

„Saubermacher – The Nature Photographer of the Year 2022” Competition Rules

In 2022, naturArt, the Hungarian Association of Nature Photographers, will announce the most prominent national nature photography competition in Hungary and the region for the 30th time. The competition aims to present the natural values of our country, the Carpathian Basin ecoregion and our Earth, its extraordinary wildlife, landscapes, and rare moments of nature through photography, and through this to help nature conservation and education, to shape society's perception and to develop its aesthetic appreciation.

The eponymous sponsor of the competition:

The logo for Saubermacher, featuring the word "Saubermacher" in a white, cursive script font centered within a solid red rectangular background.

Saubermacher Magyarország Kft.
<https://saubermacher.hu/>

The Saubermacher Group is a decades-old player in the waste management market in Central Europe. Thanks to its dynamic development, it now has more than 30 sites in 8 countries and provides environmentally friendly services. Everyone in our company feels responsible for the environment and a sustainable future. We aim to recycle 100% of the waste generated by human activity and thus preserve our natural assets for future generations.

The main sponsors of the competition are:

The Canon logo, consisting of the word "Canon" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.The cewe logo, featuring the word "cewe" in a white, lowercase, cursive script font centered within a solid red rectangular background.The MVM Hálózat logo, featuring the letters "MVM" in a white, bold, sans-serif font above the word "Hálózat" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, all contained within a teal square background.The Lenergy logo, featuring a stylized green letter "E" above the word "Lenergy" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

The competition's main sponsors will provide the majority of the prizes, and the images selected for the exhibition will be printed in spectacular quality with the support of Canon Hungária Kft.

The competition is open to the public and can be entered individually by professional and amateur photographers at: <https://naturart.hu/etf/>

I. Categories

1. Earth in our hands

In this category, we invite images that show the relationship between humans and nature, our role, and responsibility for our natural environment.

2. Bird behavior

This category is for images of wild birds in their natural habitat, depicting aesthetically moving scenes or events, actions, and interesting behaviors. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, so this category is now mainly looking for images of migratory birds in wetlands.

3. Mammal behavior

In this category, images of mammals living in the wild in their natural habitat are welcome, showing aesthetically moving scenes or events, actions, and interesting behaviors.

4. Animal behavior

This category includes images of wild animals in their natural environment, which are not classified under categories 2 and 3. They show moving scenes or events, actions, interesting behaviors in an aesthetic way.

5. Animals and their environment

Images that present animals in their habitat in a landscape-like manner reflect the inseparable relationship between animals and their environment. It is important that the animals in the picture are recognizable. Judging should focus on the uniqueness of the situation presented and the aesthetic representation of the subject.

6. Animals face to face

This category includes close-up and macro shots of wild animals in their natural environment portraits of animals ranging from dwarfs to giants.

7. Plants and fungi

This category is for photographs of wild plants and fungi in their natural habitat, highlighting the beauty and distinctiveness of the species presented, from the habitat to the microcosm.

8. Composition, form, and experimentation

Unusual, creative, and even abstract representations of natural subjects are judged on aesthetic grounds alone. In this category, we offer an opportunity to experimental artists whose images of natural subjects cannot be included in the other categories of the competition.

9. Landscapes

This category is for landscapes. We are looking for nature photographs that faithfully illustrate the beauty, uniqueness, harmony, wildness, and unspoiltness of a landscape (whether natural or cultural).

10. Life below the surface

This category is for nature photographs taken under the surface of the water be it sea or sweet water.

11. From sunset to sunrise

Photos of wildlife in their natural habitat taken during the period indicated in the category title are invited. For photos taken at sunrise or sunset, if the sun disk is visible in the picture, it must be at least halfway below the horizon. The image must reflect the mood of the time of day.

12. Black and white nature photos

This category is for images of nature subjects that use black and white techniques to enhance the subject and composition. The content of the image must correspond to at least one of the other categories, except category 8.

