

PHOTO ELYSÉE AT PARIS PHOTO

At the Grand Palais, from November 7 to 10, 2024

Driven by the desire to make an active contribution to developing the careers of photographers from every generation, the museum, directed by Nathalie Herschdorfer, supports contemporary creation in particular with the Prix Elysée. Discover the work of the eight photographers nominated for the Prix Elysée 2025 at Paris Photo, where Photo Elysée is taking up residence as an institutional partner.

Prix Elysée

Since it was launched in 2014, the Prix Elysée has been awarded to five photographers: Martin Kollar, Matthias Bruggmann, Luis Carlos Tovar, Kurt Tong and Debi Cornwall. Winner in 2023 for her project *Model Citizens*, Debi Cornwall presented her work in a book published by Radius Books and Textuel, and showcased it in a highly acclaimed exhibition at the Rencontres d'Arles.

This biennial prize, worth CHF 80,000, rewards a mid-career photographer for an original series. In 2024, eight photographers, selected from among more than 750 applications from all over the world, each received the sum of CHF 5,000 to launch their project: Hannah Darabi, Roger Eberhard, Rahim Fortune, Camille Gharbi, Samuel Gratacap, Seif Kousmate, Felipe Romero Beltrán and Anastasia Samoylova.

An international jury will select the winner in 2025, who will have one year to complete her or his project and publish a book. The Prix Elysée is the result of an exclusive partnership with Parmigiani Fleurier.

Podcast

Photo Elysée has produced a series of podcasts dedicated to the eight finalists of the Prix Elysée 2025. In a series of exclusive interviews available on our website, explore their career paths, inspirations, and get a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of their project.

Photo Elysée

Located in Plateforme 10's arts district in Lausanne and home to one of the largest and most varied photography collections in the world, Photo Elysée has been a benchmark among photography museums for almost 40 years, and has an active international presence. Currently, a major retrospective is devoted to the great Japanese photographer Daido Moriyama. At the same time, Photo Elysée is paying tribute to Sabine Weiss, whose entire collection of photographs has been donated to the museum.



Portrait of Nathalie Herschdorfer © Amélie Blanc

Nathalie Herschdorfer

A curator, art and photography historian, Nathalie Herschdorfer has been directing the Cantonal Museum for Photography, Photo Elysée, since 2022. She regularly appears on an international level as a curator and speaker. She is also the author of many books on photography.

"Supporting different generations of photographers is one of the essential missions we've set ourselves"
- Nathalie Herschdorfer

LOCATION

Booth P03, Grand Palais, Paris

PRESS CONTACT

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THE EIGHT NOMINEES FOR THE PRIX ELYSÉE 2025

Hannah Darabi (IR, 1981) – *Why Don't You Dance?*

Born in Tehran, the artist-photographer Hannah Darabi studied there at the Faculty of Fine Arts, then at the University of Paris VIII-Vincennes-Saint-Denis. Today based in Paris, her country of origin remains the main subject of most of her photographic series. In order to reveal the complex political situation of this country, she creates series in which her photographs interact with other media, such as texts, archival images or objects.



And All Is Fiction: But on the last page of the file, which reports the arrival of a caravan of prostitutes, madmen, and witches in the said village, a high-ranking security official found all the reports suspicious and called for more serious investigations. It was suggested that either an unknown religious sect is involved, or the case is fake and the product of the agent's dreams and imagination, which has corrupted the "administration" for unknown reasons.

Hannah Darabi, *And All Is Fiction*, "Mahvash's Book Of Pleasure", 2024, from the series *Why Don't You Dance?*, ongoing © Hannah Darabi

Roger Eberhard (CH, 1984) – *Meanwhile*

Born in Zürich, the Swiss photographer Roger Eberhard studied photography at the Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California, and at Zürich University of the Arts. After 13 years in the United States, Canada and Berlin, he moved back to Switzerland in 2017. His projects often deal with forms of governmentality, depict artificially contrived, stage-like settlements and reflect his interest in political geography.



Roger Eberhard, *Henriette Caillaux* : Browning FN 1906, 2024, from the series *Meanwhile*, ongoing © Roger Eberhard

Rahim Fortune (US, 1994)

– *The Cove*

Visual artist and educator from the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, United States, Rahim Fortune uses photography to ask fundamental questions about American identity. Focusing on the narratives of individual families and communities, he explores shifting geographies of migration and resettlement and the way that these histories are written on the landscapes of Texas and the American South.



