

ART WITHIN YOUR CRYSTALS

CRYSTAL STRUCTURE REPRESENTATION CONTEST

Art within your crystals is an international crystal structure representation contest sponsored by Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) and Sección Territorial de Madrid of Real Sociedad Española de Química (STMadrid RSEQ).

The goal of this contest is to divulge the wonderful world of crystal structures from an artistic point of view, using pictures and texts both scientifically sound and illustrative of the inner beauty that crystals possess.

1.- PARTICIPATION

The contest is open to individuals at least 18 years old, presenting original images created from their own crystal data or from previously published data.

Contestants are solely responsible for lawfully obtaining the represented structural data. The organization team members and members of the Jury cannot present any entries in the contest.

Each participant may submit up to **3 entries**. Submission of an entry in the contest constitutes implicit agreement with these rules and warrants that the entry complies with all of the requisites set out in these rules.

The organisers and sponsors of the contest may use the received images and texts with scientific dissemination purposes.

2.- REQUIREMENTS

Each entry must include:

2.1. Image: Only original images will be accepted in JPEG, BMP or TIF format. The minimum size of the files is 2480 x 3508 pixels (equivalent to A4-paper size with 300 dpi resolution). Submitted files must not exceed 25 MB. Images that do not comply with these specifications will not be accepted. Should non-crystallographic elements appear (photographs, drawings, etc), they will not be the most relevant feature considered by the Jury for the evaluation.

2.2. Personal data and affiliation with a research or academic institution, if applicable.

2.3. Title and descriptive text for the presented image. The text will be written in English and should include a brief artistic and accessible description of the image. Remember that this is an outreach activity: a purely crystallographic or scientific text (suitable for the description of an illustration in a scientific manuscript) could not be appropriate.

2.4. Descriptive scientific text of the presented crystalline structure written in English (this information will only be used by the organizers and the Jury for validation purposes), including relevant crystallographic information both about the image and the structure (for instance, symmetry elements, crystallographic

plane represented in the image, etc.). Software used to represent the crystalline structure must also be specified. If the image was modified by an image editor, it must also be indicated. In case AI is used to modify some details from the image, it must be specified, and the image without modifications also sent. Special care should be taken to avoid altering the crystal structure itself. Images fully generated by AI will be excluded.

2.5. Data source and crystallographic information file. It is mandatory to identify the bibliographic cite containing the structural data, and to provide the crystallographic file (.cif or similar). The corresponding bibliographic citation will be included in case of an already published structure. If the structure has not been published or is in the publication phase at the time of participation, it is recommended to send a simplified .cif¹ (without structure factors).

Any participation that does not comply with these requirements or does not provide all the necessary documentation within the stipulated period will be excluded from the contest.

3.- PARTICIPATION

A [submission form](#) is available for contestants to enter the contest. After receiving the form, the organization will contact the contestant and send the instructions to upload the files.

The image, along with all of the other required documents (structural data file and, optionally, the paper in electronic format in which the solved structure is included), must be shared using a cloud sharing link or similar means (*i.e.* OneDrive, iCloud, Dropbox, WeTransfer) emailing to the address crystal.contest@uam.es

4.- TERM

The period for sending images ends **September 15th, 2025**.

5.- EVALUATION CRITERIA

Entries will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

4.1. Image: Image quality, aesthetic beauty, structural representation clarity, originality.

4.2. Title and text: Adequacy of image title, clarity and accuracy of the scientific text, scientific dissemination skills, originality.

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Generating a simplified .cif can be easily made by opening the file with a structural data interpretation program, such as Mercury or Vesta, and saving it again as a .cif. It is highly recommended to rename the file, to avoid overwriting the original file.

6.- JURY

The Jury members will be selected from fields related to Crystallography and Art.

Entries will be evaluated anonymously, according to the criteria set in these rules before the reception of contestant entries.

7.- AWARDS

The Jury will select 12 finalist images that will be included in the 2025 commemorative calendar. The three winners will be selected among these finalists, and will receive:

1. **prize:** three copies of the calendar, a T-shirt and a mug.
2. **prize:** three copies of the calendar and a T-shirt.
3. **prize:** three copies of the calendar and a mug.

The remaining finalists will each receive a certificate of recognition and two copies of the commemorative calendar.

8- EXHIBITIONS

All of the valid entries received will be displayed in an online exhibition at several social media and webpages from the sponsors.

A public exhibition will also be held in the hall of the Facultad de Ciencias (UAM) and Universidad Miguel Hernández (UMH).

If you have any questions or comments, contact us at crystal.contest@uam.es