

Regulations

2026 competition

Talents 1st edition
Contemporains
Abbaye de Pontigny **La Terre**

Before taking part in the competition, each Candidate must read and accept these regulations and conditions without reservation:

Anyone who breaches one or more of the provisions of these terms and conditions will be barred from taking part in the competition and will also forfeit any financial rewards they might otherwise have been entitled to.

ARTICLE 1 – PREAMBLE

The Fondation François Schneider, recognised as a charity by the decree of 10 August 2005 (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Organiser’ or ‘the Foundation’), located at 27 rue de la Première Armée, WATTWILLER, France, is organising a competition on the theme of **the Earth** entitled ‘**Talents Contemporains – La Terre – Abbay de Pontigny**’, aimed at fostering the emergence and recognition of emerging artists in the development of their careers, in particular through the acquisition of their works and the promotion of the artist and their work using the Foundation’s resources.

ARTICLE 2 – CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The competition is open to any individual from anywhere in the world (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Candidate’).

This first edition of the competition is open to artists submitting a Work in the following fields: sculpture and installations **suited for outdoor display**.

Only an existing Work may be submitted for this first edition of the competition.

The call for entries is open from 23 June 2026 to 23 August 2026 at 23.59 (French time).

Entry is conditional upon the provision of complete, accurate and up-to-date personal details by applicants. You may provide your artist name in addition to your legal name.

Any fraud, attempted fraud or breach of French law may result in exclusion from the competition.

Entry is limited to one artwork per candidate.

Each Candidate guarantees that they are the author of the Work submitted and that they hold the necessary rights to enter the competition.

Subject to any rights that may be managed by a collective rights management organisation, the Candidate declares that, as at the date of their Entry, the Work is not subject to any commitments or rights granted to third parties that would be incompatible with their participation in the competition and, where applicable, with the conclusion of the contract for the acquisition and non-exclusive licence of copyright with the Foundation.

The Candidate guarantees, in particular, that:

- The Work has not been the subject of any prior exclusive assignment or commitment preventing its acquisition or exhibition by the Foundation;
- Any rights granted to third parties do not prevent the uses provided for under these rules and the contract;

The Candidate undertakes to inform the Foundation without delay of any situation likely to affect the availability of the Work or the rights relating thereto.

Finally, the Candidate undertakes not to grant, during the duration of the competition and until the conclusion of the contract with the Foundation in the event of selection, any rights incompatible with the commitments made under these rules.

Each Candidate guarantees that the Work submitted is and/or will remain unique. Failing this, the Foundation reserves the right to reduce the amount specified in Article 7-1 of these rules to a maximum of €8,000. The Candidate undertakes to inform the Foundation of **the exact number of existing copies**.

ARTICLE 3 – PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Entries for the competition may only be submitted electronically following registration on the Fondation François Schneider's website: www.fondationfrancoisschneider.org

In the event of technical difficulties relating to the internet connection, Candidates should contact the Organiser as soon as possible. We encourage you to submit your applications as early as possible to avoid server delays which might prevent your application from reaching us on time.

Applications must be written in French for French-speaking candidates, and in English for all other candidates.

These applications must include the following:

Required documents:

Existing Work:

- Your **signed, read and approved** application form – PDF format
- A copy of your identity document (front and back of a European identity card or passport) – PDF format
- Your CV – PDF format, maximum 2 A4 pages
- Your artistic portfolio showcasing your entire artistic career and work (text and/or visual portfolio) – PDF format, maximum 20 A4 pages, maximum 10 MB
- A written presentation of the work you are submitting to the competition – PDF format, maximum 4 A4 pages. This presentation must include: the title, the year of creation, and a clear, one-page description of the work.
- A technical specifications sheet for the artwork you are submitting to the competition: **dimensions (height, width, depth), materials/techniques, and the technical conditions and resources required for the installation of the artwork (floor mounting, plinth, &c. – including recommendations for care and maintenance to ensure the artwork's longevity when displayed outdoors.**
- 1 to 5 images of the artwork you are submitting to the competition (photograph, diagram, plan, etc.) – JPG format, maximum 5 MB per image
- A video of the artwork you are submitting to the competition – MOV/MP4 format, maximum 500 MB

IMPORTANT: The works on display are intended to be installed permanently at the Foundation (within the Pontigny Abbey Estate). However, they must be designed in such a way that they can be dismantled. The applicant undertakes to set out in detail the procedure required in the event of future relocation

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

ARTICLE 4 – COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND GRAND INTERNATIONAL JURY

The selection of works is organised in two stages: firstly by a Committee of Experts and, finally, by an International Grand Jury which is operating independently of the Foundation.

