



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
**PERFUMER-CREATORS**

# **The Perfumer-Creator's Charter**

## Preliminary considerations: context, rationale, and objectives

Perfumery forms part of global heritage. The work of Perfumer-Creators plays an important role in the cultural, economic, and social environment of the regions in which they practice. Despite this, until now there has been no legal definition for the role of a Perfumer-Creator, nor has there been a set of guiding principles to define the role, values or the professional conduct expected of Perfumer-Creators. So, on behalf of all Perfumers, the International Society of Perfumer-Creators (ISPC)<sup>1</sup> set out to establish a Charter<sup>2</sup> for the profession ('the Charter').

This Charter aims to codify and protect the title of Perfumer-Creator, to provide a framework for the training, skills development and knowledge required to be recognised as an 'accredited' Perfumer-Creator; and, in so doing, to protect and sustain the unique cultural heritage associated with the creation of perfumes<sup>3</sup>.

The Charter is relevant to Perfumers of all cultures and geographies globally. The adoption of this Charter by all parties will help unify the profession, give due recognition to the Perfumer-Creator's 'authorship' of perfumes they create, and demonstrate a shared willingness to collaborate in ensuring the success of the industry as a whole.

This Charter is in no way intended to address the subject of legal regimes for the protection of fragrances applicable under local or international law, nor does it entail any consequences with regard to legal regimes applicable in this area, its objective being the recognition of the above-mentioned professional status.

Nothing in this Charter shall be understood to deviate from any mandatory law or from any contractual legal obligation that a Perfumer is bound by.

## Article 1: Definition of a Perfumer-Creator

A Perfumer-Creator is a Perfumer who, drawing on their individual inspiration and original ideas, imagines, conceives, and composes perfumes, using fragrant raw materials<sup>3</sup> prepared for the purpose. While these fragrances are designed for specific use in a range of applications<sup>3</sup>, they always reflect the personality and sensibility of the Perfumer involved.

The following sets out the skills and knowledge expected of a Perfumer:

- Knowledge of a large Palette of Ingredients<sup>3</sup> (knowledge of their dosage, how they react and interact) ;
- Knowledge of the Accords<sup>3</sup> and Archetypes<sup>3</sup> for each support<sup>3</sup> in perfumery and their classification ;
- The ability to formulate<sup>3</sup> from a blank page ;
- The understanding, mastery and respect for all regulations associated with creation as well as the requisite technical specifications, where appropriate.

The combination of these competencies, their experience and their individual sensibility, allows the Perfumer to transform an idea or a concept into an olfactory narrative and to apply their advice and expertise to the creation.

Before being accorded the title of Perfumer-Creator, an individual must demonstrate that they have achieved the following levels in their career: Apprentice Perfumer<sup>4</sup>, Junior Perfumer<sup>4</sup> and Perfumer<sup>4</sup>; and that, subject to meeting the criteria set out in this Article and Article 2 which follows, they merit the title of Perfumer-Creator.

## Article 2: Qualification for the title of Perfumer-Creator

To qualify for the title of Perfumer-Creator, candidates must provide the ISPC with the following information:

- Details of their training and career history which demonstrate their level of competence and knowledge as set out above;
- Evidence of having worked as a creator of perfumes for a minimum of five years prior to submitting their application;
- A minimum of five (5) original creations<sup>3</sup>.

Each application will be evaluated anonymously by a panel of Perfumers designated by the ISPC.

Upon receipt, the title conferred by the ISPC, accords the bearer rights to use the following designations in all communication:

1. The title of Perfumer-Creator, and
2. The following logo



Should an application for accreditation as Perfumer-Creator be refused, candidates can request that the decision be reviewed. The ISPC Board of Directors is the body that will review any appeal requests; and is also the adjudicating body for all breaches of this Charter.

## Article 3: The obligations of the Perfumer-Creator

The Perfumer-Creator commits to respecting this Charter and to adhere to the principles set out below:

- Adhere to the definition of roles and hierarchy of titles to be used within the Perfumery industry;
- Promote, respect, and protect the history, culture, future, and reputation of the profession of Perfumer-Creators and their creations;
- Demonstrate professional courtesy, respecting colleagues and fellow Perfumer-Creators and their work;
- Preserve perfumery know-how and the capacity to innovate;
- Promote this Charter as part of all training provided by Perfumer-Creators throughout their career: most notably with Junior Perfumers;
- Create perfumes in compliance with all relevant regulations, including those defined by clients in their terms of reference, to guarantee their safety;
- Ensure transparent communication about the ingredients of a formula, and communicate in good faith with all counterparts and refrain from misleading statements.

