

Competition “IN SEARCH OF THE NEW MANGAKA”

Rules (deposit in progress)

SEFA EVENT, a French company per actions simplifiée (simplified joint stock company) with a share capital of 100,000 euros, registered in the Bobigny Trade and Companies Register under number 493 919 146, whose registered office is located at 14 place Georges Pompidou, 93160 Noisy-le-Grand, France, is the organizing company of Japan Expo Paris, the 2026 edition of which will take place from July 9 to 12 (inclusive), at the Paris Nord Villepinte Exhibition Center. Hereinafter referred to as ‘Japan Expo’.

Shonen Jump+ is a digital publishing platform of Shueisha, a Japanese publishing house, which also manages the international platform MANGA Plus by Shueisha.

Hereinafter referred to as “Shonen Jump+”.

SEFA EVENT (Japan Expo) and Shonen Jump+, hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Partners”, have joined forces to organize a contest entitled “In Search of the New Mangaka” (the “Contest”) with the aim of revealing new French manga talents.

Details of the competition terms and conditions are as follows:

Article 1. Purpose

The Partners are organizing a manga competition with two categories: Story Manga Category and Drawing Category. The deadlines for entries are respectively the 15th May 2026 and the 31st May 2026.

The Partners guarantee the candidates (named the “Candidates”) their complete impartiality in the running of the competition.

Article 2. Communication about the competition

The terms and conditions of the competition will be officially communicated to the public by the Partners via their respective websites, social networks and any other useful means of communication, as deemed appropriate by each Partner.

The official websites are:

<https://www.japan-expo-paris.com/fr/>

<https://mangaplus.shueisha.co.jp/>

<https://shonenjumpplus.com/>

Article 3. Conditions of participation

Participation is free with no obligation of purchase.

Participation in the competition implies unreserved acceptance of the present rules and of the principle of the competition. Any person who infringes one or more of the articles of this regulation will be deprived of the possibility of taking part in the competition, as well as of any prize that may have been awarded.

The competition is open to all individuals aged 18 or over on July 1st, 2026.

For the Story Manga Category, a work may be created by two people, who will then be considered as a single Candidate.

In case of winning, these two people will be free to divide the prize as they wish. The Partners are in no way responsible for the sharing conditions.

The works of art submitted must meet all the following criteria:

- For the Story Manga Category, the manga must be an **original one-shot**, i.e. a story with **a beginning and an end**, which has never been commercially exploited in any way (e.g. sale on the Internet, sale at conventions), nor won a prize in any other competition. The number of pages must be between **10 and 45 pages**. Any introductory illustration will be counted in the total number of pages. Each Candidate may submit from 1 to 3 works.

-For the Drawing Category, you may submit up to three works. Multiple entries to the same category are allowed. Do not use the final storyboards for any purpose other than entering this contest.

For both Categories:

The artwork must also not have been submitted to publishers or magazines between February 1st and July 12th, 2026.

- Texts must be written **in French or in English**.

- Manga must be in **black and white**.

- Manga must be in **Japanese reading direction (reading from the right to the left)**.

- For preselections, a **low-resolution PDF in A4 format, 150 dpi**, must be supplied.

- All pages **must have the same dimensions**.

- Final files must be exported as: **JPEG or PNG**. Dimensions must be **1,920 x 2,560 px**

(or more, but in homothetic proportions) in order to ensure optimum readability on smartphones, tablets and computers.

Their resolution must be at least **600 dpi**. These files and conditions will be requested from the list of 10 titles that won the preselection stage.

- Files must be named as follows:

Title_Pseudonym or candidate's name

Example: Mon Manga_Dupont Pierre

- The cost of this creation will be borne by the Participant.

- The mangas (Story Manga Category) submitted by the candidates will not be made public, with the exception of the 10 pre-selected mangas.

