

AR CO

Lisboa

Internacional
Contemporary Art Fair

Specific rules for
participation

28 May
31 May

(28 Exclusively for professionals)

2026

Cordoaria Nacional

ifema.es



Specific rules for participation in ARCOLisboa 2026

ARCOLisboa

1.1.

These SPECIFIC RULES apply to the organisation and participation of EXHIBITORS: galleries and publishers of contemporary and avant-garde art and institutions (hereinafter the GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS OF CONTEMPORARY AND AVANT-GARDE ART) in ARCOLisboa 2026, the International Contemporary Art Fair, to be held at A Cordoaria Nacional, Lisbon, from 28 to 31 May 2026 (hereinafter ARCOLisboa 2026), and are complementary to the [IFEMA MADRID GENERAL RULES OF PARTICIPATION FOR ALL EVENTS](#), expressly including its CODE OF ETICS.

The main purpose of ARCOLisboa 2026 is the promotion and sale of avant-garde and contemporary art works and publications of the 20th and 21st centuries, with special attention to the latest visual expressions. As a specific international fair, it also particularly highlights the participation of the GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS that have most stood out in their activities of international scope and impact.

Consequently, within the framework of ARCOLisboa 2026 the aim is to:

- a) Create a visible, stable and international platform for the Portuguese art market.
- b) Present and promote the activity of international GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS that offer a representative vision of the artistic creation of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- c) Faithfully reflect the latest research carried out in the international field of visual arts.
- d) Offer guarantees of professionalism, through the quality of the exhibitions, the dealings with collectors, and the relationship with museums and other artistic entities.
- e) Promote the dissemination and collecting of contemporary art.
- f) Provide related information through its publications and website.

1.2.

Organisation

ARCOLisboa 2026 is organised by IFEMA MADRID in all that refers to its conception, realization and administration.

1.2.1.

ARCOLisboa 2026 Organising Committee

- IFEMA MADRID will appoint the Organising Committee of ARCOLisboa 2026 (hereinafter the COMMITTEE) and will take its decisions considering the proposals of the COMMITTEE, which will be governed by its own Regulations. The COMMITTEE will be assisted by a technical working group that will review, among other issues, the administrative documentation that the applicant GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS must provide and will be comprised of IFEMA MADRID team.
- The COMMITTEE will analyse each and every one of the documents prepared by the Technical Working Group responsible for reviewing the administrative documentation provided by the applicant GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS. The COMMITTEE will also analyse the documentation provided by the applicant GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS containing graphic information about their artists, especially that or those proposed for presentation at ARCOLisboa 2026, about the activities of the GALLERY or PUBLISHER and about its exhibition programme (or publications, in the case of PUBLISHERS).
- The following are members of the COMMITTEE:
 - a) One representative of IFEMA MADRID as the organising entity. The Director of ARCOLisboa 2026 will represent IFEMA MADRID with voice but not vote. The Fair and Congress Business General Management will also represent IFEMA MADRID with voice but no vote.
 - b) Up to a maximum of 5 galleries designated by IFEMA MADRID, ensuring that 2 of them are from Portugal. These Galleries will be selected as members of the Committee of ARCOLisboa Management due to being considered international benchmarks according to the following criteria:

- Be GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS with an international presence by offering a representative overall view of artistic creation in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- Reflect the latest research carried out internationally in the field of the visual arts.
- Promote the diffusion and collecting of contemporary art.
- Convey related information through their publications and websites.
- Show proof of professionalism through the quality of exhibitions, the relationship with collectors, museums and other art organisations.
- Set an example of best professional practices both in relationship with artists, as well as with collectors and other agents in the art sector. Trust is an essential element of the gallery profession and will be considered in the recognition of the GALLERY'S work during the selection process.

This committee, selected on the basis of its representative character in the contemporary art market, shall automatically be accepted as an exhibitor at the corresponding edition of the fair.

The composition, obligations and operations of the COMMITTEE will be established in its own REGULATIONS.