- **The Committee of Experts**

It is made up of professionals from the cultural sector and its role is to select, from among all the applications received, the 30 (or thereabouts) 'Finalists' who will be presented to the International Grand Jury..

- **The International Grand Jury**

This Jury, chaired by Christine Macel, comprises recognised figures from the arts world. It selects the winners from among the 'Finalists', who are then named as the 'Talents Contemporains – La Terre – Abbaye de Pontigny' of the year. There may be up to five winners if the International Grand Jury deems the standard of the entries to be sufficiently high.

The decisions of the Committee of Experts and the International Grand Jury are final. No appeal is possible. Neither the Committee of Experts nor the International Grand Jury is authorised to comment on unsuccessful entries.

Selection of Works

After reviewing the applications during September and October 2026, the Committee of Experts will draw up a list of 'Finalists', who will be notified individually by email. The list of finalists will also be published on the websites of the Foundation and Abbaye de Pontigny in **October 2026**.

Once notified, the 'Finalists' must provide a text summarising their career and presenting the selected work, in French and English. This will enable the official announcement of the finalists to the press, and allow information about the finalists to be shared on the Foundation's website and social media channels.

The works of the 'Finalists' will then be assessed by the members of the International Grand Jury during the month of

November 2026, leading to the selection of the winners of 'Talents Contemporains – La Terre – Pontigny Abbey – 1st edition'.

The winners of the 'Talents Contemporains – La Terre – Abbaye de Pontigny – 1st edition' will be announced in **November 2026**. The Organiser reserves the right to postpone these dates, provided that Candidates are informed of any changes via its website.

ARTICLE 5 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1 – Collective Management

Each Candidate undertakes to declare, both upon submitting their application and upon signing the contract, their status with respect to collective management organisations (CMOs), notably the ADAGP, the SAIF, or any equivalent society, and guarantees the accuracy, sincerity, and completeness of the information provided.

The Candidate undertakes to inform the Foundation without delay of any change in their status in this regard.

Where the Candidate is already a member of a collective management organisation, the parties acknowledge that certain reproduction and representation rights may be managed by said organisation. In such event, the exercise of these rights shall be subject to the rules of the latter, particularly regarding authorisation and remuneration, and the Foundation may be required to request the necessary authorisations and pay the corresponding royalties.

The Candidate shall indemnify and hold the Foundation harmless against any consequences resulting from an inaccurate or incomplete declaration regarding their status with respect to collective management organisations.

5.2 – Authorisation for all Candidates

Each Candidate expressly authorises the Fondation François Schneider to reproduce, represent and disseminate, free of charge, all or part of the elements of their Application file, for the sole purposes of organisation, internal and external communication, promotion and enhancement of the competition, its finalists, candidates and laureates.

This authorisation is granted on a non-exclusive basis, worldwide, for the legal duration of copyright protection, and for all media, known or unknown to date, including printed media (catalogues, brochures, posters, press kits) and digital media (website, social networks, newsletters, audiovisual media).

Any use shall be carried out in compliance with the Candidate's moral rights, in particular their right to paternity and to the integrity of their Work.

5.3 – Grant of rights for laureates

Designation as a laureate shall lead to the conclusion of a specific contract with the Foundation, defining the conditions for the acquisition of the Work and the grant of copyright.

Within this framework, the laureate undertakes to assign to the Foundation, on a non-exclusive basis, the reproduction and representation rights of the Work, in accordance with the following terms:

5.3.1 – Non-commercial uses (communication and promotion)

The Foundation is authorised to reproduce and represent the Work, in whole or in part, for its institutional communication and cultural promotion needs, including:

- promotion of exhibitions, the collection and activities;
- printed media (catalogues, posters, press kits, educational materials);
- digital media (website, social networks, audiovisual content);

These uses are non-exclusive and shall not give rise to any additional remuneration.

