

**Non-profit organisation
EX LIBRIS AD PERSONAM HLOHOVEC**

announces
15th international art contest
in creation of book plates
for children aged from 6 to 15

EX LIBRIS HLOHOVEC



WATER WORLD

Theme:



With the financial support of:
International Visegrad Fund,
Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic,
Town Hlohovec, The Selfgoverning Region of Trnava,
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*The photos are from
14th year of the contest „Flowers”.*



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Theme: „WATER WORLD“

THE CONTEST CONDITIONS

- Categories:**
1. Ex libris designs- elementary schools from 12 to 15
 2. Original ex libris - elementary schools from 12 to 15
 3. Original ex libris - art schools from 12 to 15
 4. Ex libris designs and original ex libris for children from all types of school aged from 6 to 11

The conditions for participation:

1. Create the final version of the draft in a black and white combination by Indian ink, so that it will be clear what graphic techniques it is proposed to. Drawings created by a pencil, pastel or shade drawings do not meet this requirement. Mässer plates are successful at creation of designs.
2. Use any of the graphic techniques like lino-engraving, lino-cut, wood-cut, wood-engraving, plastic-engraving, a dry needle, etching, engraving, imprint from cardboard, imprint from a template, etc. for your original ex libris in one or more colours.
3. The size of the contest works is not allowed to exceed 13 x 9 cm, and they must be placed in the middle of a white drawing paper of the size 21 x 15 cm (A5). The proposal can be created directly on white drawing paper, or you can cut it out from another background and glue it to the required drawing paper. It is necessary to print the original ex libris directly, another version cannot be assessed!
4. All contest works must include the text and picture parts. It is the designation of EX LIBRIS, EXLIBRIS, FROM BOOKS, BOOK, the name and surname of the owner or institution. You can use your name with an abbreviation (Jozef SOKOL, J. SOKOL). The professional jury will not assess works with initials (e.g. A.K., J.S., etc.), or nicknames - MIMI, FERI.
5. The picture part must have a direct relation to the topic of the contest. Go through the methodical instructions very carefully and follow them.
6. Each contestant is not allowed to send more than 2 contest works!
7. All contest works have to contain the full name of the author, his/her age, address of school or the sender at the back of the paper. It would be suitable to write also the author's gender. Bulk shipments must be accompanied by a list of contestants with all the required information. **Please write the age of the author, not the school year which he attends!**
8. We also ask for the name of the ex libris, so that we could check if you comply with the topic.
9. Use the Slovak language in your correspondence with organisers of the contest, foreign participants are required to communicate in English.
10. Registered contest works will remain in the possession of the organisers with the right to exhibit them and use them for promotional and other purposes. The participants accept the conditions of the contest by sending their application. It is only possible to send the works to the contest EX LIBRIS HLOHOVEC that were not part of another contest or exhibition!
11. The deadline for sending the contest works is **January 31, 2015** to the address: EX LIBRIS AD PERSONAM HLOHOVEC, Námestie sv. Michala 3, 920 01 Hlohovec, Slovakia. Please do not leave sending your contest works to last days, you will thus complicate the work of organisers.
12. The jury reserves the right not to award a prize if the contest works in a given category do not reach a satisfactory level. The best works of the 15th year of the contest will be exhibited at a separate exhibition, they will be included in travelling exhibitions or published. The works that do not comply with the specified criteria will be excluded from the assessment.
13. The ceremonial announcement of the results of the contest, awarding and other activities will be held on **October 2, 2015 in Hlohovec**. The organisers will inform the participants on the details in a separate invitation. The results of the contest will be published in the official bulletin, on www.elap-hlohovec.sk and in mass media.

METHODICAL SHEET

Dear Contestants, we welcome your decision to participate in the 15th year of our contest, and, as in previous years, we offer you some advices. With it you can avoid making mistakes in creating contest works and achieve better results.

A good ex libris is based on a well-performed design that represents a creative connection of picture and text parts. How to proceed in creation of a design? The picture part is based on the selected topic, and that is why you should look for the signs that are specific to it. The text part is unambiguous. You know who the ex libris is created for/write his/her name and surname/, and you also know that you have to write the designation of EXLIBRIS, EX LIBRIS or its variations FROM BOOKS, BOOK, LIBRARY in your own language on a contest work. The text parts should be connected to the picture part in an artful way so that they create an ex libris composition. You should look for such art elements that will depict it and freshen it up. Selection of a type of writing is very important, it should be legible, reasonably big and placed in the space. You should select the surface type of writing, and should not underestimate its role. Connection of the picture and text in an artistic way is typical for a good ex libris.