For the sessions to be held, a minimum of 3 members must participate, and at least the representative of IFEMA MADRID or the people whom they might delegate. The composition, obligations and operations of the Organising Committee will be established in its own Regulations.

The ARCOLisboa 2026 Management (hereinafter the MANAGEMENT) will be appointed by IFEMA MADRID and will exercise the conception, realization and administration of the fair by delegation.

The deliberations, qualifications and classifications will be confidential, although the qualification will be made known to any Applicant who should require it.

IFEMA MADRID is not responsible for the opinions expressed by the COMMITTEE or any of its members before or after the meeting, in relation to any of the proposals submitted.

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1.2.2.

ARCOLisboa 2026 Appeals Committee

After consulting the COMMITTEE, IFEMA MADRID will designate the members of the ARCOLisboa 2026 Appeals Committee (hereinafter the APPEALS COMMITTEE) which will review the claims made by the applicant GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS who have not achieved sufficient score to obtain a stand in the Organising Committee's selection process.

The APPEALS COMMITTEE will be comprised of three independent members of the Organising Committee. The president of the APPEALS COMMITTEE will be a legal expert, the other two members will be two experts in the international contemporary art market. These experts must not have been part of the COMMITTEE or exhibited at ARCOLisboa in the two years prior to their appointment.

1.3.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

It will be possible to participate in ARCOLisboa 2026, in accordance with what is established in these Specific Rules for Participation, in one of the following ways:

- By submitting an Evaluation Sheet - in the manner, contents and documentation required therein - and obtaining the necessary score (GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS).
- By selection by Curators appointed for the purpose. (GALLERIES AND PUBLISHERS)

- By invitation of IFEMA MADRID. This invitation cannot be extended to GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS; invitations can only be extended to:
 - Non-commercial institutions dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art and collecting.
 - MAGAZINES and PUBLISHERS dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art and collecting.
- Exceptionally, the COMMITTEE may invite a limited number of GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS of renowned prestige that, despite not having presented their Participation Application, are benchmarks, due to their quality, and referents in the national and international art market. These galleries will be reflected in the document titled "Late Applications" that the Organising Committee will sign at the GALLERY selection meeting.

1.3.1.

PARTICIPATION BY APPLICATION AND OBTAINING THE NECESSARY SCORE. (GALLERIES AND PUBLISHERS)

A. Conditions of participation

Applications to participate in ARCOLisboa 2026 will be limited to GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS that propose works of art exclusively from the 20th and 21st centuries, whether or not they have attended previous editions of ARCOLisboa.

GALLERIES OR PUBLISHERS that apply to participate in the General Programme must, by declaration under their own responsibility, demonstrate the constant and permanent exercise of activities appropriate to a GALLERY or PUBLISHER, in accordance with the following circumstances:

- A minimum of two years open uninterruptedly.
- Regular opening and normal timetable coinciding with that generally established for such venue.
- The GALLERY must occupy a stable physical space.
- Representation of a limited group of artists or estates (in the case of deceased artists) as detailed on the website of the GALLERY (PUBLISHERS will be exempt from complying with this requirement).
- Minimum of four exhibitions per year in the stable physical GALLERY, open to the public and with free access during normal opening hours (PUBLISHERS will be exempt from complying with this requirement).
- Being registered in the corresponding section of the Tax on Economic Activities and, where appropriate, being abreast of payment of the same on the date of submission of the EVALUATION SHEET, or responsible declaration of not being obliged to pay it.
- Set an example of best professional practices both in relationships with artists, as well as with collectors and other agents in the art sector. Trust is an essential element of the GALLERY profesión and will be considered in the recognition of the GALLERY'S work during the selection process.

Failure to comply with these conditions will result in refusal of participation in ARCOLisboa 2026 and the EVALUATION SHEET will not be accepted for processing.

B. Procedure

B.1. Presentation of the application

- GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS interested in participating must submit their EVALUATION SHEET to ARCOLisboa 2026 before **January 12th, 2026**. The submission of an EVALUATION SHEET necessarily implies the applicant's full and unconditional acceptance of these SPECIFIC RULES OF PARTICIPATION in ARCOLisboa 2026, as well as IFEMA MADRID's GENERAL RULES FOR PARTICIPATION. Likewise, the mere presentation of the EVALUATION SHEET implies the applicant's declaration of awareness, acceptance, and mandatory compliance.

