

The Magic of Children's Creativity: The International Exhibition We Are the World Returns to Astana

POSTER

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187

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Young artists took part in the finale of the large-scale project, bringing the foyer of the Astana Opera Theatre to life with images of a winter fairy tale and faith in miracles, [Kazpravda.kz reports](#).



Photo: We Are the World exhibition organizing committee

The international exhibition project We Are the World, uniting creative youth from around the world, continues to expand its reach. Since 2018, it has welcomed representatives from over 60 countries, opening the doors of the world's finest art venues – from the Louvre in Paris to London's White Cube. This season, Astana once again joined the project's elite list of cities.

The international exhibition "We Are the World" opened in the capital for the second time, filling the marble and gilded interiors with the energy of young artists from Kazakhstan and abroad. The foyer of the Astana Opera



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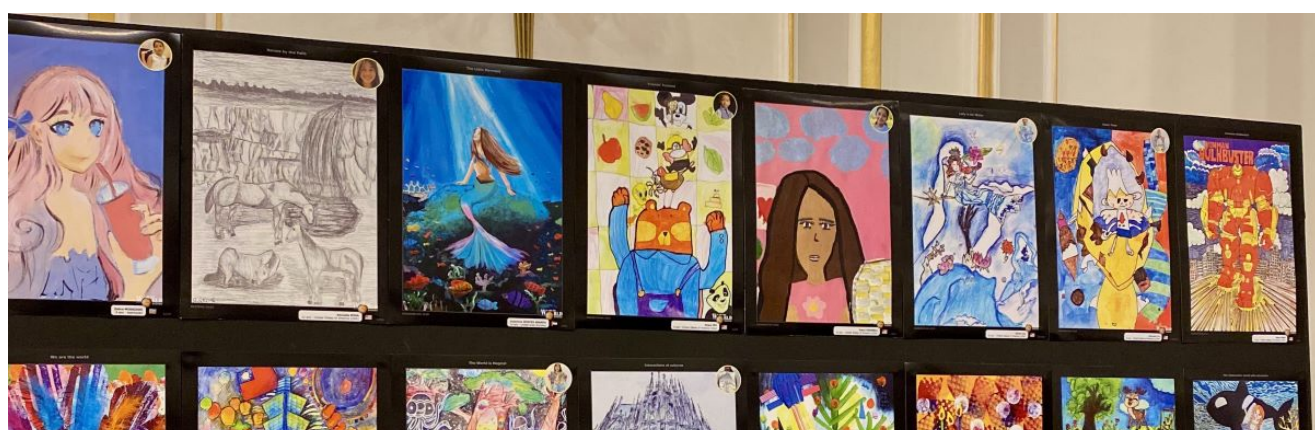
House was transformed into a space where majestic classicism meets childlike innocence.

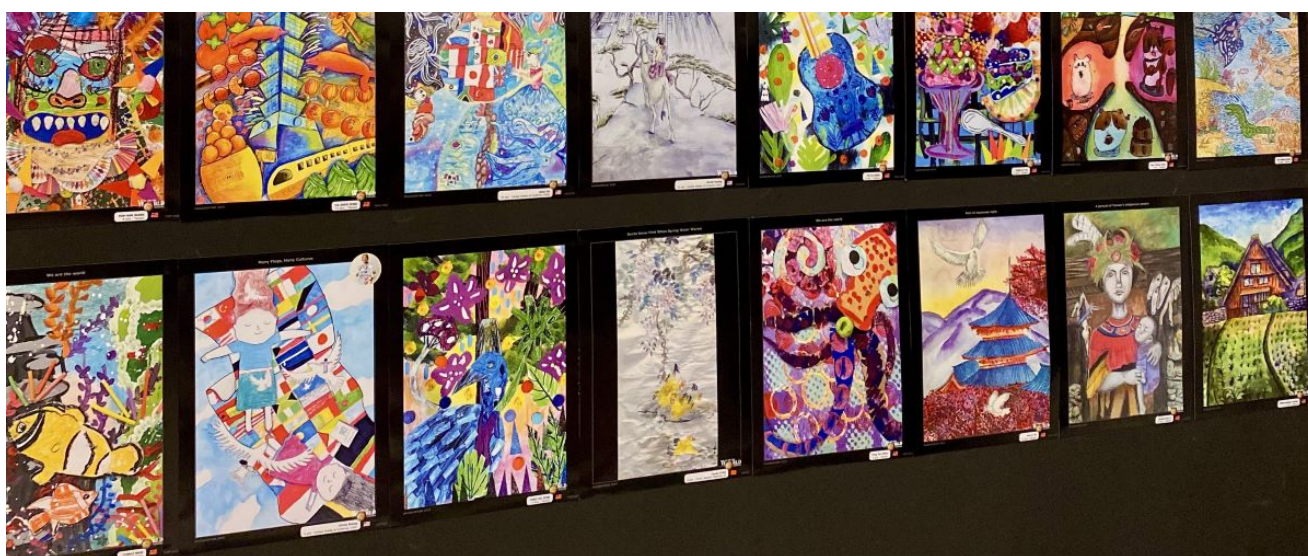
This year, the exhibition features over 300 works submitted by artists from around the world. The exhibition, curated by Irina Kusenova, a staff member of the Astana Opera Museum, was divided into two key themes: "Peace" and "The Nutcracker." In their creative works, which captivated audiences with their sincerity and mastery, the participants demonstrated a unique vision of harmony and kindness, transforming the capital's main theatrical venue into a forum for global creative dialogue.



