



Illustration: Lille Santanen

Now open for application: A record amount of project grants available

Due to the exceptional situation, the Finnish Illustration Association will be awarding a total of 130 000 euros in grants for illustration projects this spring. The application period for project grants is 1–30 April 2021.

The Finnish Illustration Association is supporting illustrators by giving out an exceptionally large amount of project grants in spring 2021. A total of 130 000 euros in grants will be awarded, with individual grants ranging from 1 000–6 000 euros. The grants will be awarded to individual professional illustrators or groups for artistic work. Illustrators who are new to the field are also encouraged to apply. The grant decisions will be made by a three-member jury of experts.

The grants of the Finnish Illustration Association have always been available to all professional illustrators, regardless of their background. This year, we want to promote diversity not only in words, but also in actions, and we hope to see a wide range of diverse grant applications, especially from illustrators who belong to an underrepresented group in the field of illustration or in society, for instance due to their background, personal attributes or the genre of illustration they represent.

Do you want to expand your illustration work to new areas or explore new techniques? Develop your illustrative expression or take risks in the art of illustration with the help of a grant?

Examine a social phenomenon in a joint project by means of illustration? Make your dream of a book or an exhibition come true? Develop your game concept? Create a journalistic illustration project or engage in free pattern design?

Perhaps you are working in an underrepresented position in the field and would like to carry out an illustration project with a theme that is meaningful to you? Please apply for a project grant!

Or perhaps you are just a regular illustrator who is not part of any underrepresented group? Don't worry, you can still apply for a project grant in the same way as before!

How to apply

Who can apply for a grant and for what type of project?

An illustrator or a group practicing the profession can receive a project grant up to every other year and can apply for a grant for working, not to cover expenses. The project must focus mainly on illustration. An artistic or research element can be part of a commercial project. The project may begin no sooner than May 2021.

The grants are distributed from the remunerations collected by the copyright organization Kopiosto from the use of illustrations, which are allocated to various organizations and associations according to the method of copying. Providing an authorization to Kopiosto as an illustrator is important to the Finnish Illustration Association – it allows the Association to distribute grants. You can download the authorization here: <https://kuvittajat.fi/kuvitusalan-abc/tekijanoikeudet-pahkinankuouressa>. You can check the status of your authorization by sending an e-mail to asta.boman@kuvittajat.fi or using the Rightsholder Services of Kopiosto. The applicant does not necessarily have to provide an authorization or be a member of the Finnish Illustration Association, but meeting both criteria can decide the matter in the applicant's favour when the jury assesses applications that are otherwise equally matched.

What makes a good application text?

You can submit the project grant application in Finnish, Swedish or English. The application should contain a clear and concise description of the project. The application text should briefly answer the following questions:

- What is the project, how will it be carried out and what is the schedule?
- Describe the partners and the existing funding you have.
- Explain what makes the project special, for example in terms of its visual language, content or cooperation – why should it be supported by a project grant?
- If you want, you can mention if you belong to an underrepresented or a minority group in the field of illustration or in our society, or if your project has a special relevance to the diversity of the field of illustration. And please remember that the theme of the project does not have to relate to your minority position, unless you specifically want to explore the theme! The expert jury has been given instructions to take this into consideration when comparing applications that are otherwise evenly matched.

What should the image attachment contain?

You may attach sketches, final images or examples of the style you are aiming for in the project to your application. You should include no more than 2–6 sample images. You can make the jury's work easier by combining the image attachments into one PDF file. Fill in the application form carefully and make sure you add the appropriate attachments. You cannot edit the application after sending it.

Do you need more advice on how to apply for a grant?

Read our full instructions here > <https://kuvittajat.fi/blogi/apurahan-ylistys-neuvoja-hakijalle>
And take part in Kuvittaja-klubi in April:

Kuvittaja-klubi <3 Grants

You can get help with writing your application from the grant-themed Kuvittaja-klubi event in Zoom on Monday, 19 April, at c. 5.30 pm; right after the spring meeting of the Finnish Illustration Association, which starts at 5 pm and is open to all members. During the event, seasoned grant experts, Chairperson of the Association Maija Hurme and Member of the Board Reka Kiraly, reveal the secrets of a good grant application and answer questions on how to apply for a grant – in Finnish, Swedish and English. Register for the event: asta.boman@kuvittajat.fi

More information and support

If you have linguistic or other challenges or questions about filling in the form or problems with the accessibility of the application form, please contact asta.boman@kuvittajat.fi. We would be happy to help and provide more information.