

Regulations
2026 edition

Talents 16th edition
Contemporains

Before participating, each Applicant must read and fully accept these rules.

Failure to comply with any of the rules stipulated herein will result in disqualification and the forfeiture of any financial rewards granted.

ARTICLE 1 – PREAMBULE

The Fondation François Schneider, a foundation officially recognized as being in the public interest by decree on August 10, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as «the Organizer» or «the Foundation»), located at 27 rue de la Première Armée, WATTWILLER, France, is holding a **competition on the theme of water** entitled «**Talents Contemporains**», the aim of which is to support visual artists in the development of their careers, in particular through the acquisition of their work and the development of promotional strategies for the artists and their work using the Foundation's resources, including but not limited to exhibitions, brochures, social networks, websites, cultural programming, conferences, etc.

ARTICLE 2 – TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

The competition is open to any natural person (of legal age) from any country in the world (hereinafter referred to as «the Applicant»), except for previous winners of the competition.

The competition is open to artists submitting a work on the theme of Water in disciplines such as painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, video, or any other form of the visual or plastic arts. Ephemeral works, cinema, live performance and music are not accepted.

Each year, four to seven works are recognised with an award.

For installation and sculptural works, artists may present either an existing work or a project. For other art mediums, only an existing work may be submitted. No additional production funding will be provided for paintings, drawings, photographs, or videos.

Technical criteria

Oil paintings on canvas and drawings must not exceed 320 x 210 cm for single-piece works. Diptychs and triptychs are acceptable.

The call for Applications is open from 23 September 2026 (at 14:00 pm) to 22 November 2026 at 11:59 pm (France time).

Participation is contingent upon the Applicant's provision of accurate, complete and up-to-date personal data. You may provide your professional name as well as your legal identity. Please let the Foundation know what name you would like to be known by.

Any fraud, attempted fraud, or violation of French law may result in disqualification from the competition.

Participation is limited to one single Work or project per Applicant. If an Applicant submits more than one project in a given competition year, all of their projects will be automatically eliminated from the competition. A work submitted to the competition in a given year may not be submitted again in any subsequent year.

Each Applicant warrants that he or she is the author of the Work or project presented and holds the rights necessary to participate in the competition.

Without prejudice to any rights under collective management, the Applicant declares that as of the date of their Application the Work or project is not subject to any commitments or rights granted to third parties that would be incompatible with participation in the competition, or, potentially, with entering into a non-exclusive artwork acquisition and copyright licensing contract with the Foundation.

The Applicant warrants, in particular, that:

- the Work or project is not subject to any prior exclusive assignment or commitment likely to prevent its acquisition or exhibition by the Foundation;
- any rights granted to third parties do not preclude the uses provided for under these rules and under the contract;

The Applicant undertakes to promptly inform the Foundation of any situation likely to affect the availability of the Work or the rights attached thereto.

The Applicant further undertakes to refrain from granting any rights incompatible with the obligations set forth in these rules for the duration of the competition, and, if selected, until the contract with the Foundation has been entered into.

Each Applicant warrants that the Work or project he or she is submitting is and/or shall remain unique (single print for photographs and videos). Failing this, the Foundation reserves the right to reduce the amount specified in article 7-1 of these regulations to a maximum of €8,000. The Applicant undertakes to inform the Foundation of the exact number of prints in existence.

ARTICLE 3 – PRACTICAL DETAILS

Participation in the competition may take place only via the Fondation François Schneider's online registration interface. Applicants will find a link to the registration interface on the Foundation's website: www.fondationfrancoisschneider.org

Applicants wishing to register as individuals may register using the following link:

https://talentscontemporains-eau.fondationfrancoisschneider.org/inscription_individuel-en.php

Applicants wishing to register as a group may register using the following link:

https://talentscontemporains-eau.fondationfrancoisschneider.org/inscription_collectif-en.php

In the event of technical difficulties related to the Internet reception, Applicants shall contact the Organiser as soon as possible. Applicants should submit their applications as early as possible to ensure that their applications will not be received late due to server slowdowns.

Application files must be prepared in French for Francophone applicants, and in English for all other applicants.

