FONDATION
FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

Press release

The finalists – 2025 edition

Contemporary Talents 15th edition

ABOUT THE FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER FOUNDATION

Nestled between forest and mountains in a small Alsatian village near the border with Germany and Switzerland, the François Schneider Foundation is housed in a former bottling factory that has been transformed into an art centre where spaces play on transparency and light.

A philanthropic foundation created in 2000 and recognized as a public utility in 2005, the François Schneider Foundation pursues a dual commitment to education and culture. On the one hand, it enables young school leavers from Alsace and Yonne to access higher education through the awarding of scholarships. On the other hand, it supports contemporary artists in their careers, contributing to their professional recognition through an acquisition and promotion policy via its "Talents Contemporains" competition.

Since 2011, the "Talents Contemporains" competition has rewarded several artists each year for works or projects on the theme of water. Over the years, a unique art collection has been built up, reflecting the diversity of artistic practices in the 21st century. Today, some 118 works form a singular body of work that runs counter to certain institutional trends, exhibited both in the art centre and on tour in France and around the world.

The François Schneider Foundation conceives three exhibitions a year, alternating between the "Talents Contemporains" exhibitions, collaborations with major cultural institutions and carte blanche for contemporary visual artists.

The exhibitions examine the theme of water, exploring issues such as environment and geography, the imaginary and travel, and social commitments. The flood, botany, islands, ceramics are the varied subjects of recent projects. Off-site exhibitions present works from the collection locally, nationally and internationally.

These exhibitions are accompanied by conferences, roundtable discussions, classical and contemporary music concerts and performances, offering complementary perpectives to the visual works and the theme of water. Numerous workshops and various forms of mediation are offered to a varied public (families, schools, hospitals and socio-educational environment, community groups...). A vast garden of sculptures and fountains also offers a delightful stroll, where nature, art and education merrily converse and meet along the water's edge. The François Schneider Foundation is a place for escape, reflection and sharing.

Foundation contact

info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org
+33 (0)3.89.82.10.10

Solène Gwinner
Cultural mediation and communication manager
s.gwinner@fondationfrancoisschneider.org

Léa Rosenfeld
Production and Talent Contemporains competition manager
l.rosenfeld @fondationfrancoisschneider.org

THE FINALISTS OF THE CONTEMPORARY TALENTS COMPETITION 15TH EDITION INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART COMPETITION

The François Schneider Foundation is pleased to announce the pre-selection of the 36 finalists for the 15th edition of the "Talents Contemporains" competition (list on next page).

With a view to naming the winners of the 15th edition of the competition, the dossiers of the 408 artist candidates received were carefully studied by four expert committees in December, January and February 2025/2026.

The 36 pre-selected projects or works will be compiled in a brochure edited in 400 copies and published in April 2026.

The next stage will take place between late May or early June 2026, with the final selection of the winners by the Grand Jury. Composed of leading figures in the fields of art and culture (Jean-Noël Jeanneney, Rosa Maria Malet, Constance de Monbrison, Alfred Pacquement, Chiara Parisi, Ernest Pignon-Ernest, Roland Wetzel), the Grand Jury will choose between 4 and 7 winners.

The winners will each receive €15,000 (incl. VAT) for the acquisition of their work and as a prize of merit. An additional €80,000 may be earmarked for the realization of works presented in the form of projects (sculpture or installation) as production aid.

With the "Talents Contemporains" competition, the François Schneider Foundation aims to discover, support and reveal new talent, and to promote contemporary creation on the theme of water. The Foundation supports these artists through the acquisition of their works, their exhibition in the Foundation's art centre, a video portrait, as well as travelling exhibition and loans of works.

