

The statutes of the open mike

International competition of young German-language prose and poetry

I. Competition

1. The open mike is organized by Haus für Poesie (Literaturbrücke e.V.) and is endowed with a total of 7.500,-€.
2. The open mike promotes young literary talent and offers young authors a stage, brings them into contact with the literary public and serves to build networks. The open mike provides sustainable support for young talents and helps them to develop their own literary voice.

II. Participation

3. The open mike is open to German-speaking authors who are no older than 35 on the closing date for entries. The authors must not have published an independent literary book (including e-books) or have signed a contract with a publisher for a book publication before the competition finale in November.
4. Each participant may submit only one application. Participants of previous open mikes may participate again, provided they meet the conditions of the call for entries.
5. German-language texts can be submitted to the open mike - either short prose, a self-contained excerpt from a longer text, or poetry.
6. Authors who do not write in German and who live in German-speaking countries may submit their text to the competition together with a translator in a translation into German, provided that both the original text and the translation are unpublished.
7. The texts must not have been published or submitted to any other competition or scholarship; this also applies to publication on the internet, in journals, anthologies, and documentaries of any kind. The length of the submitted texts must correspond to a 15-minute reading time. Submissions that are clearly too long or too short will be excluded from the competition.
8. Texts may only be submitted online via the Haus für Poesie website.
9. The closing date for submissions will be stated in each call for entries.

III. The preselection

10. All valid submissions will be anonymized and passed on to an independent pre-selection jury consisting of seven editors. The editors are nominated each year and selected by representatives of the organizers.
11. The preliminary jury selects a maximum of 15 valid and anonymous submissions, whose authors are invited to the open mike finals in Berlin. The editors will present their selected candidates at the public final.
12. The selected candidates will receive a personal invitation by the end of September. The names of the finalists will also be announced on haus-fuer-poesie.org and the social media channels of the Haus für Poesie, as well as in a press release. Participants not selected for the final will not be informed.

IV. Final

13. The personal participation of the invited authors in the final is considered part of the competition. Each finalist is obliged to read their own text. Those who cannot or do not wish to participate will be excluded from further proceedings. The place can be filled again, the decision about it is up to the organizers. In case of force majeure, the organizers will decide how to proceed.
14. The final will take the form of a public reading on a weekend in November in Berlin. During the final, the invited authors will read from their own unpublished manuscripts (prose or poetry) in an order determined in advance by a lottery in front of the jury, the audience and the media. The text read must be identical to the text submitted (except for corrections and slight abridgements).
15. Each author will read for a maximum of 15 minutes. After 15 minutes an alarm clock will ring. After the ringing, only the sentence just read may be finished.

V. Prize winners

16. The prize winners will be chosen by the competition jury after the readings in Berlin.
17. The competition jury of the final consists of three authors. It is newly appointed every year. The jury members are selected by the organizers.
18. The jury will determine the winners by secret ballot. There will be a maximum of three prize winners in the jury. One of the three prizes must be for poetry. Whether the other two prizes are awarded for poetry or prose is up to the jury. The jury also decides on the distribution of the prize money. The jury may also award honorable mentions.

19. The daily newspaper taz will also award an audience prize. The taz invites entries for the audience jury and selects a jury from the applications that attends the open mike finale and awards the audience prize during the open mike awards ceremony. The audience jury prize includes a print of the winning text in the taz.

VI. travel expenses

20. Travel expenses up to 150,-€ will be reimbursed for the authors invited to the finals upon presentation of original receipts, in case of travel by car a mileage allowance will be reimbursed. In addition, the invited authors will receive an entry fee of 100,-€.

21. Travel and accommodation expenses for the jurors and editors will be paid by the organizers.

VII. Workshop

22. Subject to the feasibility within the yearly budget of the competition, after the open mike, all finalists of the respective year will be invited to a weekend workshop in the spring of the following year. There they will have the opportunity to work on their texts with authors and editors.

VIII. Rights

23. The authors confirm with their submission that the text is theirs.

24. By submitting their texts, the participants of the open mike agree to the following in case they are selected and invited to the final:

- the possible publication of the text during or after the competition by the House of Poetry in its own publications and on its own website
- the possible publication of the text in the competition anthology (see VII./23.)
- the audio and video recording of the public reading and the use of the recording by the Haus für Poesie, its cooperation partners and the media
- the publication of sound and image recordings made during the competition, including the final and related events, by the Haus für Poesie, its cooperation partners and the media for the purposes of reporting on and PR and public relations work for the open mike.

25. The rights granted are valid for an unlimited period of time, both for the complete and partial publication of the text.

26. These guidelines are binding, legal recourse is excluded.