13. With mobile phones in nature

This category was introduced by the eponymous sponsor of the competition, Saubermacher Hungary Ltd. This category is open to images taken with a mobile phone or tablet, and the subject matter of the photos must be in line with any of the other categories of the competition. Often, we don't have a camera around our necks when we are gazing at some of the wonders of nature around us and can "only" capture them with a mobile device. Many great pictures are taken at this time too. We are looking forward to receiving these in this category!

14. Youth category

This category is for informal nature photographs, following the same rules as the adult categories. The maximum age limit is 18 years, i.e., those born after 1 May 2004 can enter this category. Entrants in the Youth category may also enter the adult categories at their discretion, but in this case, they may not enter in the Youth category.

15. Nature photographers at work (werk-photos)

This category is for photos that show interesting scenes, events, or actions of nature photographers at work. The jury will select the most compelling images to be displayed in the exhibition and the photo album. Still, no prizes will be awarded, and the images entered in this category will not be included in the calculation of the final result of the "Nature Photographer of the Year" competition.

II. Ethical standards

naturArt's guidelines for ethical nature photography set out in the "Code of Ethics," which is available at the naturArt website: <https://naturart.hu/dokumentumok/>

Images that violate the Code of Ethics will not be judged.

In all categories, it is a requirement that the images of each creature must depict wild specimens in their natural environment, i.e. the submitted photos must be taken under natural conditions, must reflect an authentic message, and must not be objectionable from conservation or ethical point of view!

The term 'wild animal' also applies to animals living in a fenced area where a natural predator of the species is present or where the wild population in the area is naturally reproducing and is controlled by regular hunting. Animals introduced into game reserves are not considered as 'wildlife' because they are not used for population control in what appear to be natural habitats but are specifically hunted and/or displayed for commercial purposes.

The entry is used as a declaration to prove compliance with the above requirements. Suppose the judging process raises concerns about the images submitted for the competition. In that case, the organizer will invite the author to clarify in writing the issues that give rise to the uncertainty within a specified time limit and, in the light of this, will decide on the further fate of the images and the entrant based on the jury's recommendation.

If no response to the questions raised is received from the entrant by the deadline, or if the entrant fails to provide the jury with footage to clarify the issues raised satisfactorily, the images of concern will be disqualified from the competition. Guidance information is available in the downloadable Code of Ethics: <https://naturart.hu/dokumentumok/>

III. Awards

The contest organizer and sponsors will award prizes to the top three winning photos in categories 1 to 14. The winners of each category and the authors of the images that win special prizes will receive a prize and/or a cash prize.

Grand prizes:

The main prize of the competition, the most prestigious professional award in the field of nature photography in Hungary: the "Nature Photographer of the Year 2022," will be awarded to the individual entrant who submits the most outstanding collection. The prize is a small sculpture by Jenő Kiss, a sculptor from Makó.

Rules for the "Nature Photographer of the Year 2022" main prize:

The grand prize is awarded based on the percentage of the total number of points awarded to an author in the competition and the percentage of the total number of images exhibited. The sum of the two ratios gives the result of the competition. The author with the highest score will be awarded the "Nature Photographer of the Year" prize. (Images from the Youth and Work categories will not be included in the final score.)

The main prize will be awarded based on the number of exhibited images of the author, the number of places achieved in each category, and the number of points awarded by the Jury in the special prizes.

Only images marked "Individual Achievement" will be included in this evaluation. An Individual Achievement is a photo that is the result of the entrant's work, not prepared by or using the conditions of others. Thus, images taken from a campsite or other photographic facility that is operated and maintained for photography, paid for and/or available for hire, built by others - or used by others - will not be eligible for points.

The **"Nature Photographer of the Year 2022"** award scoring system:

"Nature Photograph of the Year": 5 points; first prize in the category: 4 points; second prize in the category: 3 points; third prize in the category: 2 points.

