The Macmillan Prize For Illustration 2025

Category: Illustration
Deadline: April 25, 2025
Website: graphiccompetitions.com

The Macmillan Prize for Illustration, established in 1985, is an annual competition dedicated to discovering and nurturing emerging talent in the field of children's book illustration. Each year, the prize attracts submissions from across the United Kingdom, inviting aspiring illustrators to showcase their creativity through original, unpublished children's picture books. By spotlighting innovative and imaginative artwork, the Macmillan Prize seeks to inspire a new generation of artists, providing them with valuable exposure and a platform to launch their professional illustration careers.

Entrants to the competition have the unique opportunity to present their work to a distinguished panel of judges, including experienced industry professionals, illustrators, authors, and editors from Macmillan Children's Books. The judging criteria emphasize originality, narrative clarity, and artistic excellence, encouraging illustrators to explore diverse styles and storytelling techniques. The competition consistently attracts attention from prominent publishers and industry leaders, making it an ideal gateway for illustrators eager to establish a foothold in the competitive world of children's publishing.

In addition to cash prizes, winners and highly commended illustrators receive significant recognition through public exhibitions and media coverage, enhancing their visibility and potential career opportunities. Past recipients of the Macmillan Prize have often progressed to successful careers in children's illustration, with many securing publishing contracts and becoming influential figures in the creative community. Thus, the Macmillan Prize for Illustration continues to play an essential role in shaping the future of picture books, nurturing fresh talent, and enriching children's literature.

There is no entry fee.

Eligibility

Open to UK residents aged 18 or over who are non-professional illustrators with less than one year of paid or unpaid work experience in the book, magazine, journal, comic book, or graphic book publishing sectors.

Prize

The competition awards three main prizes: First Prize of £1,000, Second Prize of £500, and Third Prize of £250. Additionally, highly commended entrants will be invited to a reception where their work will be exhibited. The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges comprising individuals from Macmillan as well as independent guest judges.