

Lausanne, november 2023

1. General Information

Photo Elysée, Cantonal Museum for Photography, is a Museum of the Canton of Vaud managed by the Plateforme 10 Foundation.

Internationally recognized, Photo Elysée is one of the world's leading museums entirely dedicated to photography. Since its establishment in 1985, the museum has worked to improve public understanding of the photographic medium through innovative exhibitions, key publications and engaging events. In a shared commitment to foster creativity and support the production of new work, Photo Elysée and Parmigiani Fleurier have been founding partners of the Prix Elysée since 2014. The prize runs every two years. The sixth edition will take place 2024-2026.

The Prix Elysée is a two-phase prize to support creative work, in which the work-in-progress of 8 nominees and the winner's finalized project are all promoted (publication and/or exhibition and/or installation, etc.).

The prize is open to photographers and artists who use photography in their practice, regardless of age or nationality, whose work has been the subject of first exhibitions and publications that have brought them national recognition, or even international visibility. However, they have not yet benefited from a mid-career retrospective. They are recommended by a reputed professional in the field of photography or art (museum, gallery, publishing house, journalism, etc.). All photographic genres and techniques are welcome. The prize has no theme. Proposed projects must be new and unrealized, i.e. never exhibited or published before, and must not have been submitted to any other prize.

During the first year, 8 nominees are selected upon their entry portfolios. Each will receive a contribution of CHF 5,000 for a first valorisation of their project.

The following year, an international jury examines the complete file of each nominee and chooses the winner. She or he receives CHF 80'000. This sum is allocated partly to the production of the project and partly to the presentation of the project (book or exhibition), both of which must be completed on time and within budget. The curator will continue to accompany the winner in this process. The finalized project is presented at a major Photo Elysée event.

2. Grants

The following grants will be awarded as part of the Prix Elysée:

- A contribution of CHF 5,000 to each of the 8 nominated artists
- A prize worth CHF 80,000 to the winner

The photographers may only use these sums to carry out the work required as part of the Prix Elysée.

3. Timetable for the Prix Elysée 2025

- Applications open on November 10, 2023 and close on January 28, 2024
- The jury will select 8 nominees, who will be announced in June 2024
- A presentation of the work in progress of the 8 nominees will take place in January 2025
- The nominees must provide Photo Elysée a complete dossier (A4 prints and a precise description of the project to be carried out) for the international jury by February 2025
- The international jury will meet in spring 2025 to select the winner, who will be announced in June 2025
- The winner's finalized project will be presented in June 2026

4. Candidates

The Prix Elysée is aimed at photographers or artists who make use of photography. Artists should have experienced exhibiting in group and/or solo shows – in galleries, museums, or other cultural institutions – and publications that have brought them national recognition, or even international visibility. Nevertheless, they have not yet enjoyed a mid-career retrospective.

Applications are welcome from artists of any age or nationality. They may submit work as individuals or a collective. In the case of a collective application, the group of artists must nominate a representative to act as the museum's contact. Individual and collective applications will be assessed in exactly the same way.

5. Submission Material

All photographic work will be taken into consideration. No preference will be given to particular genres or techniques.

No work containing any reference, whether direct or indirect, to any brand of watch or any product from the watchmaking industry will be considered.

6. Application Procedure

Artists apply for the Prix Elysée in their own name, and submit their application directly via the Pictor platform.



prixelysee.ch

Candidates for the Prix Elysée must be recommended by a reputed professional in the fields of photography or art (museum, gallery, publishing, journalism, etc.).

Candidates' portfolios must include the following:

- A representative portfolio of the candidate's work consisting of 10 (maximum) high-definition digital files (.jpf files, max 3000px). Photographers may present a selection of individual works, works from a series or a series as a whole, or even preparatory work for the proposed Prix Elysée project, should it be available. The name of each digital file must be "artist name_number" (i.e.: Smith_01.jpg, Smith_02.jpg, etc.)
- A short description of the proposed prize project (maximum 500 words)
- A short biography (maximum 30 words)
- A CV including the following: complete contact details, education, selected exhibitions and publications
- The Prix Elysée application form, completed and signed
- A letter of recommendation, addressed to Photo Elysée, from the candidate's reference, who must also complete and sign the relevant form

The official languages of the Prix Elysée are French and English. Photo Elysée reserves the right to edit texts, in consultation with the photographers, and will take responsibility for translations between the two languages.

Incomplete submissions and portfolios that do not comply with the standards and formats laid out in these rules will be rejected automatically, without further justification.

Photo Elysée reserves the right to archive any file shared on the Picter platform.

Each candidate undertakes to grant the Prix Elysée exclusive rights to her or his project until the nominees are announced in June 2024.

7. Nomination

The 8 nominees will be selected by a jury. The decision of the jury is final.

