

Photo Elysée et Parmigiani Fleurier are pleased to announce that Iranian photographer Hannah Darabi has won the Prix Elysée 2025. Her project *Why Don't You Dance?* was chosen by an international jury amongst eight nominated propositions.

Based in Paris, Iranian photographer Hannah Darabi wins the Prix Elysée 2025. Her project will be previewed during Paris Photo in November 2025. It will then be published and exhibited at Photo Elysée in June 2026.

She was chosen amongst eight nominated artists: Roger Eberhard (Switzerland), Rahim Fortune (USA), Camille Gharbi (France), Samuel Gratacap (France), Seif Kousmate (Marocco), Felipe Romero Beltrán (Colombia) and Anastasia Samoylova (USA).

"Hannah Darabi has developed a unique style, mixing her photographs with images from a variety of sources - ephemera, archives and contemporary pop culture. In Why Don't You Dance?, she offers a fascinating exploration of the relationship that Iranian communities have with dance, both in Iran and abroad. The Prix Elysée offers Hannah Darabi the opportunity to develop her artistic research in the form of a publication with multiple layers and readings. Why Don't You Dance? is a very promising step in the expansion of new narratives, offering an innovative voice to contemporary visual culture," emphasizes the jury.

The international jury was made up of Rémi Faucheux, Co-Founder and Co-Director of RVB Books, Paris ; Ángel Luis González, Founder and Director of Photolreland, Dublin ; Clare Grafik, Head of Exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery, London ; Nathalie Herschdorfer, President of the Jury and Director of Photo Elysée, Lausanne ; Elisa Medde Independent Curator, Amsterdam ; and Anna Planas, Artistic Director of Paris Photo, Paris.

Hannah Darabi's career

Hannah Darabi (IR, 1981) is an artist-photographer born in Tehran. She 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. