

RULES OF THE 29TH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
FOR THE DESIGN OF JEWELLERY WITH AMBER

MAGIC OF MATTER



AMBERIF DESIGN AWARD 2026

THE MAGIC OF MATTER

Matter has always been more than a utilitarian substance — it has been endowed with meaning, emotion, and story. Objects became amulets, talismans, vessels of memory, bridges between the physical and the spiritual. Yet as civilization evolved, our needs and expectations changed, and matter gradually lost its aura of the sacred, giving way to tools, technologies, and production.

Today — in the digital era, dominated by images, data, and simulations — a fundamental question returns: what allows matter to move us still? To become meaningful, exceptional? What hidden magic enables it to resist the pull of the virtual and regain its significance and allure?

Amber — with its organic origin, luminous depth, and inclusions suspended between geological time and human imagination — is a striking example of a substance whose magnetism has endured for thousands of years. But how do we perceive the natural world today, in an age shaped by technology? How are we to interpret amber now, when matter becomes increasingly virtual, processable, generative? Where does its uniqueness lie — in its structure, its chemical and physical processes, or perhaps in the story told by the creator?

The theme *“The Magic of Matter”* is meant to provoke reflection on our contemporary relationship with material, to inspire the search for these singular qualities — this elusive magic — and to encourage experimentation on the borderlands of craft, art, and technology. Here, amber may become not merely a raw material but a field of exploration — a substance open to deconstruction and transformation, to dialogue with metal, light, sound, parametric form, or algorithmic logic.

The magic of amber may reveal itself through responses to touch, temperature, or movement; through juxtapositions with synthetic materials; through forms that employ 3D printing, photogrammetry, AI, or augmented reality.

“The Magic of Matter” also invites us to question the very definition of material: can it be light? Shadow? Sound? Data? Intention? Must amber serve as a stable element, or can it become a module, an ephemeral component, the starting point of a process that evolves over time?

We encourage bold formal and conceptual exploration: an investigation into the nature of structure, decay, fusion, and transformation; a willingness to break traditional hierarchies between the natural and the technological, the soft and the hard, the durable and the ephemeral — to redefine how jewelry is traditionally perceived.

We are seeking projects that do more than adorn — works that communicate, encode, transform. In which meaning emerges between matter and the human being — in experience, gesture, relationship. Works that reveal the contemporary magic of amber and its potential for the future.

Rules of the 29th International Amber Jewellery Design Competition **AMBERIF DESIGN AWARD 2026**

I General Provisions

1. The provisions of these Regulations (hereinafter: the Regulations) apply to all Participants of the AMBERIF DESIGN AWARD Competition (hereinafter: the Competition), organized by Gdańsk International Fair Co. (Międzynarodowe Targi Gdańskie SA, hereinafter: MTG SA).
2. The aim of the Competition is to promote amber as a medium of artistic expression.
3. The subject of the Competition is the design and execution of a jewellery piece (hereinafter: the Work) in which amber plays a significant role.
4. The use of natural amber in the Work is a mandatory requirement. Participants are free to choose all other materials.
5. The following documents constitute integral parts of the Regulations:
 - a) the competition Entry Form,
 - b) participant's declaration confirming that they are the author of the Works submitted to the Competition and the holder of the copyright to those Works, in accordance with copyright law,
 - c) participant's declaration confirming that the submitted Work has not been previously awarded,
 - d) a participant's declaration granting MTG SA the right to use the submitted Work for promotional, documentation, and marketing purposes.
6. MTG SA reserve the right to cancel the Competition.

II Conditions of Participation

1. The Competition is open to all creators — designers, artists, and students. Design teams are allowed to participate; however, a team member may not submit an individual entry at the same time. Works must be submitted exclusively under the participant's own name or under the name of the design team, always including the name of the author of the design.
2. Each Participant may submit up to three Works, which must be the property of the author within the meaning of copyright law. A Work is understood as a single object or a set of objects.
3. Works must be submitted in the form of photographs or digital visualizations (JPG or PDF file, 300 dpi). Each submitted Work must be presented on one 30×30 cm digital board; a second board of the same dimensions is allowed, containing additional photographs or explanations of the idea or functioning of the Work. All text on the boards must be prepared in English. Each board must be marked in the lower right corner with a unique six-digit code (six identical digits are not permitted). Boards must not contain any data that could identify the author or place of origin — such Works will be disqualified.
4. Submission of the Competition Entry Form must be **completed online at www.amberif.pl no later than 8 February 2026.**
5. Submitting the Entry Form signifies acceptance of the Competition rules and the Regulations.

III Jury

1. The Competition Works will be evaluated by an international Jury appointed by MTG SA.
2. The Jury will qualify Works for the exhibition and publication in the digital catalogue and will award prizes.
3. The Jury meeting will take place on 12–13 February 2026.
4. The Jury's decision is final. Appeals against Jury decisions will not be considered.
5. The Jury will evaluate the Works based on photographs or digital visualizations.
6. In its evaluation, the Jury will consider:
 - a) **the author's interpretation of the theme,**
 - b) **the artistic value of the Work,**
 - c) **the innovative use of amber.**
7. The list of Participants qualified for the exhibition will be announced on 20 February 2026
8. The selected Works will be presented at the exhibition during the AMBERIF SPRING 2026 Fair and in the catalogue published on www.amberif.pl and in other promotional materials, and will also be included in a year-long touring exhibition in galleries in Poland and abroad.

9. Authors of Works qualified for the exhibition shall send their Works by **20 March 2026** to the following address: **AMBEREXPO, ul. Żagłowa 11, 80-560 Gdańsk, Poland.**
10. The shipment of Works for the exhibition and their return is at the cost and risk of the Participant. Works must be sent in basic protective packaging that ensures safe transport (e.g., cardboard box, protective foil).
11. The Organizer does not return any packaging sent with the Works, including decorative, gift, collector's, or custom-made packaging.
12. After the Competition, Works will be returned in the Organizer's standard packaging. The Organizer bears no responsibility for any loss resulting from the Participant's failure to comply with the above requirements.
13. The Organizer of the Competition is not responsible for any damage or loss of Works in transport (liability rests with the courier company in accordance with its shipping regulations).
14. The Organizer accepts material responsibility for the Works presented at the exhibition from the moment of their receipt until their return, i.e., the moment when the parcel containing the Work is handed over to the courier service. In the event of damage or loss of a Work during the exhibition period, the Organizer undertakes to cover the costs necessary for its reconstruction (based on the replacement value stated in the object card submitted together with the Work).
15. The announcement of the Competition results and the awards ceremony will take place during the AMBERIF SPRING 2026 Fair on 26 March 2026.
16. After the year-long touring exhibition, the Works will be returned to their authors.

IV Prizes

1. Prizes awarded by the Jury:
 - Grand Prize of the Mayor of the City of Gdańsk – **PLN 30,000 gross**
 - Silver Prize – **1 kg of silver + a booth at the Amberif Spring 2027 Fair**
 - **Jury Distinction**
2. Prizes awarded by Sponsors:
 - Amber Prize of the International Amber Association – **1 kg of amber**
 - YES Gallery Prize – **0.5 kg of silver**
3. The Organizer reserves the right to award additional prizes and distinctions.
4. In the case of a laureate who is a natural person, together with a material (in-kind) prize, a cash prize amounting to 11.11% of the gross value of the prize will also be granted. MTG SA will deduct from the cash portion the amount of the due lump-sum income tax (10% of the gross value of the prize) and will transfer it to the competent Tax Office. A legal entity receiving a prize is responsible for settling its own income tax on the prize, on the basis of a certificate of prize value issued upon request by MTG SA.

V Deadlines

08.02.2026 – deadline for submitting Works to the Competition
12–13.02.2026 – Jury meeting
20.02.2026 – announcement of the list of Participants qualified for the exhibition
20.03.2026 – deadline for delivering Works qualified by the Jury for the exhibition
26.03.2026 – announcement of Competition results and awards ceremony
26–28.03.2026 – duration of the AMBERIF SPRING 2026 International Amber and Jewellery Fair
30.04.2027 – return of Works from the exhibition to the authors

VI Organizer of the Competition

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