+1 point will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Landscape category for images taken in the Carpathian Basin ecoregion, and +1 point to the Special Prize images awarded by the Jury.

The **"Nature Photograph of the Year 2022"** prize will be given to the best category winner image, selected by the Jury.

"Young Nature Photographer of the Year 2022" and a commemorative plaque will be awarded to the best entry in the youth category. The result will be calculated in the same way as for the Nature Photographer of the Year Award, but only the images in the Youth category will be taken into account.

Special prizes awarded by the Jury:

The following special prizes offered by the sponsors, but will be decided by the Jury, based on the criteria set by the sponsor.

The naturArt **"Dr. Zoltán Tildy Award"** will be awarded to the best photo of a moving vertebrate animal taken from a tripod, but not (!) with multiple exposures, with a minimum telephoto lens of 300 mm or equivalent focal length, with an exposure time of 1/30 sec or longer.

Prize offerer: Uniqball Team. The prize is a professional "High End" iQuick3Pod carbon tripod.

The **special prize of the Hungarian Society of Natural History** will be awarded to an animal photograph taken in our country, which shows a protected or endangered species in its natural environment artistically.

The **special prize of TermészetBúvár** magazine is awarded to the animal photograph that shows a protected species in its natural environment using artistic means. Preference will be given to still images.

The **special prize of the Association of Hungarian Photographers** will be awarded to a photograph on a nature theme that stands out from the other entries in its uniqueness and artistic expression.

The **special prize of the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Association** will be awarded to the bird photo that presents a protected bird species living/occurring in Hungary in its natural environment credibly and impressively.

Uniqball World Touring Special Award

The Jury will select the winning image from among the images competing in the Landscape category:

- taken from a tripod,
- panoramic or HDR images with a shutter speed of more than 1/15 sec or a combination of several images

and

- taken at altitudes above 2500m or outside Europe.

The special prize is a Uniqball compact carbon tripod and a hybrid ball head designed for it.

Special prizes, selected not by the Jury but by the donors who offer the rewards:

"Life makes way" - Special Prize of Saubermacher Hungary Ltd.

The eponymous sponsor of the competition has offered a special prize to the creator of the best recording on the theme of "Life is breaking the way." The life force of nature can be experienced in surprising places, in difficult or artificial conditions, and among alien materials. It comes face to face with abandoned buildings, industrial plants, pavements, house walls. The photographer should show in an artistic way that nature can make its way almost anywhere, despite all the difficulties.

Lenergy Hungary Ltd has offered a special prize of 100.000Ft for the competition to the photographer of the **"Most beautiful nature photo taken in Hungary."**

MVM special prize

The MVM special prize of 100.000Ft will be awarded to the best photo that shows how birds can find a safe landing point on the electricity grid with bird protection and how storks can safely build their nests on the stork nest lifts installed on the electricity grid for their protection.

Uniqball Youth Special Prize

A special prize in the youth category will be awarded for the best very low-angle photo of a bird taken close to the ground or water surface. The Uniqball Team donates the special prize. A Uniqball representative will select the winning image.

The prize donor will select **Sakertours Team's Special Prize** from the bird photographs chosen for the exhibition.

The special prize of the **Alexandra Publishing House** will be awarded to the image chosen by the publisher for the cover of the "Nature Photographs of the Year" album to be published for the exhibition.

IV. Judgement

Entries will be judged by renowned experts in the field of nature photography, invited by the naturArt Board.

The judging will take place in four rounds. The Jury will judge anonymously only the images submitted by the applicants and will not examine any other details of the photos. The RAW files submitted will be used to check compliance with the application criteria. The identity of the applicants is not known to the Jury. The uploading system automatically assigns a new identifier to the files, so the original filename is not known to the Jury. The Jury will evaluate all images and select approximately 800-1000 images for further consideration in the first round. In the second round, the number of eligible entries will be reduced to approximately 400, while in the third round, the Jury will select about 100 images to be exhibited. The Jury will decide the ranking of the categories and the prizes in a closed session in the fourth round.