These files must include the following:

For existing Works:

- Your signed registration form – PDF format
- A copy of your identity document (front and back of your European identity card or passport) – PDF format
- Your CV – PDF format, 2 pages maximum (A4 size)
- Your artistic portfolio, giving a full presentation of your background/artistic work (text and/or visual portfolio) – PDF format, 20 pages maximum (A4 size), maximum 30 MB

- A statement of intent presenting the project and the artist's approach for the competition on the theme of Water (intellectual and creative approach), along with: a short text presenting the artwork for the bilingual publication (maximum 1,000 characters including spaces); a short biography (500 characters); the entire file must be submitted in PDF format, 3 A4 pages maximum.
- A precise technical sheet for the existing artwork: title, materials, techniques, dimensions, weight, constraints and technical requirements for the exhibition, installation or transport of the artwork – PDF format, 2 A4 pages maximum.
- 3 to 5 visuals of the Work you are submitting to the competition (photo, diagram, drawing, etc.) – JPG format, 5 MB maximum per visual
- A video of the Work you are submitting to the competition – MOV/MP4 format, 4GB maximum (mandatory for applicants submitting a video Work, optional for other disciplines).

For Works presented in project form:

- Your signed registration form – PDF format
- A copy of your identity document (front and back of your European identity card or passport) – PDF format, 1 page maximum
- Your CV – PDF format, 2 pages maximum (A4 size)
- Your artistic portfolio showcasing your entire artistic journey/career (text and/or visuals) – PDF format, maximum 20 A4 pages, maximum 30 MB
- A statement of intent presenting the project and the artist's approach for the competition on the theme of Water (intellectual and creative approach), along with: a short text presenting the artwork for the **bilingual booklet** (maximum 1,000 characters including spaces); a short biography (500 characters); the entire file must be submitted in PDF format, 3 A4 pages maximum.
- A precise technical sheet for the project (sculptures, installations): title, materials, techniques, dimensions, weight, constraints and technical requirements for the exhibition, installation or transport of the artwork – PDF format, 2 A4 pages maximum.
- A **detailed budget of production costs**, including price quotes (i.e., the materials needed to create the Work, participating companies, shipping costs to the Foundation, customs fees, travel costs for project implementation oversight, and the financial resources necessary for the installation of the Work, including projectors if necessary). The production budget should not exceed a maximum of €50,000. Artists' fees are included in the €15,000 grant (including VAT) and should not be included in the production budget that the artist will submit to the Foundation.
- 3 to 5 visuals of the Work you are submitting to the competition (photo, diagram, drawing, etc.) – JPG format, 5 MB maximum per visual
- OPTIONAL – applicants may include a video presenting the work (providing context) – MOV or MP4 format, maximum 4 GB.

IMPORTANT: The Works presented should under no circumstances be designed for permanent installation at the Foundation.

Application files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the above instructions will not be submitted to the Expert Committees or to the International Grand Jury.

ARTICLE 4 – EXPERT COMMITTEES AND INTERNATIONAL GRAND JURY

Works will be selected in two phases: initially by the Expert Committees, and finally by an International Grand Jury working independently from the Foundation.

The Expert Committees

Each committee will consist of two professionals from the cultural sector and will be tasked with selecting 30 (approximately 30) «Finalists» from the application files received, which will then be presented to the International Grand Jury.

The International Grand Jury

This Grand Jury will be made up of prominent figures from the art world and will be chaired by Jean-Noël Jeanneney. It will select the Winners from the pool of Finalists, who will then be named as the year's "Talents Contemporains." A maximum of 7 applicants may be selected, at the discretion of the International Grand Jury.

Their selected works or projects then become part of the François Schneider Foundation's collection. The decisions of the Expert Committees and the International Grand Jury are final. No appeal is possible. Neither the Expert Committees nor the Grand Jury are authorised to comment on unsuccessful Applications.

Selection of Works and Projects

After reviewing application files from **December 2026 to February 2027**, the Expert Committees will prepare the list of Finalists, who will be notified by email. The list of Finalists will also be published on the Foundation's website in **February 2027**.

Upon receiving this notification, the Finalists must provide two texts: one will be a presentation of the selected work (maximum 1,000 characters including spaces) and the other will be a short biography (maximum 500 characters), in French or English. These texts will be used in the official press release announcing the Finalists, for promotion on the website, and for the preparation of a bilingual booklet.