5.3.2 – Ancillary commercial exploitation

The Foundation is also authorised to exploit the Work within the framework of ancillary commercial exploitations directly linked to its cultural activities, including:

- publishing and sale of exhibition catalogues;
- reproduction on postcards, posters or similar media;
- editorial publications linked to the Foundation's programming;

These exploitations shall remain limited and ancillary, do not constitute a main commercial activity, and are deemed included in the remuneration provided for in the contract, in accordance with the provisions of the French Intellectual Property Code (Code de la propriété intellectuelle).

5.3.3 – Other exploitations

Any commercial exploitation that is distinct from or exceeds this framework, including:

- large-scale merchandise;
- independent commercial publications;
- exploitation by third parties;
- or any exploitation independent of the Work,

shall be subject to a specific prior agreement between the Foundation and the laureate, particularly regarding the financial conditions.

5.4 – Compliance with moral rights

La Fondation s'engage à respecter le droit moral de l'artiste, notamment son droit à la paternité et au respect de l'intégrité de l'Œuvre.

Toute adaptation substantielle de l'Œuvre devra, sauf nécessité technique ou de conservation dûment justifiée, faire l'objet d'un accord préalable du lauréat.

ARTICLE 6 – TANGIBLE PROPERTY

The Foundation undertakes to respect the artist's moral rights, in particular their right to paternity and to respect for the integrity of the Work.

Any substantial adaptation of the Work shall, except for duly justified technical or conservation necessities, be subject to the prior agreement of the laureate.

ARTICLE 7 – FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

7-1. In consideration for the conception, creation, and non-exclusive grant by the laureate of their intellectual property rights provided for in Article 5 of these Regulations, and the transfer of tangible property of the Work to the Fondation François Schneider provided for in Article 6 of these Regulations, the latter shall pay the laureate an amount of **€15,000** including VAT (TTC), which is broken down into a merit prize of €8,000 and an amount of €7,000 for the purchase of the Work and the grant of rights. However, the costs of transport and installation of the Work within the landscaped areas and/or premises of the Foundation shall be borne by the Foundation.

7-2. In the cases referred to in Articles L.131-4 paragraph 2 and L.132-6 of the French Intellectual Property Code, the sums paid pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall constitute the entirety of the copyright royalties paid to the Laureates.

ARTICLE 8 – INSTALLATION AND EXHIBITION MODALITIES

Chaque lauréat s'engage à livrer l'Œuvre acquise avec un maximum de supports de présentation nécessaires à l'exposition (socle, etc.) et ceci sans compensation financière supplémentaire.

Chaque Lauréat s'engage à être présent lors de l'installation de l'Œuvre et à la mettre en service personnellement (si nécessaire).

Each Laureate undertakes to collaborate with the Organiser for the purposes of ensuring the promotion of the Work, notably through their presence during press conferences, cultural events, mediation projects, events, guided tours, workshops or other events.

No obligation to promote the Works and the Laureates is undertaken by the Organiser under these Regulations.

ARTICLE 9 – PERSONAL DATA (GDPR)

Within the framework of the execution of this contract, the Foundation, as data controller, is required to collect and process personal data concerning the Artist. This processing is carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of personal data (GDPR) and the applicable French legislation.

The data are collected and processed for the purposes of:

- administrative and contractual management of the competition;
- monitoring of the artistic project, its production and its dissemination;
- management of accounting, tax and legal obligations;
- institutional communication linked to the Foundation (in compliance with image rights and moral rights).

The legal basis for the processing is:

- the execution of these Regulations;
- compliance with legal obligations;
- the legitimate interest of the Foundation in ensuring the monitoring and promotion of its cultural activities.

The processed data may include:

- identity, professional contact details, position;
- administrative and contractual information;
- elements relating to participation in the project.

The data are intended for:

- the internal departments of the Foundation;
- service providers involved within the framework of the project (accounting, communication, technical);
- as the case may be, institutional partners or funders, within the limits necessary for their missions.

Personal data shall be retained for a limited period, adapted to their purpose:

- regarding unsuccessful Candidates, the data shall be retained for a maximum period of two (2) years from the closure of the competition;
- regarding laureates, the data shall be retained for the duration of the execution of the contract, then archived for the applicable legal retention periods, notably for accounting purposes, and, for data linked to the Work, for the entire duration of its possession by the Foundation, plus the time necessary for archival purposes.