Article 4. Submission of work

Candidates must send a complete PDF file of their work of art / one-shot via a Wettransfer link or equivalent, **no later than :**

-May 15th, 2026 at 23:59 CET (GMT+1) for the Story Manga Category

-May 31st, 2026, at 23:59 CET (GMT+1) for the Drawing Category

to the following mail address: nouveau-mangaka@sefa-event.com.

Candidates must specify the following information:

- Work's title

- First and last name

- Pseudonym to be used

- Date of birth

- City of origin

No original plates, covers or drawings may be sent by post (no documents will be returned).

Candidates guarantee that they are the authors of the project submitted and certify that this project is not the subject of any publishing contract in any form or medium whatsoever. Should a conflict arise despite this guarantee, candidates undertake to assume and cover all costs, including legal and procedural costs, as well as any other expenses related to the management and resolution of this conflict.

Article 5. Composition and operation of the Jury

For the Story Manga Category

The competition is divided into two stages, with one jury for each stage.

1/ The pre-selection jury

The pre-selection jury is made up of French mangaka, content creators, Japan Expo members and journalists who are well acquainted with manga thematics.

Its role will be to shortlist up to 10 titles by May 31th, 2026, at the latest.

These titles will be published on MANGA Plus by SHUEISHA, but also translated and adapted into Japanese, then sent to the members of the final jury.

2/ The Final Jury

From the 10 finalists, the MANGA Plus EiC and editors from the Shonen Jump+, Digital Margaret and Bessatsu Margaret editorials will determine the winners for first prize and second prize. Each member of the Jury has one vote. Votes will be made on the basis of a simple majority.

For the Drawing Category

1/ The Final Jury

The MANGA Plus EiC, editors from Shonen Jump+, Digital Margaret and Bessatsu Margaret determine the winners for first prize and second prize for each genre.

Article 6. Contest Mechanics

For the Story Manga Category, the Pre-Selection Jury will designate up to 10 mangas by May 31th, 2026, at the latest.

These mangas will be published on MANGA Plus by SHUEISHA before July 13th 2026.

The exact date will be communicated on the Partner websites and social media.

These selected mangas will also be translated and adapted into Japanese for submission to the Final Jury members.

The Final Jury will select the winner(s) in view of an announcement on Sunday, July 12th, 2026, at Japan Expo Paris.

For the Drawing Category, the winning entries will be also published on MANGA Plus.

The selection criteria for the Story Manga Category applied by the Jury will be those of a publisher, namely: the quality of the storyline, the graphic quality, and the originality of the story.

The selection criteria for the Drawing Category applied by the Jury will be those of a publisher, namely the graphic quality.

Article 7. Announcement of Winners and Prize Presentation

The pre-selected mangas will be announced following their publication on MANGA Plus by SHUEISHA.

The winning works will be officially revealed at Japan Expo Paris on Sunday, July the 12th. This information will be shared on the Partner websites and social media.

Article 8. Nature of the Prizes Awarded

Depending on the quality of the submitted one-shots, it is possible that several first prizes will be awarded. Similarly, it is also possible that no first prize will be awarded.

The authors of the pre-selected works will receive a daily invitation for Sunday, July 12th, at Japan Expo, to meet the jury members in the conference dedicated to presenting the awardees. The authors will be expected to take part in this event. For this purpose, they will receive a daily invitation for Japan Expo. It is agreed that all other expenses related to the laureates' participation, including but not limited to accommodation, transportation, meals, and personal expenses, are entirely the responsibility of the laureates.

The 10 finalists in the Story Manga Category, as well as the winning entries in the Art Category, will be published on MANGA Plus.

Prizes are as follows:

- Story Manga Category:
First Prize: 5,000 €
Second Prize: 2,500 €
- Drawing Category:
First Prize: 1,000 €
Second Prize: 500 €

Shonen Jump+ undertakes to reward the winners in accordance with the terms set forth above and in compliance with applicable laws. Japan Expo cannot be held responsible if Shonen Jump+ fails to fulfill this obligation or breaches the law in awarding the prizes.