The applicant must duly fill in its EVALUATION SHEET. Any lack of completeness of the afore mentioned form, will be cause for non-acceptance in ARCOLisboa 2026 unless the omission is of little significance and can be supplemented with the information contained in the application.

- Presenting the EVALUATION SHEET all along with the selection Process in the General Programme must be accompanied by proof of payment in the account designated by IFEMA MADRID, of the amount of 150 EUROS (+10% VAT for Spanish galleries except residents in Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary Islands). This sum will be reimbursed, only if the applying GALLERY or PUBLISHER is accepted, by discounting it from the total amount of 1,300 EUROS (+10% VAT for Spanish galleries except residents in Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary Islands) for the ARCOLisboa Exhibitor Services.
- All the documentation that the GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS have to present can be either in Spanish, English and Portuguese.
- EVALUATION SHEET should be addressed in writing to ARCOLisboa 2026 before **January 12th, 2026**.

The EVALUATION SHEET should be submitted under the conditions set out in rule 6.3.1, and they will be assessed as specified in these Rules.

B.2. Evaluation and scoring of applications

Once the deadline for submitting applications for participation is reached, the Organising Committee will assess all of them, strictly observing the objectives established in the SPECIFIC RULES FOR PARTICIPATION and in the rules of the COMMITTEE for ARCOLisboa 2026. In line with these objectives, the following aspects will be assessed in this edition, with the maximum score by each of the members of the COMMITTEE indicated:

I. ARCOLisboa 2026 PROJECT.....	35 points
II. GALLERY PROGRAMME.....	30 points
- Artists represented by the GALLERY - Exhibitions of the seasons: September 2024 - June 2025 / September 2025 - June 2026.	
III. PRESENCE OF ARTISTS IN INSTITUTIONS AND MUSEUMS....	20 points
Exhibitions and sales achieved by the GALLERY in 2025.	
IV. PARTICIPATION IN ARCOLisboa.....	5 points
V. PARTICIPATION AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL ART FAIRS.....	5 points
VI. PRESENCE IN LISTS, GALLERY PLANS, WEB, PUBLICATION OF CATALOGUES AND APPEARANCE IN SPECIALISED PRESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.....	5 points

There will be 3 members of the COMMITTEE of section 6.2.1. at ARCOLisboa 2026. Each voting member of the COMMITTEE will assess each of the GALLERIES with the maximum score indicated, the maximum overall score that can be awarded being 100 points. Accordingly, the maximum score that a GALLERY or A PUBLISHER can achieve from all members of the COMMITTEE with the right to vote will be 300 points. These scores will be given by the COMMITTEE within the framework of a presence - base meeting. All applicant GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS, whether they attended the previous edition or not, will be evaluated by applying the above.

B.3. Resolution of applications for participation

- The participation of applicant GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS will be resolved by IFEMA MADRID in accordance with the proposals of the COMMITTEE.

The resolutions will be based on the Conditions expressed in these SPECIFIC RULES, and on the scores assigned by the COMMITTEE for each application, in accordance with the EVALUATION CRITERIA, based on the information received from each applicant GALLERY and PUBLISHER.

- In strict order of scoring, the exhibiting GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS that have accredited the necessary qualities may participate in ARCOLisboa 2026 as exhibitors, provided there is space available.

At the proposal of the MANAGEMENT, IFEMA MADRID will decide on the maximum area of total exhibition space available for participating GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS.

The MANAGEMENT of ARCOLisboa may fill any vacancies that may occur amongst the exhibiting GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS initially selected in strict order of scoring and shall include those whose score demonstrated the necessary qualities to participate, but would not have had access to a booth due to space limitations (WAITING LIST).

- The WAITING LIST may be completed with those applicants that the APPEALS COMMITTEE, in resolving the submitted appeals, considers having demonstrated the qualities required to participate with their score, and the definitive WAITING LIST will be produced.