The artist has the right to:

- a right of access, rectification, erasure;
- a right to restriction of processing;
- a right to object;
- a right to data portability, where applicable.

These rights may be exercised with the Foundation either by email (*info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org*) or by post at the address appearing in the preamble.

The data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority, namely the CNIL, if they consider that the processing of their personal data constitutes a violation of the applicable regulations.

The Foundation undertakes to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures in order to ensure the security and confidentiality of personal data.

ARTICLE 10 – CANDIDATES IMAGE RIGHTS

Within the framework of this contract and activities linked to the project (production, exhibition, mediation, communication), the Candidate authorises the Foundation to capture, reproduce and disseminate their image, their voice and, as the case may be, their statements, under the conditions defined hereinafter.

This authorisation is granted exclusively for the purposes of:

- institutional communication of the Foundation;
- promotion of the project, exhibitions and associated activities;
- cultural and artistic promotion;

The Artist's image may be exploited on all media, known or unknown to date, notably:

- printed media (catalogues, brochures, press kits);
- digital media (website, social networks, newsletters);
- audiovisual media (recordings, reports, editorial content).

Conditions:

- The use of the image is non-exclusive and shall not give rise to any additional remuneration.
- It is granted worldwide and for the duration of the competition.
- The Foundation undertakes not to infringe upon the dignity or reputation of the Artist.

Any use of the Candidate's image for independent commercial purposes or purposes distinct from the project shall be subject to a specific prior agreement.

ARTICLE 11 – LIABILITY

Each Candidate is legally liable for their own acts and for the use of their equipment. The Organiser shall in no way be held liable for any damage or injury caused to the Candidates.

The Organiser reserves the right to modify, extend or purely and simply cancel the competition due to any event beyond its control (cancellation of the event, modification of the programme or any other event linked to natural disasters, cases of force majeure, and more particularly in the event of war, general strike, social unrest, terrorist attacks, public calamities, natural disasters and fires). The Organiser shall not be held liable in the event that one or more Candidates are unable to participate in the competition or suffer any prejudice due to malfunctions and/or disruptions that could affect the smooth running of the competition. Regarding the use of the competition website, each Candidate is informed of the risks inherent to the internet network, and notably access performance, risks of interruption and computer viruses.

ARTICLE 12 – AMENDMENTS

The Organiser reserves the right to make amendments to the Regulations, at any time, without prior notice or obligation to justify its decision, and without its liability being incurred by this fact alone. Addenda and amendments may then be published during the competition period, which may be subject, if necessary, to the acceptance of Candidates who have accepted previous versions of the Regulations.

In the event of an amendment to the dates, the new dates shall be mentioned on the competition website and shall be directly enforceable against the Candidates.

ARTICLE 13 – JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAW

These Regulations shall be governed by French law.

Save for the application of rules of public policy (ordre public), any dispute resulting from the formation, interpretation, or execution of these presents shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the registered office of the Organiser.

ARTICLE 14 – CONSULTATION OF THE REGULATIONS

These Regulations are made available to the Candidates in their entirety on the Foundation's website www.fondationfrancoisschneider.org and can be provided free of charge upon simple request made electronically to the following address: info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org or by post to the following address: 27 rue de la Première Armée – 68700 WATTWILLER – France.

These Regulations are also made available to the Candidates in their entirety on the Abbaye de Pontigny website www.abbayepontigny.com.

ARTICLE 15 – PROOF AGREEMENT

It is agreed that, except in the case of manifest error, the Organiser may rely upon, notably for the purposes of proof of any act, fact or omission, the programmes, data, files, recordings, operations and other elements (such as monitoring reports or other statements) of an IT or electronic nature, format or medium, established, received or retained directly or indirectly by the Organiser, notably within its information systems and audiovisual recordings.

The Candidates undertake not to contest the admissibility, validity or probative value of the aforementioned elements of an IT, audiovisual or electronic nature, format or medium, on the basis of any legal provision whatsoever which specifies that certain documents must be written or signed by the parties in order to constitute proof.

Thus, the elements considered shall constitute proof and, if they are produced as means of proof by the Organiser in any litigation or other proceedings, they shall be admissible, valid and enforceable between the parties in the same manner, under the same conditions and with the same probative value as any document that would be established, received or retained in writing.

INFORMATION & CONTACT

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