



FONDATION
FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

Call for applications

23 September - 22 November 2026

Talents 16th edition Contemporains

Contemporary art competition

On the theme of Water, submit a work or a project

Award • Acquisition • Exhibition

THE FONDATION FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

Established in 2000 and officially recognised as a public interest foundation in 2005, the Fondation François Schneider pursues a dual commitment: supporting education through study grants in Alsace and the Yonne department, as well as promoting contemporary artistic creation.

Its art centre, inaugurated in 2013, is housed in the former bottling plant of the Wattwiller springs in Alsace, France. The venue is entirely dedicated to the theme of water, which it explores each year through temporary exhibitions showcasing internationally renowned and up-and-coming artists. The subject of water is approached through its multiple facets: physical, poetic, aesthetic, geographical, political, and scientific.

Through various initiatives, including the **Talents Contemporains** competition on the theme of Water and Earth, the Fondation François Schneider supports visual artists in the development of their careers, notably through the acquisition of their work and the exhibition of their artistic output. The Foundation also showcases these artists through its collection via loans of works and travelling exhibitions.

THE « TALENTS CONTEMPORAINS » COMPETITION ON THE THEME OF WATER

Reflecting contemporary artistic creation, the **Talents Contemporains** competition, launched in 2011, explores European and international art scenes around this fundamental theme. This has created a unique collection, featuring artists from recognised art schools as well as those with self-taught and unconventional backgrounds.

Today, this collection forms a unique ensemble that runs counter to certain institutional or market trends. The works are exhibited both within the art centre and are increasingly loaned for off-site projects. For the winning artists, the prize is not just genuine financial support, but also a career springboard by offering institutional recognition. Programming an exhibition at the art centre ensures that the winning artists' work is showcased, promoting cultural mediation with the public and a regional and national rollout of their artistic approach.



TERMS AND ELIGIBILITY OF THE COMPETITION

Conditions of entry

- The competition is open to visual artists of all nationalities and ages (18 and over).
- Applicants must **demonstrate a professional artistic practice and/or hold a degree from an art school**. To be eligible, applicants must show a recent and sustained track record over the past five years, through several exhibitions (solo and/or group), publications (monographs, catalogues), or participation in artist residencies
- Applications must be written in French or English.

Eligibility criteria for the artwork

- The work submitted must be on the theme of Water.
- Eligible disciplines are as follows: **painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, video, textile art, or any other form of visual or plastic art** (film, performing arts and music are not accepted)
- **For installations and sculptures**, artists may submit either an existing work or a project. If submitting a project, a production budget of no more than €50,000 must be included.
- For other artistic forms, **only an existing work may be submitted**. No additional production budget can be allocated for paintings, drawings, photographs or videos.
- Format of the work (Unique piece): The work may consist of several elements or multiple parts (for example, a triptych or an installation made up of several objects), provided that the whole constitutes a single copy.
Exception (Series and prints): For photography and video only, if the work exists in multiple copies, the prize money is reduced to €8,000.
- **Technical criteria:** oil paintings on canvas and drawings must not exceed 320 x 210 cm for a single piece. Diptychs and triptychs are accepted

Each applicant may submit only one work or one project per year. A work entered into the competition may not be resubmitted in a subsequent year, or at any later date.

NB: If a submitted image has been generated with the help of artificial intelligence, please indicate this in the image caption.

