

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WELDING VIRTUAL WELDED ART PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

11th to 17th July 2021

A. BACKGROUND

The 51-member country International Institute of Welding (IIW) <http://iiwelding.org/iiw-members> has held a multitude of activities to help improve the global quality of life since its formation in 1948. Some examples are shown in “Linking People, Joining Nations” by David Barnett 1990-2015 <https://cld.bz/Uz1rh1w>

IIW has also implemented many projects on a voluntary basis including improving the image of welding projects.

Through the holding of welded art exhibitions and competitions, IIW is encouraging as many people as possible to take up the art, trade or profession of welding

Welded art provides a number of benefits to people. As a hobby it helps improve the mental health of people, it is a wonderful tool to improve the image of welding and in some cases provides an income for people with the appropriate artistic skills.

IIW held two recent welded art exhibitions in Slovakia in 2019 and due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, a virtual one in 2020 (see **2020 Digital Collection** attached).

This invitation is to encourage people to participate in the categories shown below at the 2021 Virtual IIW Welded Art Photographic Exhibition to be held 11th to 17th July 2021.

These include existing artists in the **Welded Art Exhibits Category** as well as existing and potential new artists in the other four categories including graduates, technicians, welders, teachers, and children amongst others. These categories are **Emerging Joining Technologies, Young Artists, Photography, Instructors and Students**.

B. INTRODUCTION TO 2021 VIRTUAL IIW WELDED ART PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Due to Covid-19, the International Institute of Welding (IIW) took a decision to replace the 2021 IIW Annual Assembly in Genoa with an on-line version of the IIW Annual Assembly to be held over the period 11th to 17th July 2021.

This means that we will hold the 2021 IIW Welded Art Photographic Exhibition in ‘virtual’ mode during the on-line 2021 IIW Annual Assembly from 11th to 17th July 2021. We expect 700-800 welding professionals, engineers and scientists to attend. Participants will be able to enter an on-line room where all the welded art photographs will be displayed. Participants will also be able to take away a ‘**2021 Artistic Soul of Welding Digital Collection**’, containing all the welded art photographic exhibits plus the write-ups on the artists and exhibits including contact details of each artist. The digital collection will also be promoted around the world in a number of ways.

C. CATEGORIES OF EXHIBITS IN THE EXHIBITION

The “2021 Digital Collection” will include an expanded number of exhibits in each of the four categories shown in the “2020 Digital Collection” (attached) plus a special educational institution category all as mentioned below:

- 1 **Welded Art Exhibits:** Typically what is shown on Pages 5 to 54 but expanded from 25 Artists to 35 artists.

2 **Emerging Joining Technologies:** Two examples are shown on pages 57 to 62 from Autodesk in the United Kingdom, (“Ollie the Octopus”) and University of Wollongong and RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia (Spatial Lattice). We welcome researchers, universities and companies around the world using emerging joining technologies to create welded art exhibits for submission.

3 **Young Artists:** We would like to include up to 10 exhibits from children 15 years and under who have taken up welded art as a hobby and who are forming the next generation of up-and-coming young artists.

Thomas Huisman an example of ‘the face of welding for the next generation’ from Brisbane, Australia, is featured on pages 64/65 with his exhibit “Heavy Metal”.

4 **Photography:-** Prof Milan Maronek from Slovakia is featured on pages 67/68 where through his ‘Art of Welding’ series, he brings the viewer closer to the world of technology and welding from the perspective of fine art photography. His exhibit “The Memory of Monet” is a fine example of this. Materials scientists and engineers amongst others would find this an interesting activity to participate in.

5 **Instructors and students:** Around the world there are many **universities, technical colleges, art colleges and high schools** where both instructors and students perform welded art. We would like to include at least 10 exhibits from such educational institutions.

The final number of exhibits to be included in each category is flexible and significantly increased numbers of suitable exhibits can be accommodated.

If you are aware of other people in your networks at companies, universities, research groups, colleges etc who may be producing welded artwork in any of the categories mentioned earlier, I would be grateful if you would send me their contact details and I will contact them directly.

C PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING A WELDED ART PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT

If you would like to accept our invitation, please acknowledge this by a short email to me and then simply send the following information to my email address allbones@iinet.net.au by 12th February 2021.

1 The title and a photograph of your chosen exhibit taken on a digital camera with good image quality and a resolution of 20 megapixel or more which will give high quality A2 prints.

2 A short (200 word) write-up on the objectives / methods / techniques / materials / uniqueness used for your welded art exhibit.

3 A photograph of you (an eight megapixel resolution should be fine) and a short 100 word write-up on your own welded art background and contact details such as email address, website, Facebook etc.

Once I receive your information, I will acknowledge receipt and come back to you by 28th February 2021 about finalizing it for the “Digital Collection” including assisting you if you require more time to complete your exhibit, write-ups etc.

D ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It is important to note that this exhibition is **not** a competition but is simply intended to be an informal and unpressured platform for people to show their abilities and artistic expression. Our main message to everyone, including the 700-800 welding professionals, engineers and scientists who will be attending, is that a key purpose of this initiative is to showcase the flexibility and versatility of the welding discipline, and how it is gaining acceptance as another artistic medium which is capable of expressing many different designs and forms.

The 51 Member country International Institute of Welding (IIW) is a not-for-profit organisation and there will be no charges/fees/stipends/income/proceeds/sales involved in this exhibition. The organisation and administration is done on a voluntary basis, with the practical costs for the exhibition being carried by the IIW. My involvement is also voluntary. Since it is a photographic exhibition, there is no need for artists to be present, and no onerous shipping/set-up of bulky exhibits is required.

The photographs submitted will be treated with the utmost respect and nobody will be allowed a copy of the electronic images submitted to the organisers unless you give agreement to do so, in writing.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Chris Smallbone
Exhibition Organiser
IIW President 2005-2008
IIW Fellow
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