The text and picture parts form together a format /size/ of a book plate. The size of an ex libris is not allowed to exceed the size 13 x 9 cm. We recommend that you should create designs, and also original works, in a smaller size. It is more suitable for using in practice, ex libris is mainly designated for books. Keep this fact in mind.

Place the design on a drawing paper of format A5 (21 x 15 cm). Draw diagonals by a pencil and determine the middle of the surface. Draw a rectangle round the middle with the size not larger than a maximum size of your future work / 13 x 9 cm/. Start your composition of the picture and text parts from the middle. After finishing your proposal, decide if it will be with a frame, or you will keep the outlines created by the composition. The composition can have different shapes: square, rectangular, circle, oval, triangular or polygonal.

The contest design has to be worked out by Indian ink using a pen or a brush in such a form that will predetermine your decision what graphic techniques you want to use for your proposal. You can choose from lino-engraving, lino-cut, wood-cut, wood-engraving, paper-engraving, by a dry needle, plastic-engraving or etching. Mässer plate is also successful at creation of designs. Creation of a design that cannot be technically realised in practice is a very common mistake. Remember that linear pen-and-ink drawing is suitable for a dry needle, combination of surfaces is typical for lino-engraving, lino-cut, plastic-engraving, and other similar techniques.

If you create your design by a white tempera or a white pastel on a dark piece of paper, you will see immediately which lines or places you will remove by a graver or knife. And do not finish your work only with the design, try to create a matrix according to it for printing the original ex libris. It should be the aim of your effort, mainly with students of art schools. Printing out the original on a graphic press is a perfect adventure when you suddenly can see the result of your effort.

The „WATER WORLD“ is the theme chosen for the 15th year of the international art contest EX LIBRIS HLOHOVEC. Please, believe us that a big adventure is waiting for you. People have been exploring the water world for a long time, however, only a small part of its secrets have been discovered. The bigger part is still a mystery for us. We know that in water there live fishes of different shapes, colours, sizes, and the most of them are covered by spots, stripes, ridges, or lines. Well, for graphic techniques, this can be like some music from paradise. Oh, but not only fish are the part of the water world! There are also seals, hippos, frogs, crabs, crayfish, seahorses, octopuses, wonderfully shaped shells, starfish, snakes, wild morays as well as transparent jellyfish. Water is also full of plants; and corals with their colours and structures belong to the most beautiful objects. Of course, neither the water birds can be forgotten. Water world is not represented only by the sea, but also by rivers and streams, quiet natural places around you, vivid and clamorous waterfalls, lakes and mountain tarns. Into the water world, we can include ships sailing on the sea, submarines discovering the deep and shipwrecks reaching no seaport. People sailing in yachts or small boats, surfers, swimmers, divers in their suits, or without them, these all belong to our theme. Not only modern ships can be pictured. You can return back into the history of proud sail-ships and steamboats. Up to the present time, there is still a big part of the unknown kingdom of water. You get the thumbs up for your fantasy, and you can create plants, animals, and countries existing only in your mind. Remember Jules Verne who was also ridiculed, yet the most of his fantastic ideas have become real. Do not be afraid of dreaming! This theme makes it possible. Lose yourselves in books! There you will find a lot of inspiration for your work. Do not be fascinated by your first idea, but try to think about the theme and choose an object which can be well worked by a graphic technique. Only this way can reach the success, and your work will aspire to good award.

In the future, water and its world will play an important role in our world. We should confess that not always people are good to their water world. The evidence can be plenty of waste on the bottom of the seas and rivers, ecological disasters, dead animals, plants, and damaged beaches. We will be very glad if you also take into your consideration this serious aspect having a great influence on our environment. We want to take note especially of the best works with this topic.

You have a very wide theme in your hands. It can be worked by many ways. Do not be afraid to talk with your parents and teachers about your ideas on bookmarks. Make more compositions and then choose the most beautiful one. We are looking forward to your innovative attitude, fantasy and invention. We believe that the creating of „water“ exlibris will bring a lot of pleasure to you and also to our special jury during the evaluation of your works. We are looking forward to your pictures and to meeting the best of you in Hlohovec.

Contest Organizing Committee