Once the definitive WAITING LIST has been prepared, the ARCOLisboa Management will proceed to fill the vacancies in the manner indicated above.

IFEMA MADRID, through the ARCO MANAGEMENT, will proceed to inform the Applicant in writing of the decision taken on their possible participation, as indicated.

- Those GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS, that have reached the necessary score for this, will be given the status of EXHIBITOR, and within the period indicated in these rules, the mandatory payments must be made. Failure to comply with this payment obligation will result in the loss of Exhibitor status, and the MANAGEMENT may allocate the space to the next applicant on the list.
- Likewise, the conditions expressed in the APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION must be met regarding registration fees, payment deadlines, assembly dates, insurance and others, otherwise the exhibitor status will be lost.
- The exhibitor's decision not to participate in the Fair is provided for in IFEMA MADRID's General Regulations for Participation, art. 7 of the General Conditions for Admission and Contracting and is reason for the dissolution of the contractual relationship between IFEMA MADRID and the exhibitor under the terms and conditions specified in that article.
- The MANAGEMENT shall notify those GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS that have not achieved the necessary score to be exhibitors whether they have been included in the waiting list or whether it is considered that they have not demonstrated the necessary qualities to participate in the fair with the score they have obtained.
- The MANAGEMENT will also inform any GALLERY or PUBLISHER of the score they have achieved if they should so request.

B.4. Appeal

GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS that have not achieved a sufficient score to obtain a stand in the IFEMA MADRID selection process in accordance with the proposals of the COMMITTEE may appeal against this decision to the APPEALS COMMITTEE cited in Article 6.2.2 of these Rules.

To this end, it will be necessary for the GALLERY or PUBLISHER to inform the MANAGEMENT of their intention to appeal by email within **two (2) business days** after notification of the resolution on their participation in the fair. In this case, within **two (2) business days**, they will be informed by email of the points they have obtained, broken down in accordance with the Evaluation and Scoring criteria.

If, after finding out its score, the GALLERY wishes to file an appeal, this must be sent by email to secretariadearco@ifema.es (IFEMA MADRID), addressed to the MANAGEMENT of ARCOLisboa 2026, within **five (5) business days** following notification of the score obtained, and the MANAGEMENT shall transfer it to the Appeals Committee, which must resolve on all appeals **before February 26th 2026**.

The APPEALS COMMITTEE will review the cases of the GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS that have appealed. Only in those cases in which the APPEALS COMMITTEE appreciates considerable arbitrariness between the importance of the item scored and the score obtained may said rectification be made, with the consequences that this entails as regards acquisition of exhibitor status or inclusion in the WAITING LIST or the maintenance of the status of NOT ADMITTED.

Only in those cases in which the APPEAL COMMITTEE finds a manifest arbitrariness in view of the the relevance of the concept scored and the points obtained, the APPEAL COMMITTEE may the score obtained, the APPEAL COMMITTEE may rectify the score upwards, with the consequences the consequences that this entails, with regard to the acquisition of exhibitor status or the of their status as exhibitor or their inclusion on the WAITING LIST, or their its permanence as NOT ADMITTED.

The Fair Director will attend the meetings convened by the Appeals Committee as an observer without voting rights.

The decisions of the APPEALS COMMITTEE shall be notified in writing and shall be final.

IFEMA MADRID will not be liable in any case for expenses incurred by the GALLERY or PUBLISHER whose application is not accepted in relation to its attempt to participate in ARCOLisboa 2026, since this is the sole responsibility of the applicant and beyond the scope of IFEMA MADRID.

1.3.2.

Participation of galleries in curated programmes

IFEMA MADRID may allow GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS that have not requested to participate formally to take part in ARCOLisboa 2026. These will be selected, where appropriate, by curators appointed for that purpose. The curators will be selected by IFEMA MADRID as professionals of renowned international prestige in the contemporary art sector and for being suitably qualified to form the curated sections determined by the event. The selection must be made in accordance with the parameters established in each respective project of the curators of each section and must be validated by the COMMITTEE.