The Works of the Finalists will then be reviewed in May 2027 by the members of the International Grand Jury, which will determine the winners of the competition «Talents Contemporains – 16th edition».

The Winners of the competition «Talents Contemporains - 16th edition» will be announced in May 2027. The Organiser may postpone these dates at its discretion, and in such case shall notify Applicants on its website.

ARTICLE 5 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1 – Collective Management

When submitting their application and upon signing the contract, each Applicant undertakes to declare his or her status with respect to collective management organisations, including ADAGP, SAIF, or any equivalent organisation, and warrants that the information provided is true, accurate, and complete.

The Applicant shall promptly inform the Foundation in case of any change in his or her status in this regard.

When the Applicant is already a member of a collective management organisation, the parties acknowledge that certain reproduction and performance rights may be managed by said organisation. In this case, the exercise of these rights shall be subject to the organisation's rules, particularly in regard to authorisations and remuneration, and the Foundation may need to request the necessary authorisations and pay the corresponding fees.

The Applicant shall hold the Foundation harmless against any consequences arising from any inaccurate or incomplete declaration regarding the Applicant's status with respect to collective management societies.

5.2 – Authorisation for all Applicants

Each Applicant expressly authorises the Fondation François Schneider to reproduce, present and distribute the content of their Application file, in whole or in part, free of charge, exclusively for purposes of organising the competition, internal and external communications, and the promotion and advancement of the competition and its finalists, applicants and winners.

This authorisation is granted on a non-exclusive, worldwide basis for the legal term of the corresponding copyright protections, for all media currently existing or to be developed in the future, including print (catalogues, booklets, posters and press kits) and digital (websites, social media, newsletters and audiovisual media).

Any use thereof will respect the Applicant's moral rights, in particular the rights of authorial attribution and integrity in his or her Work.

5.3 – Licensing of rights by Winners

When an Applicant is selected as a Winner, he or she will enter a specific contract with the Foundation establishing terms for the acquisition of the work and the licensing of copyrights. In this context, the Winner undertakes to grant the Foundation, on a non-exclusive basis, the right to reproduce and present the Work to the public, under the following terms:

5.3.1 – Non-commercial uses (communications and promotion)

The Foundation is authorised to reproduce and present the Work, in whole or in part, for institutional communications and cultural promotion purposes, including:

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

Such uses shall be non-exclusive and shall not entitle the Winner to any additional compensation.

5.3.2 – Ancillary commercial exploitation

The Foundation is also authorised to use the Work in the context of ancillary commercial exploitation directly related to its cultural activities, including:

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

Such exploitation shall be of a limited and ancillary nature, shall not constitute a primary commercial activity, and shall be covered by the remuneration provided under the contract, in accordance with the provisions of the Intellectual Property Code.

5.3.3 – Other exploitation

Any commercial exploitation distinct from or exceeding this scope, including but not limited to:

- derivative products on a large scale,
- standalone commercial publications,
- third-party exploitation,
- or any independent exploitation of the Work,

shall require a separate prior contract between the Foundation and the Winner, in particular regarding the applicable financial terms.

5.4 – Respect for moral rights

The Foundation undertakes to respect the artist's moral rights, in particular his or her rights of authorial attribution and integrity in his or her Work.

Any substantial adaptation of the Work shall require the Winner's prior approval, except where such adaptation is justified by technical or conservation requirements.

ARTICLE 6 – PHYSICAL OWNERSHIP

The Winner hereby undertakes to assign physical ownership of the Works submitted for this competition to the Organiser, under terms and conditions to be determined, if applicable, at a later date. Physical ownership of the Work will be transferred to the Organiser upon the Organiser's receipt and acceptance thereof. The Winner shall remain fully responsible for the Work until it has been received by the Organiser.

ARTICLE 7 – FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

7-1. In consideration of the Winner's design, production, and grant of a non-exclusive license of his or her intellectual property rights as provided under Article 5 of these Regulations, and the transfer of physical ownership of the Work to the Fondation François Schneider as provided under Article 6 of these Regulations, the Foundation shall pay the Winner **a total of €15,000 incl. tax**, comprising a merit prize of €8,000 incl. tax, and €7,000 incl. tax for the production and purchase of the Work and the license of rights. The costs for the transportation and installation of the Work at the Foundation's premises shall be borne by the Foundation.

