30 Years of the World Bodypainting Festival – The World Championships touring in Europe

When the World Bodypainting Festival was founded in Carinthia, Austria in 1998, few could have imagined the international success story that would follow. What began as an extraordinary idea and a small art project developed over three decades into the world's leading platform for bodypainting art, bringing together artists from more than 50 nations and a unique international community.

In 2027, the World Bodypainting Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary. Three decades of creativity, artistic innovation, international encounters and unforgettable moments have shaped this success story. At the same time, the anniversary year marks another step in the festival's evolution.

After many successful years in Carinthia, a new chapter began in 2025: instead of one large festival at a single venue, the **official World Championships** are now held at several international destinations. The new concept was enthusiastically embraced by the global community and will therefore continue in 2027.

"Over the past 30 years, we have experienced many changes, overcome challenges and continually reinvented ourselves. Along the way, we have learned that change also creates new opportunities. The new format allows us to bring bodypainting art closer to people, discover extraordinary places and take our international community on a shared journey," explains the World Bodypainting Festival organising team.

The Festival on the Move

Instead of a traditional large-scale event in one location, the World Bodypainting Festival takes its international community on a journey across Europe. Each World Championship takes place at a different destination and is accompanied by an individual supporting programme that brings art, culture and international encounters together.

What makes this special is that, although the competitions take place throughout the year and at different locations, **only one official World Champion title is awarded in each category**. This means the number of World Champion titles remains unchanged, and each title carries the same significance as in previous years.

30 years of the World Bodypainting Festival – a story that continues.

wbf
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WBF Spain 2027 – Águilas, Spain
31 January 2027

Following its successful debut in 2026, international bodypainting art returns to the famous Carnival of Águilas in 2027. What began last year as a stop on the international World Award Series has already developed into a special meeting point for the international bodypainting community.

The response was overwhelming from the very beginning: in 2026, the competition was fully booked, with **20 artists from 10 nations**. The participant field is once again completely filled for 2027, promising another international gathering of outstanding talent and creative personalities.

At the heart of the event is the **World Championship Bodypainting & Show**. In this discipline, success is not determined by the quality of the bodypainting alone, but by the perfect combination of bodypainting, costume, performance, stage presence and an overall artistic concept. The artists create impressive productions in which painted models become living works of art, bringing their stories to life through movement, expression and spectacular show elements.

The unique combination of international bodypainting art and the vibrant atmosphere of the Carnival makes Águilas an extraordinary venue. Creative diversity, cultural tradition and spectacular performances come together here to create a special experience for artists and audiences alike.

With the participant field once again fully booked, Águilas continues its success story and reinforces the international significance of this special stop on the World Award Series.

spain.bodypainting-festival.comFurther information: spain.bodypainting-festival.com

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WBF Italy 2027 – Sterzing/Vipiteno, Italy
2–3 July 2027

In 2027, the World Bodypainting Festival returns to the historic old town of Sterzing. The picturesque lanes and squares of this South Tyrolean Alpine town will once again become a unique stage for international artists and creative encounters.

The event features two official World Championships. In the **World Championship Camouflage**, painted models appear to merge seamlessly with their surroundings. Through precision, perspective and creative illusions, fascinating artworks are created in which people and backgrounds become one harmonious whole.

The **World Championship Facepainting** celebrates the art of creating expressive characters and stories on faces through colour, form and imagination. Artists transform their models into fascinating fantasy creatures, spiritual figures and extraordinary works of art, demonstrating their craftsmanship on a small canvas.

The World Championships are complemented by creative Bodypainting Jam Sessions, a varied photo and community programme, and numerous opportunities for artists, photographers and visitors to connect and exchange ideas.

In the heart of Sterzing's historic old town, bodypainting art will once again bring the streets and squares to life, creating a weekend full of creativity, encounters and inspiration.

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Online Awards 2027 – Global Championships from Home

The **Online Awards** bring bodypainting artists from all over the world together, regardless of where they live or work. This digital competition format is **not a World Championship**, but it enables artists to take part internationally from home and has become an independent platform for creative diversity, artistic exchange and global networking.

The Online Awards feature several competition categories, each showcasing different facets of bodypainting art.

In the **Facepainting** category, artists create imaginative and expressive works of art on the face, combining creativity, technique and visual storytelling. They transform their models into extraordinary characters and showcase the many possibilities of this art form.

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The **Bodypainting Classic** category focuses on the traditional art of painting the body with brushes and sponges. The result is impressive full-body artwork that combines craftsmanship, creative design and an individual interpretation of a given theme.

In the **Bodypainting Open Technique** category, artists may use not only traditional painting techniques but also airbrush, special effects, applications, costumes and a wide range of creative materials. This discipline offers exceptional artistic freedom and reflects the diversity and innovative spirit of contemporary bodypainting art.

Participants work in their respective time zones and submit their finished artworks digitally. This makes it possible for artists on every continent to take part, giving the Online Awards a truly global dimension.

Global Championships from Home – bodypainting art without borders.

Dates and further details for 2027 will be announced at a later stage.

online.wb-festival.comFurther information: online.wb-festival.com

For the latest information on all events, please visit the official website:
www.bodypainting-festival.com

The World Bodypainting Festival is organised by WB Production GmbH.

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