To date, **96 works by the following artists have been awarded:**

YOAV ADMONI • AKMAR • RENAUD AUGUSTE-DORMEUIL • NOUR AWADA • RACHAEL LOUISE BAILEY • CÉSAR BARDOUX • GUILLAUME BARTH • HICHAM BERRADA • BENOÎT BILLOTTE • MATHIEU BONARDET • BIANCA BONDI • ULYSSE BORDARIAS • MURIEL BORDIER • JULIE BOURGES • JESSIE BRENNAN • JEANNIE BRIE • EMILIE BROUT & MAXIME MARION • GAËLLE CALLAC • CÉCILE CARRIERE • XAVIER CASTRO • JULIE CHAFFORT • YVES CHAUDOUËT • CLAIRE CHESNIER • ETIENNE CLIQUET • LADISLAS COMBEUIL • VALÈRE COSTES • OLIVIER CROUZEL • EDOUARD DECAM • ASIEH DEGHANI • ALIOUNE DIAGNE • CÉLINE DIAIS • REBECCA DIGNE • SIDORENKO-DUTCA • CRISTINA ESCOBAR • PASCALE ETTLIN • DAVID FALCO • LAURENT FAULON • SARA FERRER • ETIENNE FOUCHET • MARIE-ANITA GAUBE • ELÉONORE GEISSLER • VARDIT GOLDNER • ANTOINE GONIN • ELISE GRENOIS • COLLECTIF ETHNOGRAPHIC • BILAL HAMDAD • PAUL HEINTZ • ARTHUR HOFFNER • HARALD HUND • HAO JINGFANG & WANG LINGJIE • MARC JOHNSON • NADIA KAABI-LINKE • ZHANG KECHUN • MARYAM KHOSROVANI • M'HAMMED KILITO • ELIZAVETA KONOVALOVA • AMÉLIE LABOURDETTE • JÉRÉMY LAFFON • MANON LANJOUÈRE • MATHILDE LAVENNE • OLIVIER LEROI • SUJIN LIM • RAHSHIA LINENDOLL-SAWYER • CLAIRE MALRIEUX • LAURENT MARESCHAL • AURÉLIEN MAUPLOT • MEHDI MEDDACI • EVA MEDIN • MEHRALI • CAMILLE MICHEL • GUSTAVO MILLON • YOSRA MOJTAHEDI • EVA NIELSEN • MAËL NOZAHIC • JOHAN PARENT • BENOÎT PYPE • ENRIQUE RAMIREZ • BERTRAND RIGAUX • SARAH RITTER • FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ TEARE • CÉLESTE ROGOSIN • BENJAMIN ROSSI • ERIK SAMAKH • SANDRA & RICARDO • UGO SCHIAVI • AURÉLIE SCOUARNEC • ALEX SETON • SUHAIL SHAIKH • NOEMI SJÖBERG • PAUL SOUVIRON • ELVIA TEOTSKI • THOMAS TEURLAI • CAPUCINE VANDEBROUCK • WIKTORIA WOJCIECHOWSKA • JENNY YMKER • KECHUN ZHANG

ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION AND THE PRIZE

An initial selection of around thirty finalists is made by four Expert Committees. Each committee comprises two professionals from the cultural sector and is tasked with selecting, from all the applications received, around thirty «Finalists» who are then presented to the International Grand Jury.

A maximum of **7 winners** are then chosen by the International Grand Jury, comprising leading figures from the art world.

THE INTERNATIONAL GRAND JURY

- **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 the Insulinde Collections, Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac – Paris (France)
- **Alfred Pacquement**, Honorary Chief Heritage Curator – Paris (France)
- **Chiara Parisi**, Director of the Centre Pompidou-Metz (Metz)
- **Ernest Pignon-Ernest**, Artist, Paris (France)
- **Roland Wetzel**, Director of the Museum Tinguely – Basel (Switzerland)
- **Rosa Maria Malet**, Director of the Fondation Joan Miró 1980–2017, Board Member – Barcelona (Spain)

NB: The Expert Committees and the International Grand Jury are subject to change depending on availability.

Each winner receives **€15,000 for the acquisition of their work, which becomes part of the Foundation's collection.**

Each applicant guarantees that the work or project submitted is and/or will remain unique (sculpture, drawing, installation). In the case of photography or video, if the work proposed exists in multiple editions, the Fondation François Schneider reserves the right to reduce the prize to **€8,000.**

The laureats commit to deliver their artwork ready for exhibition, providing at their own expense all necessary display elements (framing, pedestal/plinth, mounting, specific video equipment, etc.).