The nominees will be contacted individually by Photo Elysée in spring 2024. They will then have five days to confirm that they will participate in the Prix Elysée and be available to attend the nominees announcement event in late June 2024 (the exact date will be communicated later). The identities of the nominees will be revealed publicly on this occasion and broadcast the following day on the Prix Elysée website as well as on social networks and in the press. A selection of images will be distributed to the press and used by Photo Elysée and Parmigiani Fleurier to promote the Prix Elysée.

Should any candidate decline the nomination, be unable to honour the commitments involved or fail to confirm her or his participation (or do so too late), the jury will select another photographer.

After being informed by Photo Elysée that they have been selected in spring 2024, the nominees will be invited to sign a contract granting the museum free and exclusive rights to use a selection of their work for the sole purpose of promoting the Prix Elysée and for the aforementioned valorisation of their work in progress. Photo Elysée will have the power to grant the same rights to Parmigiani Fleurier.

After signing the contract, the nominees will receive their individual contributions and will be able to start work on their projects. They agree not to disclose that they have been nominated or to make their projects public until after the official announcement in late June 2024.

The nominees also agree to grant their projects exclusively to Photo Elysée and Parmigiani Fleurier until the winner is announced in 2025. With the exception of the winner, they will then be free to carry out their projects, and to publicise and exhibit them, should they so wish. In this case, they will have the opportunity, but not the obligation, to describe themselves as “Nominated for the Prix Elysée 2025, supported by Parmigiani Fleurier”.

8. Presentation of the nominated projects

In return for the individual contribution of CHF 5,000 that they will receive, the nominees undertake to provide the elements required by Photo Elysée according to the type of valuation envisaged. These elements must not refer, directly or indirectly, to any brand of watch or any product from the watchmaking industry.

In addition, the nominees undertake to send Photo Elysée in February 2025 (the exact date will be communicated at a later stage):

- A complete, physical, project portfolio for the attention of the international jury which must include the following:
- A detailed description of the project
- A timetable for producing the project
- Between 5 and 20 visuals (printed version in A4 format and corresponding high-definition files, according to the standards specified in point 6), whether they are images already shown in the framework of the Prix Elysée or new photographs taken in the meantime as part of the project

The rules on language, editing and translation for the application process (see point 6) apply equally to the entire project portfolio.

Any nominee who fails to submit the necessary material by the aforementioned dates or to comply with the required standards and formats will be automatically eliminated from the Prix Elysée.

Images provided in the final project portfolios may be used by Photo Elysée and Parmigiani Fleurier to promote the Prix Elysée.

9. Jury

The international jury's decisions are final. It has the sole authority to select the winner on the basis of the applications, completed project portfolios and the valorisation made of it within the framework of the Prix Elysée.

The jury will consist of 7 members. Individuals change for each edition of the Prix Elysée but it always includes:

- 1 representative appointed by Photo Elysée
- 1 representative appointed by Parmigiani Fleurier
- 5 leading and internationally acclaimed professionals in the world of photography, selected by Photo Elysée

The international jury will convene in spring 2025 and will judge the nominees on the quality of their photographic work, the relevance of their projects and their ability to carry them out. Once the jury has selected a winner for the Prix Elysée, its decision cannot be changed.

The winner will be contacted in person by Photo Elysée. She or he agrees to be available in June 2025 for the corresponding announcement event, the date and location of which will be communicated at that time, and not to reveal her or his victory before that date. The identity of the winner will be revealed on that occasion, and then published the following day on the Prix Elysée website.

10. Production of the Winning Project

Once the winner has been nominated, the curator will accompany her or him in the production of the project. The curator will provide her or his expertise, in terms of both form and content, so that the winning project can be carried out within the deadline (June 2026) and available budget.

The winner agrees to respect the technical specifications laid down by Photo Elysée and to grant exclusive rights to the project to the museum from June 2025 to June 2026.

The winner's project will be presented publicly in June 2026.

11. Rights and Responsibilities

- All texts and images submitted as part of the Prix Elysée must be free of third party rights following the submission of applications
- Photo Elysée and Parmigiani Fleurier will have the necessary rights for publicity and promoting the Prix Elysée by the museum and Parmigiani Fleurier, for publication in the press and projection in the course of all aforementioned events
- These obligations remain in force for the nominees until the winner is announced. The winner's image rights will be detailed in a separate contract with the museum
- By entering the competition, photographers accept all aforementioned terms and conditions

12. Miscellaneous

Photo Elysée reserves the right to alter the rules set out here at any time, after having duly informed any candidates who have submitted an application that complies with the criteria laid out before any such modification.

These rules are governed by Swiss Law and the competent courts in Lausanne, Switzerland, have exclusive jurisdiction.

13. Timetable

- November 10, 2023 to January 28, 2024: applications open
- June 2024: presentation of the nominees
- August 2024: the first images of the project are ready to be shown
- January 2025: promotion of the work in progress of the 8 nominees
- February 2025: deadline for the nominees to submit final portfolios for consideration of the international jury
- June 2025: Prix Elysée award ceremony
- June 2026: deadline for the winner to complete her or his work and presentation during a dedicated event