1.3.3. y 1.3.4.

By invitation from IFEMA MADRID (institutions, cultural spaces, Publications, and art and thought magazines and publishers dedicated to collecting and contemporary art)

At its discretion, IFEMA MADRID may allow certain institutions that have distinguished themselves by promoting contemporary art and collecting to participate in ARCOLisboa 2026. It may similarly admit a selection of CONTEMPORARY ART MAGAZINES and PUBLISHERS that represent the most significant thought and research around contemporary art and collecting.

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1.3.5.

Participation by invitation of the Organising Committee to International GALLERIES and PUBLISHERS of renowned prestige

In order to enhance the prestige of the Fair, the COMMITTEE may exceptionally invite a limited number of GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS to participate, without undergoing the selection procedure, which by their international renown might contribute to attract visitors and collectors of the highest level to ARCOLisboa. Those GALLERIES of renowned prestige that have a first-rate position in the international market and whose artists are present in the collections of the main contemporary art museums in the world will be considered. These GALLERIES will be reflected in the document titled "Late Applications" that the Organising Committee will sign at the gallery selection meeting.

1.4.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN ARCOLisboa

1.4.1

Allocation of Booths

The MANAGEMENT will allocate the booth to each EXHIBITOR, once it has met each and every one of the required requirements.

The allocation will be based primarily on:

- The position obtained in the classification list and in coordination with the MANAGEMENT.
- The Division of allocations into subgroups in accordance with their particular nature and with the global nature of ARCOLisboa 2026.

Once the allocations have been decided, the MANAGEMENT will prepare a floor plan that will show the location of each and every one of the individual stands of the EXHIBITORS.

The MANAGEMENT reserves the right to change the conditions of each booth within reasonable criteria and deviating from the requested location, dimensions or forms, when the concept, layout or distribution of the general exhibition space should so require

Each EXHIBITOR will be informed of its allocation through the sending of the general plan with an exact indication of its location. Likewise, each exhibitor will be in charge of the set up of their booth.

1.4.2.

Exhibitor obligations

All participants and their employees must agree to observe these SPECIFIC RULES and IFEMA MADRID GENERAL RULES FOR PARTICIPATION, as well as all provisions set forth in this GUIDE and in the EXHIBITOR'S MANUAL.

Through its Compliance Management System, Code of Conduct, and other Compliance Policies, IFEMA MADRID recognizes its commitment to the fundamental principles derived from integrity and honesty in its actions, as a public consortium involved in generating wealth for Madrid and acting as an economic and commercial driver.

This recognition includes IFEMA MADRID's responsibility to ensure compliance with its Compliance Management System and internal regulations, including its Code of Conduct, in its relationship with Exhibitors for the achievement of the objectives and fulfillment of the commitments undertaken by the parties, without being required to adhere to the exhibitors' code of conduct or other compliance regulations. IFEMA MADRID may refuse the Exhibitor's participation when such participation implies non-compliance with the Compliance Management System, Code of Conduct and other Compliance Policies of the Institution. For further information, please consult the website:

<https://www.ifema.es/en/about-us/transparency/good-governance>

1.4.3.

Exhibition project and works to be exhibited

The EXHIBITOR undertakes to present its exhibition project for ARCOLisboa 2026 and to declare the works that it presents prior to the Fair being held. If there is any subsequent change, the Fair shall be notified in writing.

Only original avant-garde works of the 20th and 21st centuries will be presented, in accordance with the following conditions:

- Oils, water colours, pastels, drawings, collages.
- Graphic work and multiple originals.

c) Original sculptures (in posthumous models taken from original moulds this circumstance must be recorded), installations and ephemeral work.

d) Photography, video, electronic and digital art.

The following are prohibited:

- Counterfeit and illegal works.
- Works that are highly restored, damaged or transformed.

1.4.4.

Inspection of the exhibited works

With the advice of the COMMITTEE, the MANAGEMENT will inspect the booths, both during their installation and throughout ARCOLisboa 2026, in order to ensure they meet these regulations, and shall verify that the layout, presentation and assembly of the booth have been carried out according to the objective criteria and the spatial conception of ARCOLisboa 2026.

