

## **PARTICIPATION CRITERIA IN THE 49<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL MADONNARI FESTIVAL (year 2023)**

1. The **National Madonnari Festival** is a painting contest that takes place on the yard of the sanctuary *Santuario della Beata Vergine delle Grazie* in Grazie di Curtatone (Mantua, Italy), which is divided into 150 areas (300x250cm each) for the occasion.
2. The contest will last 24 hours, starting at 5 pm on 14 August and ending at the same time on 15 August, the day of the Assumption of the Virgin. The award ceremony will take place later in the evening of 15 August. Should the weather be rainy or if any other event occurs preventing start of the contest by midday on 15 August, the festival will be put off to the following day, i.e. 16 August, at the opening and closing times that the organisers will deem appropriate.
3. To submit your registration, fill out the form available at this link <https://bit.ly/43qT3wN> (Lingua Italiana) <https://bit.ly/3okFL5b> (English Language) and then send it to the following address, complete with a sketch, which is a mandatory requirement: [concorso.madonnari@curtatone.it](mailto:concorso.madonnari@curtatone.it)
4. The registration submission window will be open from 15/04/2023 until 11/08/2023 at midnight, and registrations will be accepted until all available areas are covered.
5. The organisers will confirm acceptance of the registration by email at the address specified in the Madonnaro's application.
6. For the purpose of finalising admission to the contest, the accepted Madonnari will need to come to the Madonnari Museum to confirm their registration either on 13 August 2023 (from 9 to 12 am and from 3 to 6 pm) or on 14 August 2023 (from 9 am to 5 pm).
7. Registration to the contest is open to all master and amateur artists. Contestants over the age of 16 will be granted direct admission, whereas a consent form duly signed by the parents is required for participants under 16.
8. To finalise the registration in Grazie, the contestants will need to show an identity document and their National Insurance Number card, and they will have to provide a telephone number, an email address, and their car registration number.
9. Registrations are individual. Team drawings are admitted in the Madonnari Semplici category (max. 3 team members in each area). In this case, a team leader will be appointed and s/he will be the award winner, where applicable. Team members will be accepted on condition that they have not competed in the Grazie contest individually.
10. Any contestant who, after submitting the application, fails to finalise his/her registration in Grazie without justification in advance (at least 2 days), will be excluded from the 2024 contest.

### **Materials, techniques, themes and subjects**

The drawings on the yard:

- must be made with dry materials such as chalks, water-soluble oil pastels or chalk powder.
- Liquid media, including water, are excluded.
  - A grid can be drawn to make the preparatory drawing: moulds or pouncing, on the other hand, are not admitted.
  - The use of spray, acrylic and oil-based paints is prohibited. Any Madonnaro using these unauthorised and harmful techniques will be excluded from the contest.

- a) The drawings must have the recognisable and specific features of the National Madonnari Festival in Grazie, which means they must be expressions of figurative arts and consistent with the popular sacred theme inspired by the Christian tradition.
- b) At the time of initial registration, each participant has to submit the sketch of the work s/he intends to draw to a dedicated Board who will evaluate whether the original drawing is consistent with the specific requirements of the National Madonnari Festival.  
The sketch must be submitted at the time of initial registration to the contest via email at the following address:  
[concorso.madonnari@curtatone.it](mailto:concorso.madonnari@curtatone.it)

### Categories and prizes

- a. Three contestant categories have been identified:
  - ✓ Maestri Madonnari (master level),
  - ✓ Madonnari Qualificati (qualified level),
  - ✓ Madonnari Semplici (basic level).
- b. Each category will be allocated to a predefined and distinguishable space in the yard.
- c. The basic level category is the Madonnari Semplici. The winner in this category will be admitted to the higher Madonnari Qualificati category. The winner in the Madonnari Qualificati category will win access to the Maestri Madonnari category.
- d. The winner of the Maestri Madonnari category must give the organisers the original sketch which will be used to create the advertising poster of the next edition of the contest.
- e. The prizes for the 2023 contest include the following.

