

INTERNATIONAL WATERCOLOUR BIENNIAL  
“BALTIC BRIDGES. *Challenges and directions*”  
Kaunas, Lithuania  
2016



**Time of project:** October – November, 2016.

**Preliminary places of the project:**

- :: Kaunas Picture Gallery of M. K. Ciurlionis National Art Museum, K. Donelaičio g. 16, Kaunas
- :: Gallery “Meno forma”, Savanorių pr. 166, Kaunas
- :: Gallery “Balta”, M. Valančiaus g. 11, Kaunas

**Preliminary dates of opening ceremonies and other events of the project:**

October 12-15, 2016

**Organizer:**

public institution “Meno forma” (*Art form*)  
Leader of the project – visual artist watercolour painter Eugenijus Nalevaika

**Contacts of the project:**

public institution “Meno forma” // viešoji įstaiga „Meno forma“  
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**Conditions for participants:**

1. We are waiting for Your applications **till July 15, 2016**. Your application must consist of:

- Entry form (which You may find below).
- Artistic biography (CV)
- Portrait photo of the author
- Digital photos of artworks (optimal quality no less than 300 dpi, CMYK colours, the size of file not bigger than 5MB.) (*Photos of selected artworks will be used in the catalogue of the Biennial*). Please, for sending choose photos that are as possible closest to the original artwork.

2. You may offer up to 5 works; we desire that the side of work would be no less than 50 cm.

3. Year of creation of artworks – not earlier than 2014.

**Please, send Your applications by e-mail:** [aqua@balticbridges.lt](mailto:aqua@balticbridges.lt).

**Other conditions:**

- All the applicants will be informed by e-mail about the results of jury work till August 15, 2016.
- Selected artworks have to be sent by post (address will be announced later) till September 15, 2016. Sending expenses are paid by authors. Any additional costs (due to customs or other conditions) must be paid by person (author) who is sending package.
  - We kindly ask you to use easy packages and send pictures without frames and glasses.
  - After exhibition artworks will be sent back to authors together with a catalogue for every participant. Sending expenses will be paid by organizers.
- Applying fee **10,- Euro** per person (not per artwork) is paid together with entry form till July 15, 2016. Payment goes to: VŠĮ MENO FORMA (code 303170594), account No.: LT094010051001805210, bank name: AB DNB bankas, SWIFT code: AGBLLT2XXXX, purpose of payment: applying fee
- Participating fee **40,-Euro** per person (not per artwork, when artworks are selected to the main exhibition) must be paid until September 15, 2016.

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The theme (concept) of the 6th International Watercolour Biennial “Baltic Bridges” is **CHALLENGES AND DIRECTIONS.**

Probably everyone faces daily challenges and is choosing his own ways to find solutions to the problems in his / her life. Artists feel those situations especially well because the choice between the inner voice and the mood of audience are accompanying them every moment. During the International Watercolour Biennale’2016 we would like to talk about the specific of choices (directions) and problems (challenges) in the field of art of watercolour. The context for discussions on such topics appears because watercolour as a creative field is going through the difficult stages of change for some time. Watercolour is old and difficult technique. Its history and development is full of the ups and downs. Subject of mandatory aristocratic sciences or equipment for leisure pastime, the beginning of new artistic directions or strokes of sketches in traveling album - all those words can be (and they are) said about the watercolour.

Nostalgically romantic old postcard landscapes or modern well thought about abstract paintings – these expressions are again about watercolour. And here we come to the artist's choices: well-established tradition in the frames of the classical school or a daring expression of abstract strokes in non-traditional formats, using one of the oldest painting tools - water and pigment. Here are the directions and challenges which we would like to talk and invite all artist and audience to think and talk about during this year biennial’s events.

International Watercolour Biennial "Baltic Bridges" is an international selective-competitive exhibition going on every two years along with the accompanying events: solo and group exhibitions, conferences, master classes, discussions, etc. Usually all countries situated near the Baltic Sea are involved (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Germany, Russia and others, as well as the Nordic region - Norway, Iceland, Åland and the Faroe Islands too). Painters who work in the field of watercolour and other professional artists who use material of watercolour in their artworks or conceptually links with watercolour are invited to represent their artworks and their countries. Artworks for the competitive exhibition are selected by the international jury. The collection of selected artworks is exhibited in the department of M. K. Ciurlionis National Art Museum - Kaunas Picture Gallery.

Our aim is to develop discussions and themes started in previous biennials (from 2006). We already were talking on such topics as *can watercolour have opportunities to be relevant to the principles of modern art?*, *can watercolour respond the pulse of actual life?* and so on. During more than 10 years period from the first biennial organizers focus on several important moments: the master class and high professional level, relevance and modernity, innovation and ability to come out of the frames of the traditional thinking in using watercolour’s opportunities. One of the aims is to show that the watercolour - being very old and difficult technique - can be used in modern times as a contemporary high level technique and that watercolour is a material to create sophisticated high level artworks for educated public.

Of course, there are debates on the watercolour “purity” and its purposes, selections of scenes and mixing with other media such as acrylic painting or other “water based” materials. These topics are discussed in

every meeting of watercolour painters in various countries, conferences and lectures are held in Norway, Germany, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. We hope we will find some solutions and suggestions as well as to painters using watercolour as their main material and to audience which is attempting to understand and to feel the beauty of watercolour. Therefore 6<sup>th</sup> International Watercolour Biennial “Baltic Bridges” will be devoted to discuss challenges and directions of contemporary watercolour.

Artists are invited to submit applications for competitive-selective exhibition choosing one direction they are representing - contemporary (modern) or classical (traditional) watercolour.

During the selections process of artworks the attention will be paid to the motivation and argumentation of choosing scenes. Artworks presented to the selective-competitive exhibition will be evaluated in two subgroups: 1) artworks in which strictly classical watercolour is represented; 2) artworks where watercolour is used to express modern means.

Selected artworks will be exhibited in Kaunas Picture Gallery exhibition hall for the period of four weeks.

We hope the exhibition will give a chance to review high level contemporary watercolour pieces, created by masters of watercolour from all Europe, representing both classic scene watercolours (landscapes, portraits, urban, marine, still life paintings) and modern approach to sophisticated, abstract, large-format artworks created by artists using watercolour media.

**Criteria of evaluation:**

Master class and high professional level;

Originality;

Compliance of artworks to the topic (concept) of the Biennial.

The organizers would like that:

- all artwork to be created not earlier than 2014;
- up to 5 works are represented to the jury;
- at least one side of the artwork is no less than 50 cm.

Artworks will be selected by international jury (members of the jury will be announced before the beginning of the jury’s work).

For additional information please contact us by e-mail: [aqua@balticbridges.lt](mailto:aqua@balticbridges.lt)

You can reach us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/baltijostiltai.balticbridges>

Eugenijus Nalevaika,

Organizer of the Biennial and leader of the project,  
Visual artist, watercolour painter,  
member of the Lithuanian Artists’ Association,  
director of the public institution “Meno forma”