

Call for application

15 september - 23 november 2025

Contemporary Talents

15th edition

Contemporary Art Competition

Propose a work or a project on the theme of water

Dotation • Acquisition • Exhibition • Publication

THE FOUNDATION FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

Established in 2000 and recognized as a public utility in 2005, the François Schneider Foundation pursues a dual commitment : supporting education by providing scholarships in Alsace and the Yonne, and promoting contemporary artistic creation.

Art center, inaugurated in 2013, is located in the former bottling factory of the Wattwiller thermal springs in Alsace (France). The venue is entirely dedicated to the theme of water, which it explores each year through temporary exhibitions highlighting internationally renowned artists and emerging talents. The issue of water is addressed from multiple perspectives: plastic, poetic, aesthetic, geographical, political, and scientific.

Through various initiatives, including the “Talents Contemporains” competition, the François Schneider Foundation supports visual artists in developing their careers, notably through the acquisition of their works and the exhibition of their artistic projects. The Foundation also promotes these artists through publications, loaning artworks, and traveling exhibitions.

THE CONTEMPORARY TALENTS COMPETITION

Reflecting contemporary artistic creation, the Talents Contemporains competition, initiated in 2011, aims to explore European and international art scenes around the **specific theme of water**. This has led to the development of a highly original collection featuring artists with diverse backgrounds, including those graduated from renowned art schools as well as self-taught artists with unconventional trajectories.

Today, this collection forms a unique ensemble that runs counter to certain institutional or market trends. The works are exhibited both within the art center and increasingly circulated through off-site projects. For the winning artists, the prize not only provides substantial financial support but also serves as a stepping stone in their careers, offering institutional recognition, various communication opportunities, and engagement with the public.



COMPETITION TERMS AND ELIGIBILITIES

This competition is open to major visual artistes, of all nationalities, at the mid-point of their career.

→ You must have a professional artistic activity and/or be a graduate of an art school. Candidates must be able to show several personal and/or group exhibitions, as well as publications (monographs and/or catalogs), and/or have participated in an artist residency.

→ The eligible disciplines are the following : painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, video, textile, or any other form of plastic or visual art (live performance and music are not included).

→ The work presented for the competition is on the theme of water.

→ **For installations and sculptures**, artists may submit either an existing work or a project. In the case of a project, a production budget of a maximum of 50,000 € must be attached.

→ For other art forms, **only an existing work can be submitted**. No additional production budget can be allocated for paintings, drawings, photographs or videos.

→ The work presented, which may consist of a set or a single piece, must be unique. (for video or photography if the work includes editions, the prize is different, see rules). Films, live shows and performances will not eligible.

→ Technical criteria: oils on canvas and drawings must not exceed the size of 320 x 210 cm for a single piece. Diptychs and triptychs are accepted.

Each candidate may present only one work or one project per year. A work proposed to the competition cannot be represented in the competition the following year or afterwards.

To this day, 94 artists were rewarded:

Yoav Admoni (IL), Akmar (NL), Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil (FR), Nour Awada (FR-LB), Rachael Louise Bailey (GB), Guillaume Barth (FR), Hicham Berrada (MA), Benoît Billotte (FR), Mathieu Bonardet (FR), Bianca Bondi (ZA), Ulysse Bordarias (FR), Muriel Bordier (FR), Julie Bourges (FR), Jessie Brennan (GB), Emilie Brout & Maxime Marion (FR), Gaëlle Callac (FR), Cécile Carrière (FR), Julie Chaffort (FR), Yves Chaudouët (FR), Claire Chesnier (FR), Etienne Cliquet (FR), Ladislav Combeuil (FR), Valère Costes (FR), Olivier Crouzel (FR), Edouard Decam (FR), Asieh Dehghani (IR), Alioune Diagne (SN), Céline Diais (FR), Rebecca Digne (FR), Cristina Escobar (CU), Collectif EthnoGraphic (FR-BR), Pascale Ettlin (CH), Laurent Faulon (FR), Sara Ferrer (ES), Etienne Fouchet (FR), Marie-Anita Gaube (FR), Eleonore Geissler (FR), Vardit Goldner (IL), Antoine Gonin (FR), Elise Grenois (FR), Bilal Hamdad (DZ), Paul Heintz (FR), Harald Hund (AT), Arthur Hoffner (FR), Hao Jingfang & Wang Lingjie (CN), Nadia Kaabi-Linke (TN), Zhang Kechun (CN), M'hammed Kilito (UA-MA), Maryam Khosrovani (IR), Elizaveta Konovalova (RU), Jérémy Laffon (FR), Manon Lanjouère (FR), Mathilde Lavenne (FR), Olivier Leroi (FR), Sujin Lim (KR), Rahshia Linendoll-Sawyer (US), Claire Malrieux (FR), Laurent Mareschal (FR), Aurélien Mauplot (FR), Mehdi Meddaci (FR), Eva Medin (FR-BR), Camille Michel (FR), Gustavo Millon (CL), Yosra Mojtahedi (IR), Eva Nielsen (FR), Maël Nozahic (FR), Johan Parent (FR), Benoît Pype (FR), Enrique Ramírez (CL), Mehrzad Razaghmanesh (IR), Bertrand Rigaux (FR), Sarah Ritter (FR), Francisco Rodríguez Teare (CL), Benjamin Rossi (FR), Erik Samakh (FR), Sandra & Ricardo (PT), Ugo Schiavi (FR), Aurélie Scouarnec (FR), Alex Seton (AU), Sidorenko-Dutca (MD-RU), Suhail Shaikh (IN), Noemi Sjöberg (ES), Paul Souviron (FR), Elvia Teotski (FR), Thomas Teurlai (FR), Capucine Vandebrouck (FR) et Wiktoria Wojciechowska (PL) et Jenny Ymker (NL).

ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION AND ENDOWMENT

An initial selection of around thirty finalists is made by four Expert Committees. Each committee is composed of two professionals from the cultural sector and is tasked with selecting approximately thirty «Finalists» from all the submitted applications, who will then be presented to the International Grand Jury. A maximum of seven winners are chosen by the International Grand Jury, which is made up of prominent figures from the art world.

THE INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF JUDGES

This Jury, chaired by Jean-Noël Jeanneney, includes well-known personalities from the world of the arts. From this 15th edition, they will elect from among the thirty finalists 4 to 7 winners artists, including two works in the field of sculpture and installation.

- **Jean-Noël Jeanneney**, former president of “Radio France”, former Secretary of State and former president of the “Bibliothèque Nationale de France” – Paris (France)
- **Constance de Monbrison**, Head of Insulinde collections, musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac - Paris (France)
- **Alfred Pacquement**, Honorary General Curator of Heritage – Paris (France)
- **Chiara Parisi**, Director of the Center Pompidou-Metz (France)
- **Ernest Pignon-Ernest**, Artist, Paris (France)
- **Roland Wetzel**, Director of the Tinguely Museum – Basel (Switzerland)
- **Rosa Maria Malet**, Director of the Joan Miró Foundation 1980-2017, member of the Board of Directors – Barcelona (Spain)

NB: The expert committees and grand jury are subject to change depending on availability.

The prize is €15,000 each for the acquisition of their work which will become part of the Foundation's collection. For the realisation of the works presented in the form of projects (sculpture or installation), a maximum envelope of 80,000€ is made available, divided between the different projects according to the needs of the artists and the decisions of the jury. In this case, the files must include a detailed budget of the production costs with an estimate. The budget must not exceed 50 000€ per project.

For photographs and videos, if the print is not unique, the prize is €8,000 (see the rules for details). However, it is advisable to propose a unique edition for the competition.

The François Schneider Foundation covers the costs related to the production of the exhibition and the publication of a catalog on the collection.

THE CALENDAR

- **15 september 2025 from 10 am → 23 november 2025 until 11.59 pm (local time)** : Call for applications
- **December 2025 → February 2026** : the Committees of Experts will meet to choose about thirty finalists
- **March 2026** : Announcement of the finalists in the press, on the website and on the Foundation's social networks
- **Spring 2026** : Selection of the winners by the International Grand Jury and announcement of the winners to the press, on the website and on the Foundation's social networks
- **Autumn 2025** : Exhibition of works at the François Schneider Foundation in Wattwiller (Haut-Rhin, France)

NB: The Foundation reserves the right to change the dates.

THE APPLICATION FILE

Participation in the competition can only be done electronically after registration on the website of the François Schneider Foundation: www.fondationfrancoisschneider.org

In the event of technical difficulties relating to the internet, applicants will contact the Organizer as soon as possible. We invite you to submit your applications as early as possible to avoid server slowdowns and therefore your application does not reach us on time.

Application files must be written in French for French-speaking candidates, and in English for other candidates.

These files must include :

Administrative section

Registration form and signed regulations read and approved (PDF format)

- ☐ Copy of your identity document (front / back identity card or passport) (PDF format)



Artistic part (work completed or project to be produced, in sculpture or installation)

Your curriculum vitae and / or presentation of the collective of artists, justifying an artistic background (work recently exhibited in institutions, galleries, festivals, etc. or having participated in one or more artistic residencies) (PDF format, 2 pages maximum).



Your portfolio / artistic presentation of your work with visuals and texts required (PDF format, 20 A4 pages maximum, 20 MB maximum)



A note of intent presenting the work or project and the artist's approach for the competition, intellectual and creative approach (PDF format, 2 pages maximum) as well as a short presentation of the work (maximum 1,100 characters with spaces).



A precise technical description of the existing work or project (sculptures, installations), title, materials, technique, dimensions, weight, constraints and technical means required for the exhibition, assembly or transport of the work (PDF format, 1 page maximum).



A detailed production budget of up to € 50,000 for works presented in the form of projects for sculptures and installations (PDF format). It presents the cost of the production costs with estimates: materials, audiovisual, intervention of companies/craftsmen, transport costs (transport if specific, customs, crane...) transport costs for the follow-up of the project. The Foundation does not finance research and creation residencies. Artists' fees are included in the 15 000€ grant and do not have to be included in the budget.



3 to 5 color visuals (photo, drawing, diagram, modeling, plan, etc.) (JPG format, 5 MB maximum per visual).



Video extract for the video works. It is possible to attach a video capture for the other works (painting, sculpture, etc.) in order to contextualize it (format MOV/MP4, 4Giga maximum).



NB: The jury will be sensitive to the clear and concise nature of the dossier and to the coherence of the proposal in relation to the collection of the François Schneider Foundation.

Any file that is incomplete or does not comply with the above instructions will not be submitted to the Committees of Experts and the International Grand Jury.



INFORMATIONS AND CONTACT

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