The second and third rounds of judging will be open to the public.

The public judging can be followed online, and the closed session can be viewed after the awards ceremony on the Internet at <https://naturart.hu/etf/>

Members of the Jury

Dr. Zsolt Kalotás - nature photographer, Nature Photographer of the Year 2001 President of the Jury,

András Bánkuti - Editor-in-Chief of Digital Photo Magazine, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist,

Péter Fáth, nature photographer, President of naturArt,

Orsolya Haarberg - nature photographer based in Norway. He has been awarded several times in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition and has had three articles published in the US edition of National Geographic magazine. www.fjellheimengalleri.no,

István Kerekes - nature photographer, EFIAP award-winning photographer, the most successful artist in the history of Hungarian photography

Ferenc Lőrincz, CMAS World Champion Underwater Photographer and Underwater Photographer Instructor

Florian Möllers - conservation photographer & biologist, co-founder and director of Wild Wonders of Europe, long-time host at GDT's International Nature Photography Festival

V. Objections, complaints, appeals

There is no right to appeal against the professional and ethical decisions of the Jury or the organizer.

In case of presumption of a violation of the competition rules, indicate the number of the image in question and the reason for the objection in an email addressed to the organizer, sent by the 4th day after the end of the 2nd round Jury. Email address: etf@naturart.hu The image's fate in question will be decided within five days.

VI. Conditions of application

The competition is open to natural persons. Images entered jointly by several authors are not eligible.

The maximum number of entries in the adult category is: 30 images plus 10 additional images in the mobile category.

The maximum number of entries in one category: 10 images.

The maximum number of entries in the youth category: is up to 15 images, and youth-age entrants may also submit 10 additional pictures in the mobile category.

The maximum number of entries in the Work Photographs category is 10, but these do not count towards the 30-photo entry limit.

Entries may be submitted that have not been exhibited in previous naturArt competitions.

By entering, entrants declare that their entries comply in all respects with this call for entries and that they hold the copyright to the image, including the original unmodified camera files. The competition organizer will request these after the second round.

The applicant must upload these files to the competition site by the deadline specified in the competition calendar. Furthermore, the applicant must attach technical data and a description of the images to the images submitted. The author undertakes to send if at least one of his/her entries is exhibited, a curriculum vitae and a print-quality portrait of himself/herself, if requested by the organizers, by the parameters specified in the invitation.

VII. Technical information

Only large format JPEG images of the original image can be submitted and uploaded to etf.naturart.hu according to the criteria and the application calendar set out below. Authors are requested to submit their images in sRGB for uniform processing. Digital framing, visible captions, and dates are prohibited. Photos so marked will not be eligible for the competition.

Not allowed during the image creation or the processing is (in any category except category 8):

- interference that results in altering the content of the image,
- combining (by the camera or the processing software) images that were not taken consecutively and/or were taken at different locations
- adding or removing elements of the image,

- modification of parts of the image,

Allowed during the creation and processing of the image:

- conversion to black and white or infrared,

- the use of digital half filters,

- multiple exposures (multiexposure), but only in the case of an image created by merging consecutive in-camera shots taken at the exact location,

- HDR and panoramic images, as well as stitched images (e.g., astronomical "star-arc" and Astro-landscape images, macro-photographs made with focus-stacking techniques), resulting from the in-camera or post-camera (off-camera!) merging of a series of images. (Due to the enormous file sizes, the original files of images made in this way will be requested from the applicants concerned individually, rather than on the application page.)

- the removal of technical defects in the original image, such as dust or dirt on the light sensor, may have caused the image to become blurred. In addition to the above, the removal of dirt and flare from a dome or plane window is allowed for underwater shots.

- correction of lens defects (e.g., vignetting, chromatic aberration).

