in horizontal A3 format (42x29.7 cm).
- Scanned file: PDF or JPEG format with 300 DPI resolution and high quality.
- Must be accompanied by the appropriate declaration form:
 - a) [For participants under 18](#): completed by a parent/guardian.
 - b) [For participants over 18](#): completed by the student.

Entries that violate third-party rights or contain any illegal, offensive, or defamatory content will not be accepted. HELMEPA's Secretariat reserves the right to reject entries that are off-topic, incomplete, or contain inappropriate material.

BE INSPIRED BY THE SEA

The sea is full of fascinating, delicate, and colorful creatures and plants—many of which remain unknown but must be protected. It is a source of life, freshness, health, rejuvenation, playfulness, joy, relaxation, and holds many hidden mysteries. By diving into the sea's depths, we can discover a world filled with colors, aromas, tranquility, adventure, and diverse patterns and textures.

We invite you to explore the sea and create your own artwork with an **optimistic** message that showcases your love for it—whether through an expression of emotion, depiction of marine life, or an explosion of colors and patterns.



The following facts about the oceans and provided links may be helpful to you:

- Oceans cover three-quarters of the Earth's surface.
- Every other breath we take is thanks to the oceans.
- They provide us with food and drinking water.
- 50-80% of all life on Earth resides beneath the ocean's surface.
- Oceans absorb 25% of all CO2 emissions we produce.
- They regulate the planet's climate through ocean currents.
- They act as marine highways that support 90% of global trade.

[Link-1](#) | [Link-2](#) | [Link-3](#) | [Link-4](#) | [Link-5](#) | [Link-6](#) | [Link-7](#) | [Link-8](#) | [Link-9](#)

The competition is conducted by HELMEPA's New Generation Division, particularly within the framework of the YOUTH AMBASSADORS program, which aims to empower youth, highlight the value of volunteerism, and support future leaders by providing them with the necessary tools to address environmental challenges. **Participants in the competition automatically become members of the YOUTH AMBASSADORS program (if they choose) and receive a Volunteer Certificate.**

Participation in the competition is free of charge, voluntary, and requires parental/guardian consent for participants under 18.

HELMEPA is responsible for the entire competition process and ensures the protection of participants' personal data and intellectual property rights in accordance with applicable laws.

INFORMATION

For more information, interested parties may contact HELMEPA's New Generation Manager, Dimitris Kazas, at dkazas@helvepa.gr or call +30 210 9343088.