Terms & Conditions

DAACH 2027 | Modern Heritage – Interpreted Your Way

Organized by the School of Design & Architecture (SODA), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Dubai.

1. General Participation

DAACH 2027 invites school students, university students, artists and community members to explore and creatively interpret the theme Modern Heritage – Interpreted Your Way.

DAACH is a broader platform for creative expression, innovation, knowledge creation, capacity building and cultural exchange. The competition forms part of this initiative.

Participation constitutes acceptance of these Terms & Conditions and the relevant official submission guidelines.

2. Participation Categories and Eligibility

There are three main categories: (i) School (Young Creatives), comprising Grades 1–2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–10 and 11–12; (ii) University (Emerging Creatives), for undergraduate and postgraduate students; and (iii) Community & Artists (Community Visionaries), for artists, creative practitioners, community members and others interested in art. The creative titles are descriptors only; official eligibility, judging and awards follow the three main categories.

School students must participate through their respective schools. Each school must place entrants in the appropriate grade-wise group. The organisers may verify eligibility and reclassify or reject entries that do not meet the requirements.

The competition is not open to MAHE Dubai faculty, students or staff to ensure fairness and avoid any potential conflicts of interest, as MAHE Dubai is both the host institution and part of the organising committee.

3. Registration and Submission

3.1 School / University Category

All School & University Category entries must be submitted by the respective school through the official DAACH submission process; direct submissions by school or University students or parents are not accepted.

Each school or university must identify an authorised representative to coordinate entries and communications with DAACH.

Schools or university must verify student information, grade-group classification and required details of submitted work.

Schools must obtain the necessary parental or legal guardian consent and provide confirmation or documentation when required.

Submission by a school or University constitutes institutional endorsement of its participating students.

3.3 Community & Artists Category

Community members and artists may submit independently through the official process. Institutional endorsement is not required for independent participants.

3.4 General Submission Requirements

All entries must be received by the officially announced deadline, with complete and accurate information through the official portal of DAACH 2027

The permitted artistic mediums, formats, sizes and technical requirements are those specified in the category-specific guidelines previously shared by DAACH.

Entry limits and eligibility for collaborative submissions are governed by the official participation guidelines.

Incomplete, incorrectly submitted or late entries may not be considered unless expressly permitted by the organisers.

4. Originality and Authorship

Every entry must represent an original creative contribution by its participant(s). Plagiarism, false authorship and unauthorised reproduction of another person's work are prohibited.

External references, archival materials, photographs and other third-party content may be used only with the necessary permissions and acknowledgements. Material use of generative artificial intelligence must be declared, with the participant's own contribution identified.

The organisers may request process drawings, original files, permissions or other reasonable evidence of authorship. Entries involving serious misrepresentation may be disqualified following review.

5. Compliance with UAE Laws and Regulations

Participants must ensure that their work and related activities comply with the applicable laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates and the relevant Emirate. This includes copyright, privacy, consent to photograph people, cultural and religious sensitivities, protected sites, public communications and public safety.

Necessary permissions must be obtained before accessing, documenting or photographing restricted locations or identifiable individuals. Acceptance of an entry does not constitute legal clearance by the organisers or any authority. Unlawful or unsafe work may be rejected.

6. Evaluation Criteria and Jury Decisions

Eligible entries will be assessed against four criteria: Concept & Originality; Execution & Technique; Composition & Visual Impact; and Thematic & Cultural Alignment. The category-specific weightages and scoring methodology are set out in Section 6 of this document, subject to final approval.

The five School groups will be evaluated separately using grade-appropriate expectations. Jury members must disclose relevant conflicts of interest and refrain from assessing affected entries.

The decisions of the jury and the DAACH 2027 Organising Committee shall be final and binding in all matters relating to the competition.