The exhibitor does not impose any restrictions on the aspect ratios but informs the applicants that, for better transportability, the images to be exhibited will be printed on cardboard of nearly the same size, with a 3:2 ratio. (Thus, pictures of a different ratio will have a black stripe on the top and bottom of the exhibition images.)

The extent and naturalness of any interventions in the processing of the images will be decided by the Jury and by those appointed by the organizer for this purpose.

VIII. Materials to be submitted

Image size:

The minimum size of the image file must be **7 megapixels**, with the longest side of the image min. The image must have a minimum size of 7 pixels, with the longest image pixel of the picture being **3000 pixels**.

Special rules for the mobile category: the shorter side of the image must be at least 3000 pixels long. For mobile devices, the shorter side of the mobile photo must have a minimum of 1440 pixels. This category allows the use of devices built into the device (mobile phone or tablet). (e.g., filters, etc.)

The file to be submitted must not be created by enlarging a smaller image!

The author must have the original, unmodified camera file, which can be RAW (raw file) or JPEG. Only the JPEG file directly from the camera will meet the criteria in the latter case. DNG format is only acceptable if the camera initially created the image with this extension.

After Round 2, the entrant will be asked to submit the original camera files as detailed above and the uninterpolated TIFF file of the images at the highest resolution available in the case of a successful entry. (For information only, the winning images in this category will be printed at a size of approximately 105x70 cm.)

In the upload interface, the author can declare whether or not he/she will allow his/her image to be corrected (by an expert) after a successful 3rd round entry to achieve a better exhibition quality.

The digital image submitted to the competition must include all available EXIF data.

Entry form: you can enter the competition on the etf.naturart.hu website by filling in the entry form during registration. Only one entry form per applicant is allowed. By submitting an entry form, the applicant declares that he/she accepts the terms and conditions of the competition and that his/her submitted images comply in all respects with the conditions of the competition.

Entry fee: the entry fee is 7.000- HUF per applicant, which can be paid by bank transfer or PayPal.

Deadline for receipt of the entry fee:

In the case of bank transfer, the entry fee must be paid to the account of naturArt, number 10918001-00000031-04710000, UniCredit Bank Hungary Zrt. Entries will be considered valid if the entry fee is received by 10.00 a.m. on 3 May 2022, in the above account number.

In case of Paypal payment, the deadline for receipt of the entry fee is May 3, 2022, 20:00.

Only after payment confirmation will it be possible to finalize (close) the application.

Discounts: naturArt members, pensioners, and youth category applicants 3.500Ft.

IMPORTANT! Please indicate the name of the applicant (and not the account holder!) and the 4-digit code received during the entry (e.g. János Minta 1234) in the comment field of the transfer.

Contact: for more information about the competition, please visit etf.naturart.hu and facebook.com/naturart.hu, and for any questions, please send an email to etf@naturart.hu after reading the FAQ on the website.

After the Jury's decision, the raw files from the shortlisted and notified applicants will also be uploaded on the application page.

IX. Competition calendar

Start of upload: 2022 March 28, 8.00 a.m.

Receipt of the entry fee to the naturArt account: 10.00 a.m. 2022 May 3.

End of upload: 20.00p.m. 2022 May 3.

Judging Round 1: 2022 May 4 - May 18

Selection of the best approx. 800-1000 images, this is a non-public round

Judging Round 2: 2022. May 21.

Public with online broadcast. Reduction of images to about 400pcs.

Original high-resolution RAW files submission starts 2022 May 22.

Deadline for receipt of RAW files and captions: 2022. May 31

End of technical check: 2022. June 9.

Judging Round 3: 2022. June 11

Public with online broadcast. The Jury selects the images which will be on the exhibition. (Approx. 100 pcs)

Judging Round 4: 2022. June 11.

It is closed to the public until the awards ceremony (Selection of the winning images.)

The organizer will announce the placings and winners at the awards ceremony.

