

ILLUSTRATION

JIA ILLUSTRATION AWARD 2026

DEADLINE

30 JUN 2026

ENTRIES CLOSED

POSTED	ENTRY FEE	ONLINE
9 Apr 2026	APPROXIMATELY 5	VISIT ORGANIZER

DETAILS / KEEP FOR REFERENCE

SOURCE: GRAPHIC COMPETITIONS

The JIA Illustration Award is an internationally recognised illustration competition organised by the Japan Illustrators' Association, designed to celebrate creativity, artistic excellence, and innovation in visual storytelling. Open to illustrators across the globe, the award welcomes a wide range of artistic styles and techniques, including digital illustration, traditional drawing, mixed media, and 3D artwork. With no fixed theme, participants are given complete creative freedom, allowing them to showcase original concepts, personal expression, and unique visual narratives that reflect contemporary illustration trends.

Each year, the competition attracts a diverse pool of emerging and established artists, making it a dynamic platform for global artistic exchange. The award emphasises originality, technical skill, and conceptual strength, encouraging illustrators to push creative boundaries while maintaining a strong visual identity. By bringing together international talent, the JIA Illustration Award fosters cross-cultural inspiration and highlights the evolving role of illustration in areas such as publishing, advertising, design, and digital media.

Beyond recognition, the award serves as a valuable career development opportunity for illustrators seeking international exposure. Winning or being shortlisted can significantly enhance an artist's professional portfolio, increase visibility within the global art and design community, and open doors to new collaborations and commissions. Through its strong reputation and global reach, the JIA Illustration Award continues to position itself as a key event in the international illustration competition landscape, attracting creatives who aim to elevate their work on a worldwide stage.

Entry fee: Approximately 5,000–15,000 yen depending on the number of submitted works (with discounts for multiple entries and members).

ELIGIBILITY

Open to anyone worldwide, including both professional and amateur artists, with no age or nationality restrictions.

PRIZE

The competition offers a substantial prize pool (around 800,000 yen in total), with the Grand Prix winner receiving 500,000 yen, followed by Gold (200,000 yen) and Platinum (100,000 yen) awards, alongside additional Silver and Bronze recognitions; winners also gain certificates, exhibition opportunities, publication in JIA materials, and international exposure that can support professional development and career opportunities.