If there are objections to any of the works exhibited or to be exhibited, the EXHIBITOR will be obliged to put an end to the situation that could have caused such objections by withdrawing the work or replacing it with another that is admissible. Otherwise, the booth could be closed without the EXHIBITOR having the right to receive any amount as compensation or for any other reason.

Failure or resistance to comply with the above, as well as the closure of a booth, may justify an EXHIBITOR's exclusion from the next edition of ARCOLisboa, as set forth in Section (Exclusion) of these RULES.

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1.4.5.

Exclusion

The following will be grounds for exclusion of an EXHIBITOR from ARCOLisboa 2026, before or during the Fair, where appropriate - with the closing of the booth:

- a) Closure of the GALLERY or PUBLISHER.
- b) Failure to comply with the SPECIFIC or GENERAL RULES FOR PARTICIPATION, such as non-observance of the conditions expressed in the Application for Participation:
- Non-payment of any of the amounts owed to IFEMA MADRID for participation in ARCOLisboa 2026.
- Failure to respect the opening hours of the booth to the public, or clear irregularity in the opening hours.
- Failure to comply with warnings received in writing about the assembly and maintenance of the booth.
- Subleasing of part (or all) of the booth to another or other GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS
- Payment for the booth by third parties in the form of sponsorship involving the presence of a brand from a company other than the GALLERY itself.
- Consideration that the works exhibited, or the decoration and presentation of the booth fail to meet the international level of ARCOLisboa 2026.

1.4.6.

Communication

IFEMA MADRID will issue adequate information about the artists and the exhibiting GALLERIES or PUBLISHERS in the daily and specialised press.

The EXHIBITORS must, in turn, provide comprehensive and truthful information, as well as all high-quality graphic material that may be requested.

1.4.7.

Promotional material

The free promotional material corresponding to the different fair programmes is detailed below.

The amounts allocated depend directly on the contracted area.

	PROGRAMA GENERAL	PROGRAMAS COMISARIADOS
INV. PÚBLICO	35	25
CATÁLOGO	1	1
PASES EXPOSITOR	6	6
PASES GUEST	35	10

1.4.8.

Rules of assembly

a) Features of the modular booth

- Booth open to hallway.
- These will be in 16 mm chipboard mounted on a 7 cm frame, to give a wall 10 cm thick with a height of 3.66m. It may be nailed or hung at any point.
- Electrical installation: Electric panel with differential and circuit breaker prepared for a power of 130W/sq.m. with a 500W plug base.
- Lighting: One 50W LED spotlight (4000° Kelvin - IRC> 90) for every 5 sq.m. of booth.
- Painting: All walls will be finished with matt white acrylic paint.
- Stand Signage: Standard lettering including commercial name, place of origin and booth number.

b) Work entry/exit periods - booth delivery

The booth will be delivered, fully built, by Wednesday 27 May, at 9:00 am.

Works may be brought in and assembled in the following days and times:

27 May 2026 from 9 am. to 10pm.

28 May 2026 retouching from 8 am. to 12 pm.

While the event is under way, no assembly or decoration work may be carried out on the stands.

Works may be removed and dismantled on **May 31, 2026, from 7.30 pm. to midnight.**

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FINAL PROVISION

IFEMA MADRID does not answer for the opinions expressed by the COMMITTEE or by any of its members before or after its proceedings, in relation to any of the submitted applications.

ACCEPTANCE BY THE GALLERY OR PUBLISHER OF THE SPECIFIC RULES OF PARTICIPATION IN ARCOLisboa 2026

The issuer of the Evaluation Form and subsequent recipient of the Participation Contract declares that he/she is aware of the IFEMA MADRID General Rules of Participation as well as those specific to ARCOLisboa 2026, accepts them and undertakes to observe them to the fullest extent.

The recipient of the Participation Contract will act before the ARCOLisboa 2026 Management and, to all intents and purposes, as representative of the APPLICANT GALLERY or PUBLISHER.

Thank You