Opening of the exhibition, award ceremony: 2022. November 9 at the Hungarian Natural History Museum

The exhibition will be open in Budapest until 2023. January 31.

How to apply:

1. Register on etf.naturart.hu and fill in the application form.
2. After registering on the website, a four-digit code number will appear in the system, which the applicant must use from now on.
3. upload large JPEG images (for technical requirements, see the "Conditions of Application" and "Technical Information", and for deadlines, see the "Application Calendar").
4. Payment of the entry fee.
5. Closing of the application
6. the organiser will request from the authors of the approximately 400 images that have been selected from the second round of the competition the original high-resolution RAW file and the highest available uninterpolated TIFF file, as well as the exact titles and descriptions of the images.

X. Copyright

By submitting an entry, entrants agree to the free publication of their images in the exhibition catalog or any substitute album, in any other electronic or printed publication promoting the exhibition or the activities of naturArt, in the publications listed in the contract between the organizer and the sponsors, in the webcast of the jury and the competition archive. As in previous years, we plan to publish an album of the images selected for the exhibition under the title "Nature Photographs of the Year Hungary 2022". The authors of the photos chosen for the exhibition will receive 1 copy of the album. The paper images (enlargements of 1 to 1) prepared for the exhibition of the competition are the author's property. The organizer and the sponsors reserve the right to select images for other publications. The use of these images will be subject to a contract between naturArt and the sponsors after consultation with the authors and will be subject to an appropriate fee. The exhibitor may use the submitted images free of charge in print and electronic form, with attribution of the author (where technically possible).

The competition organizer reserves the right to make changes!

Information about the competition is available at www.naturart.hu and facebook.com/naturart.hu

XI. Data protection, data handling rules

The competition is published by naturArt Hungarian Association of Nature Photographers, www.naturart.hu

The data controller of the competition: naturArt Hungarian Association of Nature Photographers, www.naturart.hu

The data subject that applies for the photo competition "Saubermacher - Nature Photographer of the Year 2022" on the electronic platform of the Data Controller provides his/her personal data together with the application and submits his/her personal information data works and thereby participates in the competition.

Personal data provided by the Data Subject: name, surname, first name, notification address, e-mail address

Purpose of the processing: to identify the applicants for the "Saubermacher - Nature Photographer of the Year 2022" photo competition, to carry out the tasks of judging and jury, to determine the authors of the images submitted for the competition, to ensure the rights of use.

The starting date of the processing is the date of the Data Subject's submission of the Declaration of Consent, and the duration of the processing is the time when the purpose of the processing is fulfilled, i.e., the running of the competition and the announcement of the competition results. At the time the purpose of the processing ceases to exist, or at the request of the Data Subject, the personal data will be deleted Data Processor.

By accepting the Consent Form, the Data Subject expressly consents to the processing of the personal data provided by the Data Controller following the data processing rules and to the transfer of such data to the Data Processor.

The Data Controller declares that the personal data relating to the Data Subject will be processed by the present processing rules, the provisions of Act CXII of 2011 on the Right to Information Self-Determination and Freedom of Information, and the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council on the protection of natural persons concerning the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, during the content of the project.

Based on the data transfer, the data controller is obliged to process the transferred data by the provisions of the above rules. All responsibility for the processing of the data in this way rests solely with the recipient of the data transfer.

For the processing, the provision of data by the Data Subject is voluntary. The legal basis for processing and transfer is the consent of the Data Subject.

The Data Controller shall ensure that the data are not disclosed to any person other than the Data Controller or the data subject unless otherwise provided by law or with the consent of the Data Subject.

The Data Subject shall have the right to request information on the processing of his or her personal data and request the rectification or erasure of his or her data.

Only individuals meeting the conditions set out in the call for applications may participate.

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the data provided. The Data Controller shall not be held liable for any consequences caused by incorrect or incomplete data provided by participants.

Until the exhibition's opening, the list of sponsors for the competition will be continuously extended.