The Fondation François Schneider covers the costs relating to the production of the exhibition (artwork transport and insurance) and the publication of a bilingual booklet.

THE TIMELINE

- **23 September 2026, 14:00 pm → 22 November 2026, 11:59 (local time in France)** : competition entries
- **December 2026 – February 2027** : the Expert Committees shortlist around thirty finalists
- **March 2027** : announcement of the shortlisted finalists to the press, on the Foundation's website and social media
- **Spring 2027** : selection of the winners by the International Grand Jury, and announcement of the winners to the press, on the Foundation's website and social media
- **Winter 2028** : exhibition of the works at the Fondation François Schneider's art centre in Wattwiller

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

No application or file may be modified once incomplete after the closing date of the call for applications. Please note that the platform may experience heavy traffic in the final hours before the deadline due to a last-minute surge in applications.

THE APPLICATION FILE

Applications must be submitted online in French or English via the registration platform accessible from the Fondation François Schneider's website: www.fondationfrancoisschneider.org/en

- Applicants wishing to register individually should do so via the following link:
https://talentscontemporains-eau.fondationfrancoisschneider.org/inscription_individuel-en.php
- Applicants wishing to register as a group should do so via the following link
https://talentscontemporains-eau.fondationfrancoisschneider.org/inscription_collectif-en.php

If you experience any technical difficulties related to the internet connection during the call for applications, please contact the Foundation as soon as possible. We encourage you to submit your application well in advance to avoid any server slowdowns that could prevent your application from reaching us on time.

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

These application files must include the following elements:

Administrative section

- ☐ Registration form and competition rules, signed to confirm they have been read and approved (PDF format).
- ☐ A copy of a valid form of identification (national ID card, front and back, or passport) (PDF format).

Artistic section

- ☐ An up-to-date CV and/or presentation of your artists' collective, evidencing a solid artistic track record (recent exhibitions in institutions, galleries, festivals, etc. and/or participation in an artist residency) (PDF format, 2 pages maximum).
- ☐ Your portfolio, presenting the full body of your work, including both images and accompanying text (PDF format, 20 A4 pages maximum, 30 MB maximum)..
- ☐ An artist's statement presenting the work or project and the artistic approach for the competition on the theme of Water (PDF format, approximately 1 page), as well as a short presentation text of the work for the bilingual booklet (maximum 1,000 characters including spaces); a short biography (500 characters). All of this must be sent in PDF format (maximum 3 A4 pages).
- ☐ A detailed technical sheet for the existing work or project (sculptures, installations), including title, materials, technique, dimensions, weight, constraints, and the technical requirements needed for exhibiting, installing or transporting the work, as well as its ongoing care and maintenance to ensure its long-term conservation (PDF format, 2 A4 pages maximum).
- ☐ A detailed production budget of no more than €50,000 for works submitted as projects for sculptures and installations (PDF format). This should present production costs with quotes: materials, audiovisual equipment, work carried out by companies/craftspeople, delivery costs (transport if specific, customs, crane hire, etc.), and travel costs for monitoring the project's production. The Foundation does not fund research or creation residencies. Artists' fees are included within the €15,000 prize and should not appear in the budget.
- ☐ 3 to 5 colour visuals (photo, drawing, sketch, 3D modelling, plan, etc.) (JPG format, 5MB maximum per visual).
- ☐ A video excerpt for video works. For other works (painting, sculpture, etc.), a video recording may also be included to provide context (MOV/MP4 format, 4GB maximum).

NB : The jury will pay close attention to the clarity and conciseness of the application, as well as the coherence of the proposal in relation to the Fondation François Schneider's collection.

Any incomplete application, or one that does not comply with the instructions above, will not be submitted to the Expert Committees or the International Grand Jury.



INFORMATION ET CONTACT

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Production and « Talents Contemporains »

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