



## Sergio Staino National Award - Pitoon (*Pitoti in cartoon*)

Third Edition  
dedicated to Bibi and Bobo

### Application Form



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With the patronage of:



## **Purpose of the Award**

The Mountain Community of Valle Camonica and the Cultural Centre Teatro Camuno of Breno established in 2024 the **SERGIO STAINO NATIONAL AWARD – PITOON**, aimed at awarding cartoons, comic strips, satirical illustrations and animated cartoons dedicated to the rock art heritage of Valle Camonica, the first UNESCO site recognized in Italy.

The Award is dedicated to the memory of Sergio Staino, a nationally renowned cartoonist, satirist, journalist and director who, since 2003, generously collaborated in promoting Valle Camonica both in the various editions of the festival *From the Shaman to the Showman* and in the educational and training workshops included in the Pitoon project (*Pitoti in Cartoon*).

The bond between the Cultural Centre Teatro Camuno, the Valle Camonica territory and Sergio Staino's creative imagination has always been strong and fruitful. In continuity with this bond, the Mountain Community of Valle Camonica, as managing body of the Institutional Coordination Group of the UNESCO site, shared the desire to dedicate to Sergio Staino a National Award for young cartoonists, comic artists and illustrators, with the agreement and support of his family and of the many friends and artists who knew him.

The 2026 edition of the Award is once again addressed to young comic artists and illustrators and to their creativity, so that through cartoons, comic strips, satirical illustrations and animated cartoons, the story of the bond between humankind and nature may continue along unexplored paths, with respect for the environment as a source of life and cultural identity. This bond is also expressed through the art of signs, as testified by the rock art heritage of Valle Camonica.

Participation in the National Award is regulated by this Call, which specifies the rules and procedures for its operation and selection.

## **Terms and Conditions of Participation**

The **SERGIO STAINO NATIONAL AWARD – PITOON** is open to free participation by illustrators, cartoonists and comic artists of any nationality, origin or residence, **aged between 18 and 50 years**.

Members of the Award Jury, as well as their employees, collaborators and direct relatives, are excluded from participation.

## **Competition Theme**

"Watch out for those two in the Valley of (di/)signs"

Bobo and Bibi have made readers fall in love. In Staino's cartoons, the space of the couple and the family becomes public and political, reflecting our stories. Sergio Staino and Bruna Pinasco loved the Valley of Signs: on its stone pages the matrix of storytelling is carved, with women and men as protagonists. The prehistoric game of the pitota couple, searching for love and meaning, reaches our days through the (di/)sign.

**The theme of the competition is therefore the couple, men and women also found engraved on the rocks, with broad interpretation, while always remaining connected to rock engravings.**

## **Sections of the Award**

The Award is divided into two distinct sections, both concerning a contemporary reinterpretation, in a satirical and humorous key—following the spirit of Sergio Staino—of the themes and images of the rock art of Valle Camonica:

1. Comics, cartoon, strip or illustration section
2. Animated cartoon section

Each candidate may participate in only one section and with only one entry, which must be unpublished and never previously published.

## Submission Deadlines and Procedures

Entries must be uploaded through the web form available on the website [www.premiostaino-pitooon.it](http://www.premiostaino-pitooon.it) starting from **29 April, with deadline at 12:00 noon on 10 August 2026**.

The web form requires uploading the following documentation:

### COMICS, CARTOON, STRIP OR ILLUSTRATION SECTION

1. **Application form** with privacy release
2. **One single A4 page** (21 x 29.7 cm) per contestant, created using any technique. Digital illustrations must be uploaded in .pdf format with 300 dpi resolution. Works made with traditional technique must be scanned from the original format in high quality (300 dpi), as faithful as possible to the original artwork. The file must be named: "*Surname\_Name\_TitleOfWork*"
3. **Curriculum Vitae**, in the form of a short personal presentation, including educational and/or work experience related to the world of art and illustration. Beginners or self-taught participants are invited to mention how their passion for comics or cartoons began and developed. The CV file must be sent in .pdf format named: "*Surname\_Name\_Curriculum*"

### ANIMATED CARTOON SECTION

1. **Application form** with privacy release
2. **Link to the animated cartoon file** in MP4 or MOV video format. The cartoon must not exceed 3 minutes. Technique: 2D drawing, 3D, stop motion, motion graphics, mixed techniques.  
To allow submission of high-quality files, the animated cartoon must be uploaded and shared via a cloud or other online space chosen by the candidate. Only the link enabling the jury to download the file must be indicated in the form.
3. Curriculum Vitae, in the form of a short personal presentation, including educational and/or work experience related to the world of art and illustration. Beginners or self-taught participants are invited to mention how their passion for comics or cartoons began and developed. The CV file must be sent in .pdf format named: "*Surname\_Name\_Curriculum*"

If the comic/cartoon/strip/illustration/animated cartoon has been created by more than one person, the application form allows specifying the number of participants and completing the fields for each author.

The application form also requires the indication of a Contact Person for registration: the Contact Person is the individual who will be contacted for all communications related to the competition. Even in the case of groups, only one Contact Person must be indicated.

**Important: the uploaded files will be the only elements evaluated by the Jury for selection.**

After appropriate checks, participants will be informed by email of the compliance of the uploaded files. If the uploaded material is incomplete or does not match the required formats, the participant will be automatically excluded from the competition.

Participants guarantee the originality of the submitted material and declare that they are the authors of the works presented, holding the organizing bodies harmless from any compensation claims from third parties, for any reason. Participants also declare, under their sole civil and criminal responsibility, that the submitted projects do not violate current legislation.

