

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Loewe Foundation announces Craft Prize finalists

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*Finalists' were judged on their ability to update traditional styles. Image credit: The Loewe Foundation*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Spanish fashion label **Loewe** is once again lending support to talented craftspeople from around the world.

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The LVMH-owned brand has announced the 30 finalists of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Loewe Foundation Crafts Prize. Their work will be exhibited at The Noguchi Museum from May 17 through June 18 2023 in New York City.

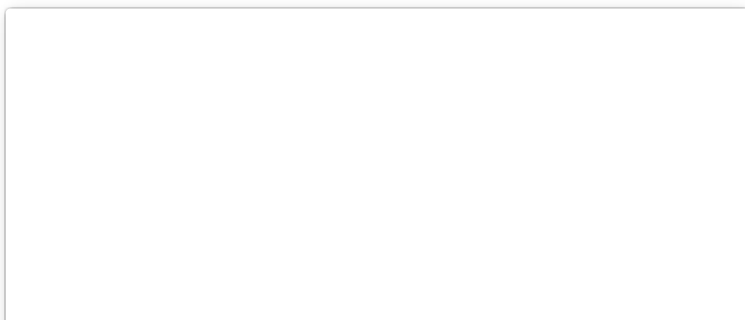
"For this sixth edition, with the vision of the prize now well-established, we felt it was a good time to open doors," said Anaxu Zabalbeascoa, expert panel executive secretary of the Craft Prize at the Loewe Foundation, in a statement.

"We are thus delighted to focus the spotlight more on the notion of craft with artistic ambition, welcoming both the aesthetics of non-Western canon and figurative craft approaches," Ms. Zabalbeascoa said.

### Crafting excellence

Established in 2016 ([see story](#)) by Loewe's creative director Jonathan Anderson, this will be the first time that shortlisted candidates will have the chance to display their work in New York.

The 30 artisans were chosen from among more than 2,700 applicants across 16 countries, proving to be stand-outs in their respective fields. They work in a range of diverse mediums and processes, from metal and leather, to ceramics and bookbinding, updating traditional practices and mastery of craft.



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A post shared by LOEWE FOUNDATION (@loewefoundation)

The museum that will be home to their art is the studio of Japanese-American artist Isamu Noguchi, bringing a human setting to the creative works.

The thirteen jury members came from a plethora of artistic backgrounds, bringing their expertise into the evaluation of the handmade creations. They judged the works on originality, technicality and artistry.

Among the finalists selected is Japanese artist Ai Shikanji, whose entry uses a millennium-old Maki-e technique whereby lacquer motifs are painted on a surface with a fine brush and then sprinkled with gold powder. The resulting "Reflection" is a golden orb bursting with fine strands that would look as at home in the depths of the sea as it would high above the earth.

"Open Vase0622" by South Korean artist Woosun Cheon is another showstopper. The piece is a jar made of overlapping cross-sections of melded nickel and silver wire, hand-sanded to a smooth finish.

On May 16, it will be announced who wins the ultimate prize of 50,000 euros, or \$53,563 by current exchange rates.

French luxury goods conglomerate LVMH has launched a number of other initiatives to support emerging talent across industries, including its annual Young Fashion Designers award which celebrates its 10-year anniversary this year ([see story](#)).

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