#### **Prizes for Maestri Madonnari**

The winner will receive a medal and will be asked to make the sketch for the poster of the 50th edition of the contest. For **the 2023 edition the winner will also receive prize money amounting to 1,500.000 Euro (including the reimbursement of expenses)\*\*.**

The Madonnaro in the 2nd place will receive a medal and, for **the 2023 edition, prize money amounting to 1,000.00 Euro (including the reimbursement of expenses)\*\*.**

The Madonnaro in the 3rd place will receive a medal and, for **the 2023 edition, prize money amounting to 750.00 Euro (including the reimbursement of expenses)\*\*.**

#### **Prizes for Madonnari Qualificati**

The winner in the first place in the ranking will receive the Madonnaro Trophy for one year, will be admitted to the higher category of Maestri Madonnari and, for **the 2023 edition, will receive prize money of 1,000.00 Euro (including the reimbursement of expenses)\*\*.**

The second and third Madonnari in the ranking will receive a medal.

#### **Prizes for Madonnaro Semplice**

The winner in the first place in the ranking will receive a medal, will be admitted to the higher category of Madonnari Qualificati, and, for **the 2023 edition, will receive prize money amounting to 750.00 Euro (including the reimbursement of expenses)\*\*.**

The second and third Madonnari in the ranking will receive a medal and will be admitted to the higher category of Madonnari Qualificati.

\*\* Receivers of prize money must send the organisers a copy of their winning work, either on canvas or brush painted (approximate size 100x120 cm) using the chalk technique, no later than November 2023 at the address of the Cultural Office of the Curtatone Town Hall: [cultura@curtatone.it](mailto:cultura@curtatone.it)

#### REIMBURSEMENT OF DOCUMENTED OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES AND/OR FEE

Each Madonnaro will be paid a daily fee as reimbursement for their meal expenses on 15 August for a total of € 15.00. At the time of form filling, the Madonnaro must specify how s/he wishes to receive the meal voucher:

1. a € 15,00 voucher to be spent on 14 and 15 August at the contracted bars/restaurants/shops;
2. € 15,00 cash, in addition to the fee/reimbursement of expenses that will be paid at the end of the event.

As the National Madonnari Festival is an artistic contest, each participant will be awarded a fee. A board specifically appointed by the municipal Council will define the fees for each Madonnaro at the end of the contest, based on the amounts below:

- up to € 350 (three hundred fifty), net, for Maestri Madonnari;
- up to € 300 (three hundred), net, for Madonnari Qualificati;
- up to € 250 (two hundred fifty), net, for Madonnari Semplici. The fee for team work will be paid in one single amount.

The allocation of the fee will be evaluated at the indisputable discretion of a Board of art experts. The fee will be paid as compensation for a service rendered on an occasional basis or as a reimbursement of documented expenses.

The payment of the reimbursement/fee will be made on 16 August by bank transfer to the IBAN specified on the registration form.

#### Additional awards

- ❖ Santuario Madonna delle Grazie Award, one single award on the theme “Con MARIA, in sinergia per la PACE”
- ❖ Special Creativity Award, for first-time and original works
- ❖ Award for nominated works: #20, without ranking
- ❖ Parco del Mincio Award: one single award
- ❖ People’s Choice Award: one single award
- ❖ Rotary Club Award: one single award

The Santuario Madonna delle Grazie Award and the Special Creativity Award can also include promotion to a higher category only if the panel of judges determine, at their indisputable discretion, that the works are of special artistic value.

No joint award or prize will be given to two or more artists.

The appointments and qualifications awarded during the contest are exclusive of the event “National Madonnari Festival” in Grazie di Curtatone.

### **Panel of judges**

The panel of judges will be appointed by the Curtatone Town Hall in their capacity as organiser of the event and provider of the prizes; the Panel of judges will include a member from the Steering Committee of the Italian Centre of Madonnari (C.I.M.).

- A. The judges in the Panel are responsible for evaluating the drawings and will be entitled to watch them at least three times. On 15 August, tentatively in the morning and afternoon, and in any case by 5 pm, the judges will visit the yard to check the progress and to make the assessments required to eventually form the ranking.
- B. The evaluation criteria will include an assessment of the artist’s ability to use passing materials, the drawing techniques, and the communicative strength of the final drawing.
- C. After the evaluation process, a report will be drafted and signed by all Panel members.
- D. The fee for Maestri Madonnari and Madonnari Qualificati will be paid after checking that the work is completed. The fees for the Madonnari Semplici category will amount to max. € 250.00.

Curtatone, 13/04/2023

***Curtatone Town Hall***  
The Mayor  
Carlo Bottani