THE FINALISTS

Flo Arnold (France), *L'eau intranquille*, installation, 200×600×500 cm, 2023
César Bardoux (France), *Agarose*, painting, 2×(162×130 cm), 2023
Thomas Bischoff (France), *Clepsydre*, installation, variable dimensions, 2024
Alix Boillot (France), *Grace*, video, 8', 2024
Jeannie Brie (France), *Lécher les flaques*, installation, 26×60×70 cm, 2025
Javier Carro Temboury (Espagne), *Vases Communicants*, sculpture, project, variable dimensions, 2026/2027
Xavier Castro (France), *Abysses*, sculpture, variable dimensions, 2025
Vincent Chevillon (France), *Ce qui pousse sur la baleine demeure,* photography,192 ×(42×29,7 cm), 2025
Claude Como (France), *Écume de la source*, textile installation, variable dimensions, 2026/2027
Mouna Daimallah (Algérie), *Les jeunes de Cherchell*, video installation, 3'39'', 120×160 cm, 2024
Nicolas Desverronnières (France), *Hydroloop*, sculpture, 250×200×200 cm, 2025
Anaïs Dunn (France), *Brouillard dans la montagne*, sculpture, 200×130×130 cm, 2024
David Falco (France), *Sad Landscape I, Sad Landscape II, Sad Landscape III*, photography, 3×(125×155 cm), 2023
Lila Farget (France), *Ondulation*, sculpture, project, 80×9 cm, 2026/2027
Laure Forêt (France), *Cosmos*, sculpture, 3 ×(40×15×7 cm), 2024
Julia Gault (France), *Tétrapode*, sculpture, variable dimensions, 2023
Mohssin Harraki (Maroc), *«Ce que l'eau a lu»*, installation, 3×(30×60×40 cm), 2014
Rouge Hartley (France), *The Frost is all over*, painting, 120×200 cm, 2023
Marc Johnson (France), *Retour*, textile, 200×320 cm, 2024
Sophie Keraudren-Hartenberger (France), *Life*, installation, 300×300×500 cm, 2025
Amélie Labourdette (France), *Traces d'une occupation humaine - Triptyque sur fragments de pierre calcaire*, photography, 3 ×(150×100 cm), 2023
Marie Lafaille (France), *Ossature d'eau*, installation, 135×210×84 cm, 2024
Silvana Mc Nulty (France), *Par là où l'eau s'évade*, installation, variable dimensions, 2025
Isabel Merchante (Espagne), *Organ for a Computer*, installation, 200×200×200 cm, 2025
Hannah Mevis (Allemagne), *Today, I Washed My Eyes in the River bed*, video, 29'40'', 2025
David Moinot (Pays-Bas), *Une force tourbillonnante*, sculpture, project, 50×100×50 cm, 2026/2027
Pauline Rigal (France), *Mills of Time*, video, 46', 2025
Céleste Rogosin (France), *The Edge of Eternity*, video, 12', 2025
Elsa Salonen (Finlande), *I Dive in the Ocean as in a Prayer*, installation, 3×(180×70×6 cm), 2021
Jorge Sánchez Di Bello (Colombie), *na wayuukana outushii sutuma miasü (the wayuu dying of thirst)*, installation, 35×150×50 cm and 10,5×14,8 cm, 2017
Laura Sánchez Filomeno (France), *Rhipidigorgia Ventalina*, textile sculpture, 29×22×33 cm, 2025
Marie Sommer (France), *L'Œil et la Glace*, video installation, variable dimensions, 2021
Xiaojun Song (France), *Méditation n°30*, painting, 80×90 cm, 2022
Romain Vicari (Italie), *FLUID*, video, 4'50'', 2024
Chloé Wasp (France), *And you want to travel blind*, video installation, 240×440 cm, 7'40'', 2025
Véronique Zussau (Suisse), *L'intransigeance de l'eau*, sculpture, 190×160×41 cm, 2024

THE EXPERT COMMITTEES

Audrey Hoareau, Director of the CRP/ Centre régional de la photographie Hauts-de-France – Douchy-les-Mines
Laura Mené, Director of the Espace Croisé centre d'art contemporain – Roubaix (France)
Stéphane Baumet, Director of the Villa Datris Foundation – L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue (France)
Arthur Hoffner, Visual Artist – Marseille (France)
Olivier Crouzel, Visual and Video Artist – Bordeaux (France)
Richard Solti, Director of the Ritsch-Fisch Gallery – Strasbourg (France)
Anne Pluymaekers, Head of the Cultural Department – CERFAV / Centre européen de recherche et de formation aux arts verriers – Nancy (France)
Marina Krüger, Artistic Director of the Fête de l'Eau Wattwiller and Artist (France)

THE GRAND JURY

Jean-Noël Jeanneney, was President of Radio France, twice Secretary of State and former President of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France – Paris (France)
Rosa Maria Malet, Director of the Miró Foundation 1980-2017, member of the Board of Trustees – Barcelona (Spain)
Constance de Monbrison, Head of Insulinde collections, musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac – Paris (France)
Alfred Pacquement, Honorary General Curator of Heritage. Director of the Musée national d'art moderne from 2000 to 2013. Chairman of the Fondation Bemberg – Toulouse (France)
Chiara Parisi, Director, Centre Pompidou-Metz – Metz (France)
Ernest Pignon-Ernest, Visual Artist – Paris (France)
Roland Wetzel, Director, Museum Tinguely – Basel (Switzerland)