

ARTIST BRIEF

Interpreting the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Through Sculpture *Crafting Peace* (Working Title)

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Nobel Peace Center is a museum dedicated to peace, inspired by the work and legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Through exhibitions, learning programs, and public engagement, we promote knowledge and understanding of peace, dialogue, and the individuals and organizations that have contributed to building a more peaceful world.

In December 2027, the Nobel Peace Center will open a new permanent exhibition (working title: *Crafting Peace*), which will become the heart of the museum for years to come. The exhibition explores the idea that peace is not a fixed state, but an ongoing process. Peace is something we create, shape, negotiate, and maintain together. It is a continuous act of imagination, commitment, and work.

As part of this exhibition, we are inviting 143 artists, both emerging and established, to create small sculptures, not exceeding 10 cm in height, as sculptural interpretations of the 143 Nobel Peace Prize laureates awarded to date. Each artist will be commissioned to create one sculpture representing the peace work of a single laureate.

THE VISION

The sculptures will form visitors' first encounter with the Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Displayed together on a large wooden table, the collection will present the full history of the Nobel Peace Prize and the many different ways peace work has been understood over the past 125 years.

Each year, a new sculpture will be added to the collection to represent that year's Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Together, the sculptures will create a diverse and global representation of peacebuilding across cultures, generations, and political contexts.

The sculptures are intended to function as more than artworks. Each bronze figure will contain a hidden NFC chip and serve as a digital key within the exhibition. Visitors will be able to pick up a sculpture and carry it through the exhibition, where it will unlock stories, biographies, historical context, critical perspectives, and information about the laureate's peace work.

The resulting collection will be both a sculptural landscape and a living archive, offering visitors multiple ways to engage with the history, complexity, and continuing relevance of the Nobel Peace Prize.

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WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We seek a diverse cohort of established and emerging artists from around the world. We welcome applications from practitioners working across disciplines, including but not limited to sculpture, installation, design, architecture, ceramics, digital art, performance, and visual arts.

Artists do not need to be trained sculptors. The Nobel Peace Center will oversee the bronze casting process. However, applicants must be able to produce a sufficiently detailed physical or digital model that can be translated into bronze by our fabrication partners.

In keeping with Alfred Nobel's vision of the Peace Prize as a global award, we aim to build an artist cohort that reflects a broad range of geographic, cultural, and artistic perspectives.

The invitation will be distributed through a network of partner art spaces, cultural institutions, artist-led organizations, and professional networks internationally.

Application Process

Artists interested in participating are invited to submit:

- A short biography (150-250 words)
- 5-10 images of previous work
- A curriculum vitae (maximum two pages)
- A statement (maximum 500 words) addressing:
 - Why you are interested in participating in this project
 - What peace means to you
 - Why you wish to engage with the legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize
 - Which three categories of peace work resonate most strongly with your practice, ranked in order of preference

Applicants will also have the opportunity to identify any laureates, themes, conflicts, or historical subjects they may find difficult to engage with due to personal, political, ethical, or lived-experience considerations.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the Nobel Peace Center and a selection panel.

The selection process aims to create a cohort that reflects a broad range of artistic approaches, cultural viewpoints, generations, and lived experiences.

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Selection will be based on:

- Artistic quality
- Originality of practice
- Thoughtfulness of engagement with the idea of peace
- Diversity of artistic, cultural, and geographic perspectives

THE COMMISSION

Artists are invited to create a sculptural interpretation of the peace work of an assigned Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The sculpture may be figurative, symbolic, conceptual, or abstract. We strongly encourage artists to focus on the laureate's contribution to peace rather than creating a portrait or likeness.

The artwork should be understood as an interpretation of the ideas, actions, achievements, dilemmas, methods, or impact associated with the laureate's peace work.

Rather than representing the individual, we invite artists to engage with the particular understanding of peace embodied by their assigned laureate. Each laureate approached peace from a distinct position, shaped by their historical moment, cultural context, and the challenges they sought to address.

Artists are encouraged to explore the questions that emerge from the laureate's work and to consider how that individual or organization understood peace, conflict, justice, cooperation, reconciliation, or social change.

For example:

- What did peace look like from the perspective of this laureate?
- What problem were they attempting to solve?
- How did they believe peace could be built, protected, negotiated, or achieved?
- What methods, values, or strategies defined their approach?
- What tensions, contradictions, or dilemmas existed within their work?
- How might their understanding of peace resonate with, challenge, or inform our understanding today?

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The resulting sculpture need not illustrate the laureate's life or achievements directly. Instead, it should offer an artistic response to the particular vision, practice, or proposition of peace represented by their work.