7. Shortlisting and Verification

- There will be a 2-Stage Judging process. Shortlisted participants will be contacted through the details provided at registration. School / University Category communications will normally be coordinated with the respective school.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to display their submitted work at the event and interact with the Judges panel
- Shortlisted participants may be asked to provide an Emirates ID, passport or relevant institutional identification to verify identity and eligibility. For school /university entrants, verification will normally be coordinated through the school /university and, when appropriate, a parent or legal guardian.
- Identification documents must be collected through secure, authorised channels, used only for legitimate administrative and verification purposes, and handled according to applicable data-protection requirements and institutional procedures.
- The organisers may also request proof of enrolment, authorship or permission. Failure to complete reasonably required verification may affect selection, exhibition or award eligibility.

8. Exhibition and Presentation

Selected entries may be considered for exhibition. Shortlisting does not guarantee display; final selection depends on curatorial, space, technical, safety and presentation requirements.

Selected entrants will receive instructions for preparation, delivery, installation and collection. Schools will coordinate selected student works; other participants will follow the relevant instructions.

Unless otherwise confirmed, participants or their institutions bear packing, transportation and collection costs. The organisers will take reasonable care of works while in custody but do not guarantee insurance unless separately confirmed. Nothing here excludes liability that cannot lawfully be excluded.

9. Copyright and Intellectual Property

Participants retain ownership and copyright in their original creative work, subject to any third-party rights.

By submitting an entry, participants or authorised rights-holders grant the organisers and MAHE Dubai a non-exclusive, royalty-free permission to reproduce, display and document the work for DAACH-related judging, exhibitions, education, communications, publicity, publications and archival purposes, with reasonable attribution.

Submission does not transfer copyright or permit unrelated commercial use, sale or separate licensing without an additional agreement.

10. Photography, Publicity and Consent

DAACH events and exhibitions may be photographed or recorded for institutional documentation and event-related communication.

Identifiable publicity images, recordings or personal information of participants under 18 require appropriate separate parent or legal guardian consent. Consent for participation and optional publicity must be treated separately. Participants and schools must follow event safeguarding and photography instructions.

11. Personal Information and Data Protection

Registration information will be used for legitimate DAACH administration, eligibility verification, communication, judging, safeguarding, exhibition coordination and awards.

Personal information and verification documents will be handled under applicable UAE data-protection requirements and MAHE Dubai procedures. Access will be limited to authorised persons who need the information, and sensitive identification documents will not be included in public announcements.

12. Prizes and Recognition

DAACH 2027 will recognise creativity and meaningful engagement across its participation categories. Exciting prizes and recognitions will be announced soon through official DAACH channels.

The final structure of awards, including any grade-wise distinctions, is subject to official confirmation. All awards are subject to eligibility verification and these Terms & Conditions.

13. Participant Responsibilities

Participants must provide accurate information; respect the privacy, dignity and rights of individuals and communities; obtain necessary permissions; comply with safety and submission instructions; maintain artistic integrity; and cooperate with reasonable verification requests.

Schools and institutions coordinating entries are responsible for communicating relevant DAACH instructions to their students.

14. Changes and Disqualification

The organisers may make reasonable changes to timelines, submission procedures, exhibition arrangements or related operational requirements, with important changes communicated through official channels.

Entries that breach eligibility rules, originality requirements, applicable laws or published conditions may be rejected or disqualified after appropriate review. The organisers may request clarification or supporting material before making a decision.

15. Acceptance of Terms & Conditions

By submitting an entry, participants acknowledge and accept these Terms & Conditions. Schools submitting entries confirm that they have coordinated the students' participation, verified the required details and secured necessary parent or guardian consents. For other entrants under 18, parent or guardian authorisation is required.

By submitting an entry, participants consent to their artwork being displayed, reproduced, published in print and digital publications, and used by DAACH 2027, the School of Design & Architecture (SODA), MAHE Dubai, and its organising team for exhibitions, documentation, publicity, educational, and promotional purposes, with appropriate credit to the participant.