If in the case of a photographic print or a video, the Work is not unique, this amount shall be reduced to €8,000 incl. tax, comprising a merit prize of €4,000 incl. tax and €4,000 incl. tax for the production and purchase of the Work and the license of rights.

7-2. In addition to the consideration provided for in Article 7-1, Winners whose Work was originally submitted as an unrealised project will need to prepare a document containing a detailed budget of the costs of producing the Work (including production, transport, and installation costs).

The Foundation may ask the artist to produce the Work immediately, in which case the winner shall be responsible for the complete oversight of the production process and shall have a maximum of one year to finish the project. The Foundation will bear all production, transport and installation costs as indicated in the budget document provided by the winner, who may not request any additional remuneration for production oversight purposes.

Alternatively, if the Foundation elects to defer the production of the Work, the winner shall produce a high-quality, exhibition-ready model at a scale to be determined in consultation with the Foundation, and shall provide the technical specifications and drawings required for the subsequent production of the Work. The external expenses incurred for the creation of this model will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts, and should not exceed €2,000 (incl. tax) unless otherwise agreed in advance by the Foundation.

If and when the Work itself is subsequently produced, the artist may be asked, but shall not be required, to provide full supervision of its production, for which an additional supervision fee of €5,000 excl. tax shall be payable.

7-3. In the circumstances referred to in article L.131-4 paragraph 2 and Article L.132-6 of the Intellectual Property Code, **the amounts to be paid under paragraph 1 of this article shall constitute the entirety of the copyright remuneration paid to the Winners.**

ARTICLE 8 – COMMISSION AND PRODUCTION

Winners who originally submitted their Work in the form of a project shall ensure that the final Work or three-dimensional model is produced in accordance with the project presentation submitted on the website of the Fondation François Schneider as part of their Application to the «Talents Contemporains» competition. Winners undertake to produce the Work or three-dimensional model with all due care and professionalism. Winners attest that their Work is an original creation. Winners are hereby duly informed of the requirement to comply with all deadlines specified by the Organiser. **The winning Works will be exhibited at the Foundation for the first time in the winter of 2028.**

If the Winner wishes to exercise their right of withdrawal and request the removal of the Work, the exercise of such right shall entitle the Organiser to compensation for the loss suffered. The Organiser further reserves the right, in particular, to demand repayment of any advance payments made to the Winner.

ARTICLE 9 – INSTALLATION AND EXHIBITION ARRANGEMENTS

Each Winner undertakes to deliver the acquired Work with all the presentation materials required for its exhibition (specific video equipment, framing, base, mounting, etc.), without additional financial compensation. Each Winner undertakes to be present during the installation of the Work and to personally bring it into operation (if necessary).

Each Winner undertakes to collaborate with the Organiser to promote the Work, in particular by attending press conferences, cultural events, public engagement initiatives, guided tours, workshops, or other events.

These Rules do not establish any obligation on the part of the Organiser to promote the Works or the Winners.

ARTICLE 10 – PERSONAL DATA (GDPR)

In connection with the performance of this contract, the Foundation, acting as the data controller, is required to collect and process personal data relating to the Artist. Such data processing operations shall be conducted in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of personal data (GDPR) and applicable French law.

Data is collected and processed for the following purposes:

- administrative and contractual management of the competition;
- oversight of the artistic project, its production and its distribution;
- management of accounting, tax and legal obligations;
- institutional communications related to the Foundation (with due regard for image rights and moral rights)

The lawful basis for processing is:

- the implementation of these rules;
- compliance with legal obligations;
- the Foundation's legitimate interest in monitoring and promoting its cultural activities

The data processed may include:

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

The data will be provided to:

- the Foundation's internal departments;
- the service providers involved in the project (accounting, communication, technical);
- institutional partners or funders, where appropriate, and only as needed for the performance of their duties.