Rahim Fortune, from the series *The Cove*, ongoing © Rahim Fortune

Camille Gharbi (FR, 1984)

– *Intimes convictions*

French photographer and visual artist Camille Gharbi has an artistic practice that focuses on contemporary social issues explored over the long term, including gender-based violence and co-existence, examining the ambivalence of human nature. Somewhere between documentary and conceptual photography, her approach questions the state of the world, playing on distance and aesthetics to evoke empathy and sensitivity. Seeing art as a vehicle for transformation, the intimacy and subjectivity of her pictures encourage a more politicised vision.



Camille Gharbi, "Spiked", 2024, from the series *Intimes convictions*, ongoing © Camille Gharbi

Samuel Gratacap (FR, 1982)

– *Welcome Europa*

French photographer whose work spans documentary photography and photojournalism, Samuel Gratacap is interested in the phenomena of migration and places of transit generated by contemporary conflicts. His projects are the result of long periods of immersion, taking the time needed to understand the complexity of situations and to restore that which, beyond numbers, flows, maps and geopolitical data, constitutes the heart of the matter: trajectories and personal experience.



Samuel Gratacap, from the series *Welcome Europa*, ongoing
© Samuel Gratacap

Seif Kousmate (MA, 1988)

– *Men vs Fathers*

Born in Essaouira, Seif Kousmate is a visual artist living in Tangier, Morocco. In 2014, he quit his career in civil engineering and bought his first camera at 26. As a self-taught artist, he began his photographic journey by exploring documentary photography, with the aim of capturing the diverse realities of marginalization in Africa. His artistic practice has evolved over the past ten years by progressively pushing the boundaries of photography at the intersection with contemporary art.



Seif Kousmate, from the series *Men vs Fathers*, ongoing © Seif Kousmate

Felipe Romero Beltrán (CO, 1992)
– *A Body That Speaks As a Bird*

Photographer originally from Colombia, Felipe Romero Beltrán is currently based in Paris. His artistic endeavours are deeply rooted in exploring social issues, with a particular focus on the tension that arises from the introduction of new narratives within the realm of documentary photography. Felipe Romero Beltrán's practice is characterized by its commitment to long-term projects, accompanied by research on the context of his work. He pursued his academic journey with an interest in photography, culminating in a PhD in 2024.



Felipe Romero Beltrán, *Canto I*, from the series *A Body That Speaks As a Bird*, ongoing © Felipe Romero Beltrán

Anastasia Samoylova (US, 1984)
– *Transformations*

Russian-born American artist Anastasia Samoylova focuses on visualizing climate action in her latest project, *Transformations*. Since moving to the U.S. in 2008 and later to Miami in 2016, Samoylova's work has centered on environmental and cultural shifts. Her project *FloodZone* explored coastal vulnerability to rising sea levels. In *Transformations*, she documents climate-adaptive architecture, green energy, and infrastructure that offer hope for our warming planet, emphasizing the necessity for collective action to address urgent climate risks. Her exhibition *Floridas: Anastasia Samoylova and Walker Evans* is currently on view at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



Anastasia Samoylova, *Destroyed House*, Ft. Myers Beach, Florida, 2023, from the series *Transformations*, ongoing © Anastasia Samoylova

Jury of the nominees for the Prix Elysée 2025

- Nathalie Herschdorfer – chair of the jury
- Chiara Bardelli Nonino – independant curator and visual editor, Milan
- Lewis Chaplin – co-founder of Loose Joints Publishing, Marseille-London
- Felix Hoffmann – artistic director of FOTO ARSENAL, Vienna
- Fiona Rogers – Parasol Foundation curator of Women in Photography at Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- Christoph Wiesner – director of Les Rencontres de la photographie, Arles

Previous winners

- 2023 – Debi Cornwall (US, 1973) *Model Citizens*, Radius Books, 2024
- 2021 – Kurt Tong (HK, 1977) *Dear Franklin*, Atelier EXB, 2022
- 2019 – Luis Carlos Tovar (CO, 1979) *Jardín de mi padre*, Editorial RM, 2020
- 2017 – Matthias Bruggmann (CH, 1978) *An Act of Unspeakable Violence*, Éditions Xavier Barral, 2018
- 2015 – Martin Kollar (SK, 1971) *Provisional Arrangement*, MACK Books, 2016