Stephanie Gaspar, President of the International Cultural Diplomacy Association We Are the World and founder of the project, highlighted the unique style of emerging Kazakhstani artists. She believes that the local artists' work is distinguished by a deep connection to their roots combined with an openness to the world.

Now, young artists have an official platform to showcase their talent internationally. They focus on city landmarks, graceful ballerinas, as well as fairytale characters, animals, and other equally captivating subjects, as a child's imagination knows no bounds.





"For the children, receiving a diploma on this stage is a tremendous achievement. In the works of the Kazakhstani participants, we see a stunning combination of openness and a deep love for their roots. This year, we divided the exhibition into two themes: "Peace" and "The Nutcracker." While in the first, the children reflected the cultural codes of their country—from the flag to national costumes—in the second, they demonstrated their subtle appreciation for the magic of a classic fairy tale. Eight experts from Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Indonesia, and other countries judged the children. The digital system allowed them to objectively and conveniently view the works in various categories," she says.



The event's formal portion took place in a truly festive atmosphere. All exhibition participants received commemorative medals and diplomas from the distinguished guests: Stéphanie Gaspard, President of the Cultural Diplomacy Association, and Renat Elubaev, Chairman of the

Jury.

The event became a vibrant celebration not only for the artists themselves but also for their parents, confirming Astana's status as an important center for supporting children's creativity and cultural exchange.



According to the organizers, the exhibition's main idea is to immerse young artists in the magical world of backstage. The young artists attended a concert and took festive photos by the Christmas tree.

"The finale of the international exhibition is being held at the Astana Opera for the second time. The diversity of participants is impressive: children from various countries and cities have gathered here, although the season traditionally concludes in Paris. Performances by students from KazNUA, the theater's children's choir, and the ballet studio, as well as project ambassadors, created a festive atmosphere. Children from Almaty, Atyrau, Rudny, and Moscow, as well as children with special needs, attended the awards ceremony. Our mission is to develop intercultural connections and allow children to showcase their talents. Participation in such projects helps children gain confidence and build a solid portfolio for admission to the best universities in the world. Clearly, the most valuable thing we can give our children is new opportunities for development and a high-quality education," concluded Irina Kusenova, a staff member at the Astana Opera Museum.





As specified, the organizers of We Are the World position the project as a platform that provides children and teenagers not only with aesthetic development, but also with real opportunities for professional and social growth.

Participation in a project of this level becomes a powerful addition to a child's creative portfolio, opening the door to leading art universities.

Project ambassador Arsen Zhumabaev has been honing his skills for two years at the Astana Opera's children's art studio. He chose the landscape "House in the Empire Style" for his competition entry.

"At first, I was simply invited to participate in the project, but as the process progressed, I became truly captivated. I was intrigued by graphics, so I decided to draw a landscape in pencil. The idea came from a memory of a trip to Almaty: while strolling through the city, I noticed a beautiful historic building surrounded by greenery. The view impressed me so much that I wanted to transfer it to paper. The work became excellent practice—it was very interesting to work out the small details," he noted.

Looking at these vibrant, free, and kind works, it becomes clear: a generation is growing up for whom creativity and creation are the primary means of communication. The exhibition at the Astana Opera once again proved that when children speak, the world begins to resonate.

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508
421
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