Bio Usawa Biotechnology, Ltd.
KG 1511 Street, Kigali Special Economic Zone

BIO USAWA ART PRIZE 2026

What might it mean for Africa to shape its own health future? How can art help us imagine a world in which scientific progress, human dignity, and access to life-saving medicines are within reach of all?

Bio Usawa invites artists living and working in Rwanda to explore these questions through the inaugural Bio Usawa Art Prize, a visual arts competition and exhibition inspired by the possibilities of African innovation.

The prize launches as Bio Usawa prepares to inaugurate its biotechnology manufacturing facility in Kigali, marking an important step in strengthening Africa's capacity to manufacture advanced medicines and expand access to healthcare.

This moment offers a meeting point between science and artistic imagination. Both disciplines ask us to look beyond what exists, question what is possible, and give form to ideas that can change how we understand the world.

We invite artists to be part of that conversation.

The Artistic Brief

Innovation for Health Equity is an invitation to reflect on the relationship between health, technology, society, and the futures we are building together. We welcome original artworks that explore themes including:

- **Health equity and human dignity** — the right to health, equitable access to medicines, and the human impact of scientific progress.
- **African innovation and self-reliance** — local scientific capabilities, advanced manufacturing, and Africa's growing role in shaping global health.
- **Science and biotechnology** — the possibilities of scientific discovery, from biologic medicines and monoclonal antibodies to the technologies transforming healthcare.
- **Sustainability and planetary health** — biodiversity, environmental stewardship, circular economies, and the connections between a healthy planet and healthy communities.

- **Rwanda's future** — creativity, ingenuity, industrial transformation, and the aspirations of a country building new capabilities for its people.

These themes are intended to inspire, not restrict. We encourage artists to interpret the subject freely, challenge assumptions, and bring perspectives that are unexpected, personal, and thought-provoking.

Environmental sustainability is an important part of this conversation. Artists are encouraged to consider the relationship between planetary and human health, and to explore the use of locally sourced, reclaimed, recycled, or otherwise environmentally responsible materials.

Who Should Apply?

The competition is open to artists residing in Rwanda, regardless of nationality, working across visual art disciplines. Emerging practitioners are encouraged to participate.

We welcome submissions across painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, printmaking, mixed media, installation, and other visual forms.

Above all, we seek originality of thought, strength of artistic expression, and a genuine engagement with the theme.

Prizes: Up to RWF 3,000,000 per winner

By entering the competition, artists acknowledge that the physical artworks awarded first, second, and third prizes will become the property of Bio Usawa as part of the respective prizes.

Winning artists will receive recognition for their work and an opportunity to build an ongoing relationship with Bio Usawa. Beyond the competition, there may be opportunities to collaborate on future artistic commissions, creative projects, and initiatives at the intersection of art, science, and public engagement.

Rights & Ownership

- Copyright: Artists retain 100% full copyright to their creations.
- Licensing: Participants grant Bio Usawa a non-exclusive license to feature submitted artwork images for promotional, archival, and event materials with appropriate credit to the artist.

- Acquisition: Physical ownership of the winning piece is transferred to Bio Usawa for permanent installation at the facility.

Exhibition and Public Engagement

Selected works will be exhibited during the inauguration of Bio Usawa's biotechnology manufacturing facility in Kigali, bringing participating artists into conversation with audiences from across healthcare, science, industry and government.

The exhibition will offer a platform for artists to share their interpretations of a subject that extends well beyond the laboratory: how we build societies in which innovation serves people, progress is more inclusive, and the benefits of scientific advancement reach those who need them.

For Bio Usawa, this initiative is an opportunity to engage with Rwanda's artistic community not as an audience for science, but as an essential contributor to the wider conversation about its meaning and impact.

Interested artists are invited to submit original work responding to the theme Innovation for Health Equity on info@biousawa.com. An applicant may submit up to three entries.

Deadline: 27 November 2026

About the Prize

The Bio Usawa Art Prize reflects a belief that innovation is not the exclusive domain of science or technology. It also belongs to the people who question, interpret, challenge, and imagine what progress can look like.

As Bio Usawa works to strengthen Africa's capacity to manufacture advanced medicines and advance health equity, the prize creates space for artistic perspectives to enrich that ambition. We invite Rwanda's artists to bring their ideas, experiences, and imaginations to this shared undertaking.

Help us imagine a future in which innovation serves humanity, health equity becomes more attainable, and Africa has an ever-greater role in shaping both.

African Innovation. Sustainable Futures. Health for All.