Personal data is retained for a limited time, appropriate to its purpose: :

- Data pertaining to Applicants who are not selected as winners is retained for a maximum of two (2) years from the close of the competition;
- Data pertaining to Winners is retained for the duration of the performance of the contract and then archived for the applicable legal periods, in particular for accounting purposes; data relating to the Works is retained for the entire duration of their possession by the Foundation, plus the period necessary for archival purposes.

The artist shall have:

- the rights of access, rectification, and erasure
- the right to restriction of processing;
- the right to object to processing;
- and the right to data portability, where applicable

These rights may be exercised by contacting the Foundation either by email (info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org) or by postal mail sent to the address given in the preamble.

Data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority, namely the National Commission for Information Technology and Civil Liberties (CNIL), if they believe that the processing of their personal data violates the applicable regulations.

The Foundation is committed to implementing appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of personal data.

ARTICLE 11 – APPLICANTS’ IMAGE RIGHTS

In the context of this contract and of activities related to the project (production, exhibition, public outreach, communications), Applicants authorise the Foundation to capture, reproduce, and distribute their image, voice, and remarks, if any, under the conditions set forth below.

This authorisation is granted exclusively for the purposes of:

- the Foundation’s institutional communications;
- promotion of the project, of exhibitions, and of related activities;
- cultural and artistic advancement;

The artist’s image may be used on all media now known or hereafter invented, including:

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

Conditions:

- Image use is non-exclusive and does not generate any additional compensation.
- This right is granted worldwide and for the duration of the competition.
- The Foundation agrees to take no action likely to prejudice the Artist’s reputation or dignity.

Any use of the Applicant’s image for commercial purposes separate from or unrelated to the project shall require a prior specific contract.

ARTICLE 12 – RESPONSIBILITY

Each Applicant is legally responsible for his or her own actions and for the use of his or her equipment. The Organiser shall not be held responsible in any way for damages or injuries caused to Applicants.

The Organiser reserves the right to terminate, modify or suspend the competition due to any event beyond its control (event cancellation, modification of the program, or any other event related to natural disasters, cases of force majeure, and more particularly in case of war, general strike, social unrest, terrorist attacks, public calamities and fires).

The Organiser cannot be held responsible in the event that one or more Applicants are unable to participate in the competition or suffer any harm due to malfunctions and/or disruptions affecting the proper conduct of the competition.

With respect to the use of the Competition website, Applicants acknowledge the risks inherent in using the Internet, including access performance limitations, service interruptions, and computer viruses.

ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENTS

The Organiser reserves the right to amend these rules at any time, without prior notice and with no obligation to justify its decision, and may not be held liable solely by reason of such amendments. Additions and amendments may therefore be published during the competition period and, if necessary, submitted for acceptance by Applicants who have accepted previous versions of these Rules.

In the event of a change in dates, the new dates will be published on the competition website and shall be directly binding upon the Applicants.

ARTICLE 14 – JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAW

These competition rules shall be governed by French law.

Subject to mandatory provisions of law, any dispute that may arise with regard to the formation, interpretation or performance of these Rules shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Organiser's registered office

ARTICLE 15 – CONSULTATION OF RULES

These competition rules are available to Applicants in their entirety on the Foundation's website www.fondationfrancoisschneider.org and may be obtained free of charge by emailing a request to the following address: info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org or by sending a request by postal mail to the following address: 27 rue de la Première Armée – 68700 WATTWILLER - FRANCE

ARTICLE 16 – AGREED FORMS OF PROOF

It is agreed that, except in the event of manifest error, the Organizer may rely, in particular as evidence of any act, event or omission, on the programs, data, files, recordings, operations and other sources of information (such as monitoring reports or other statements) of a computerised or electronic nature, format or medium that are established, received or retained directly or indirectly by the Organizer, particularly in its information systems and audiovisual recordings.

The Applicants undertake not to challenge the admissibility, validity or evidentiary value of said information sources of a computerised, audiovisual or electronic nature or format on the basis of any legal provision requiring certain documents to be in writing or to be signed by the parties in order to constitute evidence.

Accordingly, the information sources in question shall constitute evidence, and if produced by the Organiser in litigation or other proceedings, shall be admissible, valid, and binding upon the parties in the same manner and under the same conditions as any document created, received or retained in writing, and shall have the same evidentiary value.