Article 9. Image Rights Authorization

It is understood and agreed between the Parties that:

- The Partners have the right to photograph and record (official photos, video footage) any performance, public appearance, or interview of the Candidates during Japan Expo Paris 2026.
- The Partners have the right to use the photos or videos, publish them, duplicate them, adapt them, or modify them, either alone or with other elements, by any technical means or others, known or to be discovered, on any medium, printed or digital, and in all formats known or to be discovered.
- The Partners have the right to use the data recorded during photo or video captures (raw or edited images), as well as the pre-selected works or the names of their authors (pen names), for promotional purposes, without territorial limitation, through the following means:
 - Brochures and promotional documents;
 - Their official websites and social media;
 - Official channels on online streaming platforms.
- The pre-selected Candidates must mention Japan Expo and Shonen Jump+ if they communicate about this contest on social media or if they are asked questions about it during media interviews.

Article 10. Winners' Publication Rights

The copyright of the work submitted in this contest belongs to its author. If the submitted work is published on the MANGA Plus by SHUEISHA application or website or Shonen Jump+, the publication rights, its use on the web, and secondary publication rights of the work are exclusively granted to SHUEISHA.

SHUEISHA reserves the right to modify any part of the winning work when it is published on the Shonen Jump+ application and website.

Article 11. Exhibition Rights

The mangas of the pre-selected candidates may be exhibited in a dedicated exhibition during Japan Expo Paris 2026. None of the people who participated in the contest can refuse this exhibition if it is organized.

Article 12. Personal Information and Access Rights

The data collected by the Partners regarding the Candidates will not be used for political, electoral, or commercial solicitation. The collection of information about the Candidates is solely for the purpose of creating and using a contact file for informational or communication purposes regarding the contest, excluding any commercial solicitation.

Article 13. Confidentiality Agreement

The Candidates agree not to disclose any information they may become aware of regarding the entire pool of projects competing in the manga contest organized by the Partners.

This commitment will remain in effect until July 13th, 2026.

Article 14. Cancellation

In case of a forfeit, withdrawal, or prize refusal by an awardee, the Partners reserve the right, at their discretion, to choose or not to choose another candidate, and therefore to not award the applicable prize.

Article 15. Liability

The Partners reserve the right to shorten, extend, modify, or cancel the contest if circumstances require it. The Partners' liability cannot be engaged as a result. The Partners cannot be held responsible for the cancellation or withdrawal of a Candidate.

Article 16. Claims and Others

The Partners reserve the right to examine any complaints related to this contest. Their decision on this matter is final and not subject to appeal. Claims related to this contest must be filed under penalty of forfeiture, no later than the 5th working day after the award is presented. They should be sent by registered mail to SEFA EVENT, to this mail address: nouveau-mangaka@sefa-event.com

Article 17. Modification of the Rules

The organizing company reserves the right to extend, shorten, modify or cancel its operation at any time, particularly in the event of force majeure, without participants being able to claim any compensation. The rules, as amended by amendment(s), will be filed, where applicable, with SELAS ACTA - Commissaires de Justice associés - 25 bd Joffre 54000 NANCY - Office de Metz 15 rue de Sarre BP 15126 57074 METZ Cedex 3.

The Partners reserve the right to modify these rules if necessary, and to make any decisions they deem useful for the application and interpretation of the rules. Any changes, substantial or not, to these rules may be made during the contest and will then be communicated to the Candidates, who must comply with them as annexes to the present.

Article 18. Final Provisions

The rules are available on the website: <https://www.japan-expo-paris.com/en/>,
https://mangaplus.shueisha.co.jp/web_pages/2228/

The Candidates agree to comply with the terms of these rules and waive any recourse against the Partners.

Participation in the contest constitutes full acceptance of these rules.

Article 19. Applicable Law and Competent Jurisdictions

Any dispute, disagreement, or litigation arising from these will be subject to French law. Legal actions will be brought before the competent courts in Paris.