## Article 4: Declaration by signatories

The signatories to this Charter acknowledge and agree to adhere to the rights and duties of the Perfumer-Creator as set out herein.

Perfumer-Creators wish their creations to be recognised as 'works of the mind'. As such, they understand that their names will be inalienably associated with the perfumes they create.

## Article 5: Modifications

This Charter may be subject to amendment in the following circumstances:

- On recommendation by the Board of Directors of the ISPC;
- At the request of members of the Board of Directors of the ISPC;

If deemed necessary by the ISPC Board of Directors, proposed modifications may be submitted to a vote at the AGM in accordance with the statutes of the ISPC.

**Date:**

Acknowledgement

I,  
hereby acknowledge receipt of the Perfumer-Creator's Charter and agree to its terms as set out above.

**Signature**

<sup>1</sup> The ISPC (International Society of Perfumer-Creators) is an international and independent non-profit Association under the French law of 1901. The ISPC is created to defend and obtain official status for the profession of the Perfumer, to promote the cultural heritage of the industry, to protect the Perfumer's palette and to protect the art of the fragrance composition. It connects professionals and organizations, inviting them to share their experiences, learn from one another, disseminate and transmit knowledge. To find out more: <https://www.perfumer-creators.com/en/>.

<sup>2</sup> The Charter was commissioned by ISPC and developed by independent reputation management consultancy Lansons, in consultation with Perfumers, Executives, and representatives of industry organizations. Responses to the online survey were received from over 200 Perfumers, representing 20% of the estimated number of global Perfumers. This survey was developed from in-depth interviews with 25 perfumers and other key stakeholders.

<sup>3</sup> See Glossary of terms used in this Charter.

<sup>4</sup> See Definition and hierarchy of titles for Perfumers.

## Glossary of terms used in the Charter

**Accord:** An olfactory image created through the blending of at least three (3) raw materials, carried out by a Perfumer or a group of Perfumers.

**Application:** the grouping into categories of similar products for which fragrances are developed e.g., candles, detergents, fine fragrances, soaps...

**Archetype:** The composition used as reference to define an olfactive family of fragrances.

**Composition:** Work of an author in which the Perfumer imagines, designs and transcribes a formula which can then be blended with the precision required to create fragrances that are faithful to the original formula and can be replicated.

**Concentrate:** A blend of raw materials as set out in a formula before it is incorporated into its final support/base.

**Formula:** The list of raw materials and their respective quantities.

**Formulate:** the action of creating a formula.

**Industry:** The Perfumery industry.

**Ingredient or Raw material:** A fragrant substance that can be used to create a concentrate.

**Original creation:** A formula which is conceived solely by its author or a group of authors from its source, which is not a copy, reproduction, translation, recasting, etc...

**Palette of Ingredients:** The set of fragrant materials used by Perfumers.

**Perfume:** A composition created from raw materials incorporated into a support (or base), conceived and designed to elicit an olfactory emotion.

**Support (or Base):** A substance which serves as a foundation in which the perfume is diffused. The substance may be from odorless to pungent. The most well-known of these are alcohol, odorless solvents, odorless solvents, water, personal hygiene products, ambience products, and all industrial or household products.

## Definition and hierarchy of titles for Perfumers

**Apprentice Perfumer:** someone undertaking perfumery training, during which they demonstrate their passion for the profession, their perseverance, their continuing application to their learning, their creative capacity, their ability to assimilate technical knowledge, their familiarity with the history of perfumery and their memorization of scents, evidenced through blind testing.

**Junior Perfumer:** someone who, having completed their apprenticeship training, works initially under the tutelage of a mentor, becoming increasingly autonomous over time.

**Perfumer:** a Junior Perfumer with at least five (5) years of practical experience and has started to work independently, creating products that will be marketed.

**Senior Perfumer:** having completed a minimum of ten (10) years as a Perfumer, the Senior Perfumer must have developed products which, with their recognized signature, remain on the market for at least five years. A Senior Perfumer can be a mentor for Junior Perfumers.

**Principal Perfumer/ Perfume Vice-President/ Perfume Senior Vice-President:** these are company-specific titles given to Perfumers, reflecting the level of contribution their creations make to the revenue of the business.

**Master Perfumer:** someone who is a role model and inspiration for younger Perfumers and Perfumers. Only a few Perfumers hold this level of achievement.

To achieve this accolade, Perfumers must have:

- A minimum of twenty (20) years of professional experience;
- Unanimous recognition from the profession;
- Created iconic perfumes and best-sellers with international status;
- Continued success;
- A willingness to be an Ambassador for the profession/industry;
- The ability to transmit the knowledge and values of the profession to others;
- The capacity to encourage, nurture and grow the talent of young Perfumers;
- The capacity to inspire and lead innovative projects.