

A Global Art Prize Rooted in Chinese Tradition Debuts in Vancouver

The Prize, launched by the Aisin Gioro Arts & Cultural Heritage Society, bridges cultural heritage with contemporary art worldwide

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, September 29, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A new global art prize with deep cultural roots has officially been launched in Vancouver. The [Aisin Gioro International Art Prize](#), created by three generations of the Aisin Gioro family, seeks to connect the living legacy of Chinese heritage with the global contemporary art community. It introduces a structure that is both internationally accessible and culturally distinctive, positioning the award as a meeting point between tradition and innovation.

One of the most distinctive features of the prize is its annual calendar, which does not follow the conventional quarterly deadlines used by most art competitions. Instead, the award's schedule is guided by the 24 Solar Terms — an ancient Chinese system of timekeeping recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Key solar terms such as Grain Rain (谷雨), Great Heat (大暑), Frost's Descent (霜降), and Major Cold (大雪) are used to mark the progression of the prize cycle, including submission periods, jury deliberations, and award announcements.

"This calendar is not just a schedule, but a cultural gesture," said [Cecilia Aisin Gioro](#), the prize's chief planner and cultural initiator. "It invites artists worldwide to create in rhythm with nature, echoing a worldview of continuity and renewal. By embedding the prize within this cultural framework, we hope international audiences can experience the cadence of Chinese tradition in a new way."

Through this approach, the Aisin Gioro International Art Prize redefines how cultural heritage can serve as a living structure for artistic exchange. It transforms timekeeping from an ancient agrarian system into a contemporary platform for creative dialogue.



Aixinjueluo Yuting
愛新覺羅·毓婷
(Kamshek Aisin-Gioro)



Aixinjueluo Hengqin
愛新覺羅·恆欽
(Cecilia Aisin Gioro)



Aixinjueluo Qining
愛新覺羅·啓靄
(Jinin Aisin-Gioro)

Three generations of the Aisin Gioro family, founders of the Aisin Gioro International Art Prize.

The cultural integration also extends to its physical form. Every winning certificate is designed as a scroll, inspired by the aesthetics of Chinese books, paintings, and calligraphy. More uniquely, the annual anthology of prize-winning works will be produced as a hand-crafted scroll with dragon-scale binding, using techniques recognized within China's intangible cultural heritage. Each anthology will carry a formal ISBN registration and will be distributed not as a commercial product but as a permanent cultural archive to leading museums, libraries, and academic institutions around the world.

Cecilia Aisin Gioro, who also serves as Founder and Director of the [Aisin Gioro Arts & Cultural Heritage Society](#), emphasized that the anthology should be understood as far more than a publication. "This is not a commercial book, but a cultural document," she explained. "It records the creative voices of contemporary artists while also carrying the beauty of traditional craftsmanship. Through this form, we hope to preserve a cultural record that reflects today's artistic landscape while also transmitting historical memory."

In her role as Artistic and Publishing Director of the Society, Cecilia has long been committed to bridging cultural heritage with contemporary practice. By positioning the anthology as both an artistic record and a crafted artifact, she envisions the prize's publication as a contribution to global cultural preservation, offering material for study, inspiration, and long-term institutional collection.



Hand-crafted scroll anthology of the Aisin Gioro International Art Prize, inspired by traditional Chinese book and painting formats



Young participants with the Aisin Gioro Arts flag, representing global youth engagement.

The Aisin Gioro International Art Prize carries a total fund of CAD \$30,000, open to artists worldwide. It welcomes both established creators and emerging youth voices. Dedicated divisions in Youth Visual Arts and Youth Sound Arts reflect the importance of encouraging younger generations to participate in global cultural dialogue. A distinguished jury, drawn from diverse cultural and disciplinary backgrounds, will evaluate submissions with an emphasis on artistic merit, inclusivity, and the ability of works to foster cross-cultural exchange.

To support the prize, the founders also established the Aisin Gioro Arts & Cultural Heritage Society, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Vancouver. The Society organizes exhibitions, publications, lectures, and music programs, many of which will also follow the seasonal rhythm of the 24 Solar Terms. Its broader mission is to bridge cultural heritage with contemporary practice, positioning Vancouver as a hub of international dialogue.

The prize was jointly founded by three generations of the Aisin Gioro family: Aixinjueluo Yuting (Kamshek Aisin-Gioro), a cultural elder and guiding figure; Cecilia Aisin Gioro, the chief planner and organizer; and Aixinjueluo Qining (Jinin Aisin Gioro), a teenager whose vision led to the establishment of youth divisions. Together, their roles represent continuity across generations, weaving inheritance with innovation. For the family, the prize is both a cultural initiative and an act of remembrance — connecting ancestral legacy with contemporary artistic creativity. Observers highlight that the launch of the Aisin Gioro International Art Prize is not simply another entry in the global competition landscape. Instead, it represents a cultural experiment, showing how heritage can become a framework for international artistic exchange. “This award demonstrates how Chinese tradition can inspire global innovation,” noted one cultural commentator. “By embedding its structure within the rhythms of the solar terms, the prize introduces the world to a distinctly Chinese sense of time, continuity, and renewal. It shows that cultural identity can serve as a foundation for universal dialogue rather than a boundary.”

By blending scroll formats, seasonal cycles, and archival practices, the prize establishes itself as both a contemporary platform and a vehicle of cultural transmission. For artists worldwide, it offers not just recognition but participation in a living cultural narrative.

As its inaugural cycle begins, the Aisin Gioro International Art Prize invites artists across the globe to submit their works in rhythm with the solar terms. With Vancouver as its base and Chinese heritage as its foundation, the award seeks to create a space where tradition meets innovation, and where ancestral memory inspires the creativity of tomorrow. More than an award, it is an invitation to consider how heritage can shape the future of art.

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