



Stargard 11-14.06.2026
**46. International
Hanseatic Day**

HANSEartWORKS 2026

Invitation

Dear artists from Hanseatic cities,

In the Stargard's edition of HANSEartWORKS, we want Artists to be inspired by water. The symbol of the river is included in the coat of arms of Stargard, emphasizing its importance for the city. It is deeply ingrained in the history of Hanseatic Cities. Many of them were ports, and the Hanseatic trade routes were largely waterways: maritime and river routes.

We would like water to not only be a reference to the past, but also to inspire artists to speak out on contemporary issues. Water has always been a good, a life-giving force, but it can also be a threat. Without water, the world and humanity perish. Care for water management is one of the most important challenges of the modern world, and the responsibility for prudent management of water resources lies with each of us. I cordially invite you to participate in the next edition of HANSEartWORKS, which will take place in Stargard in 11th-14th of June 2026 in conjunction with the 46th International Hanseatic Day 2026. It will take form of exhibitions, film screenings and performances with the theme of water.

Książnica Stargardzka (Stargard Library) will provide its spaces and nearby areas for artists presenting their works created in traditional form of expression (paintings, sculptures, etc.).

The aim of the exhibition is not only to showcase the aesthetic Power of Water, but also to encourage viewers to reflect on its role in our daily lives and within a broader cultural and social context. Water inspires, connects and transforms. Through art, we can experience its power on a spiritual level. I hope that the theme **Power of Water** will encourage Artists from Hanseatic Cities to embark on creative quests.

See you in Stargard!

With Hanseatic Greetings,
President of Stargard

Rafał Łajec



Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



Background

International Hanseatic Day

In the days of medieval Hanseatic League, the Hanseatic cities met regularly at the Hanseatic Day. Trade issues were discussed there and joint decisions were made. In the modern times the International Hanseatic Day is a major annual festival where cities belonging to the Hanseatic League gather to celebrate their shared history and culture, featuring markets, exhibitions, performances and an Assembly of Delegates.

HANSEartWORKS

HANSEartWORKS is an international exhibition project. It's designed as a group exhibition with a representative character and is an integral part of every International Hanseatic Day. This will be the twentieth occasion that artists from the union of Cities THE HANSA are invited to participate in artistic feature and to take part in the celebration of Hansa's international solidarity. Every HANSEartWORKS event has had a theme chosen by the organiser. This year's theme is **Power of Water** and will focus on traditional (paintings, sculptures, artwork etc.) and modern (animations, graphics, performances) art forms.

The Organiser of HANSEartWORKS 2026

The arranger of the 2026 HANSEartWORKS is Książnica Stargardzka (Stargard Library). It's a local public and cultural institution located in Stargard, in the West Pomeranian region of Poland. The library is housed in restored 16-th century bourgeois townhouses in Stargard. Beyond lending books, Książnica Stargardzka serves as a cultural center offering educational programs, workshops, lectures, meetings with authors, thematic exhibitions, children's activities, film and board game events and other community-oriented offerings.

Applications

The application must include:

- Completed Application Form,
- A preliminary description of the artists' submitted work,
- Photographies of the submitted work,
- The artist's or artists' CV,
- The artists's or artists' contact details,
- The title of the work of art.

The application must be written in **English, German** or **Polish**.

If accepted by the selection committee, the applicant artist is expected to exhibit his art in the name of HANSEartWORKS 2026 in Stargard. The planning process will be implemented through frequent dialogues and in close cooperation with the HaW project directorate.

The application shall be submitted to the city of residence, which is a member of the Hanseatic League.

Procedure for the Application

Artists who wish to take part in the performance festival in HANSEartWORKS will first be selected by their Hanseatic City. The city will forward its representative's application to Książnica Stargardzka, where a selection committee, will make the final decision as to which entries will be selected. Every Hanseatic City, who sent an entry to the selection committee, on Stargard, will receive a reply. Those artists who are accepted by the selection committee, will receive a reply in the affirmative directly from Książnica Stargardzka. This will be followed by a direct contact between the participating artist and the project leader of the organiser – Książnica Stargardzka.

Who can apply?

All artist over the age of 18 can apply. Applicants may be individual artists or artist groups. Their home Hansa City will need to defray costs for all artists' travel and accommodation.

Financing

The financing of a representative in HANSEartWORKS 2026 will be undertaken by the representative's home Hanseatic City. Financing is to cover all travel and accommodation expenses and fees.

Time Plan

3rd October 2025

Announcement of the Regulations and sending invitations to Hanseatic Cities.

by 11th January 2026

The Hanseatic Cities will submit the application from their selected applicant to Książnica Stargardzka.

February 2026

The jury selects those submissions that will participate in the HANSEartWORKS in Stargard, 11th-14th of June 2026. The cities will be informed of the jury's decision and the selected artists will be contacted directly.

11th June 2026

Inauguration of the Hanseatic Day in Stargard.

12th June 2026

Inauguration of HANSEartWORKS festival in Stargard.
The exhibition will take place.

Our very best wishes from Stargard, Poland!

Jolanta Aniszewska,

Director of Książnica Stargardzka

Monika Myszka,

Project Leader HaW 2026, Książnica Stargardzka

Kacper Mierzyński,

Project Leader's Deputy, Książnica Stargardzka