LAUREATE ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

To ensure representation across the full history of the Nobel Peace Prize, artists will not apply to work with a specific laureate.

Instead, applicants will be asked to identify three categories of peace work that resonate most strongly with them, ranked in order of preference.

Categories may include:

- Human rights
- Diplomacy and international cooperation
- Humanitarian action
- Disarmament and arms control
- Democracy and civil society
- Environmental and climate-related peace work
- Education and dialogue
- Conflict resolution and reconciliation

Following the artist selection process, the Nobel Peace Center will assign one laureate to each artist.

Assignments will be made through a random allocation process while seeking, wherever possible, to match artists with laureates whose work aligns with their stated interests.

This approach helps ensure that both well-known and lesser-known laureates are represented while creating meaningful points of connection between artists and their assigned subject.

There is no expectation that artists and laureates share a nationality, background, personal experience, or political context.

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WORKING WITH COMPLEXITY AND CONTROVERSY

The history of the Nobel Peace Prize reflects the complexities of international politics and evolving ideas of peace. While many laureates are widely celebrated, others have generated significant public debate and criticism.

Artists may therefore be assigned a laureate whose work they greatly admire, know little about, find challenging, or approach from a different perspective.

We ask artists to engage with their assigned laureate from a position of curiosity, respect, and intellectual openness. Respect in this context does not require agreement. Rather, it means taking seriously the historical circumstances, intentions, achievements, and challenges that shaped the laureate's contribution to peace.

The purpose of this commission is neither to create monuments nor to produce critiques of individuals. Instead, it is an invitation to explore how different people, organizations, and movements have understood and pursued peace throughout history.

Artists are encouraged to develop thoughtful, nuanced, and imaginative responses to their assigned laureate's peace work, engaging with both its possibilities and its complexities. We welcome artistic interpretations that acknowledge ambiguity, tension, and debate, provided they remain grounded in a genuine engagement with the laureate's contribution and the questions their work continues to raise.

We also recognize that certain laureates or topics may be personally difficult for some artists to engage with due to lived experience, political realities, or historical circumstances. Applicants will therefore have the opportunity to identify specific concerns during the application process, and we will seek to accommodate these wherever possible.

WHAT ARTISTS WILL RECEIVE

Selected artists will receive:

- An artist fee
- Research materials about their assigned laureate
- Access to Nobel Peace Center curatorial support
- Information about the historical context of their laureate and relevant Nobel Committee statements
- Technical guidance regarding fabrication requirements
- Professional bronze casting and production support

PROJECT TIMELINE

September 2026

Open call distributed through partner organizations, art spaces, institutions, and international artist networks.

31 October 2026

Application deadline.

November - December 2026

Application review and artist selection.

21 December 2026

Selected artists announced.

January 2027

Laureate assignment and project onboarding.

Artists will receive:

- Their assigned Nobel Peace Prize laureate
- Research materials and historical resources
- An introduction to the project framework
- Curatorial support and guidance

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January - March 2027

Research and concept development period.

April 2027

Concept check-in and submission of work-in-progress materials for curatorial feedback.

April - June 2027

Maquette development and production period.

30 June 2027

Final maquettes delivered to the Nobel Peace Center.

July - October 2027

Bronze casting, finishing, quality control, and NFC integration.

November 2027

Exhibition installation.

December 2027

Opening of the Nobel Peace Center's new permanent exhibition (working title: *Crafting Peace*).

DELIVERABLES

Selected artists will be asked to deliver:

- A final maquette suitable for bronze casting
- A short artist statement explaining the relationship between the artwork and the assigned laureate's peace work
- Process documentation, including photographs of the development process
- Permission for the Nobel Peace Center to document and communicate the project through exhibitions, publications, and digital platforms

Detailed technical specifications, dimensions, submission formats, and production requirements will be provided following appointment.

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WHY PARTICIPATE?

This project offers a unique opportunity to contribute to a landmark international exhibition that will remain on display for decades and engage hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Together, the 143 sculptures will create a collective artwork that presents a global history of peacebuilding through 143 distinct artistic voices. The exhibition will offer visitors a new way of encountering one of the world's most influential histories of peace, conflict resolution, diplomacy, human rights advocacy, and social change.

We are looking for artists who are curious about peace, history, society, and human possibilities, and who are interested in helping visitors explore what peace has meant, what it means today, and what it might mean in the future.

We invite you to contribute to this collective exploration of peace and its many histories.

Submissions are warmly welcomed at cmca@nobelpeacecenter.org

Please use the subject line: *Artist Collaboration Opportunity: Bronze Figures Project*

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