In the event that submitted works are found to have been previously published (in print or e-book publications), they will be excluded. Publication on one's own personal blog or similar social platform of excerpts of the project clearly recognizable as such and not usable as an autonomous work is not considered "publication" and therefore does not result in exclusion.

Works created totally or partially with the help of Artificial Intelligence will not be eligible. Should the use of Artificial Intelligence be ascertained even after submission, the organizing bodies reserve the right to adopt appropriate measures to sanction such prohibited conduct.

The submitted material shall be considered released for use by the organizing bodies for communication and promotional activities related to the Award (exhibitions, publications, ceremonies or events).

The winners of the two sections, and those mentioned for any merit, shall deliver the original works with a release granting usage rights to the organizing bodies, who may use them not only for communication and promotion of the Award, but also for free reproduction in the promotional and marketing tools of Valle Camonica's territorial resources (for example: websites, posters, participation in fairs and promotional initiatives).

## **Jury**

The submitted works will be evaluated by a technical Jury composed of representatives and professionals of the sector and chaired by:

**ELLEKAPPA (Laura Pellegrini)**

Jury members:

- **ILARIA and MICHELE STAINO**, representing the Association *Bobo e Dintorni*
- **FRANCO STAINO UNICHECH**, Group PTT-Advisor Director – Sergio's brother and drawing enthusiast
- **MARCO NEREO ROTELLI**, painter and sculptor
- **JOSHUA HELD**, comic artist and cartoonist
- **BRUNO LUVERÀ**, comic artist, RAI journalist and writer
- **MAICOL&MIRCO** (Michael Rocchetti), comic artist
- **LAURA SCARPA**, illustrator, comic artist, publisher
- **CINZIA TERLIZZI**, RAI journalist – art and culture sector
- **VANNA VINCI**, illustrator and comic artist
- **MICHELE ASSANTE DEL LECCESE**, comic scriptwriter
- **NINI MARIA GIACOMELLI**, Artistic Director of the Cultural Centre Teatro Camuno

The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

The results of the Jury's selection will be announced by the end of August 2026 on the website [www.premiostaino-pitooon.it](http://www.premiostaino-pitooon.it). The award ceremony is scheduled for September, within the initiatives of the festival *From the Shaman to the Showman*.

## **Prizes and Mentions**

For each section of the **SERGIO STAINO NATIONAL AWARD – PITOON**, the winner will receive:

- a cash prize of € 1,000.00 (one thousand euros)
- a three-day stay in Valle Camonica for 2 people, discovering the cultural heritage of the Valley of Signs ([www.turismovallecamonica.bs.it](http://www.turismovallecamonica.bs.it))
- an original merit plaque

The Jury may, at its sole discretion, award special merit mentions, which include only the assignment of a plaque and the promotion of the work through communication, promotion and marketing activities.

The organizing bodies reserve the right to suspend the initiative and not proceed with the assignment of prizes if the number of participants is insufficient, or if the submitted works are not considered worthy, or for any other reason deemed valid.

## **Outcomes of the Award: Exhibitions and Publications**

Among all the submitted works, the Jury will select the most deserving ones, which may become part of an exhibition that may be organized by the Organizing Bodies. In the future, the works may also be included in a publication freely compiled from the files received for selection.

Participants acknowledge the Organizing Bodies' right to reproduce their works in catalogues, posters, leaflets or other printed materials related to the exhibition, as well as on any other medium useful exclusively for the promotion of the exhibition. The Organizing Bodies commit to citing the Author in all such cases.

Winners and mentioned participants acknowledge the Organizing Bodies' right to reproduce their works not only in the catalogues and promotional materials of the Award, but also within territorial promotion tools of the UNESCO site and Valle Camonica, such as websites, leaflets, brochures or posters.

Except for the promotional purposes stated above, copyright of the submitted works remains with the Authors; therefore, the works may not be used, modified, extracted or reproduced unless otherwise agreed in writing between the parties.

Participation in the competition implies acceptance of all the rules contained in this Call/Regulation. The Organizing Bodies shall have final judgement over disputed cases and matters not expressly provided.

## **Organizational Responsibilities**

The phases of collection, evaluation, selection and awarding of works, as well as the organization of promotional outcomes and final presentation, will be carried out directly by the Centro Culturale Teatro Camuno Association of Breno, which holds exclusive responsibility.

The Mountain Community of Valle Camonica, as managing body of the UNESCO rock art site, shares the purposes of the Award, supports its functioning and assists in its organization, also thanks to funds made available by the Ministry of Culture under Law 77/06 financing Italian UNESCO sites.

**The SERGIO STAINO NATIONAL AWARD – PITOON** is a co-production of the Fondazione Valle dei Segni, which promotes the cultural resources of Valle Camonica.

## **Information**

This Call/Regulation and the application form are available at:

[www.premiostaino-pitooon.it](http://www.premiostaino-pitooon.it)

and on the institutional websites:

[www.vallecamonicaunesco.it](http://www.vallecamonicaunesco.it)

[www.vallecamoniacultura.it](http://www.vallecamoniacultura.it)

For specific information about the Award or assistance with technical submission issues, please contact the Award secretariat exclusively via email at:

[bando@premiostaino-pitooon.it](mailto:bando@premiostaino-pitooon.it)

Information regarding the rock art heritage of Valle Camonica can be found at:

[www.vallecamonicaunesco.it](http://www.vallecamonicaunesco.it)

or on the websites of the individual archaeological parks and research centres active in the area.

## **Personal Data Processing Notice**

Participants' personal data will be processed by the Centro Culturale Teatro Camuno Association of Breno according to the terms available at the following link:

<https://www.ccteatrocamuno.it/privacy>

Breno, 11 Aprile 2026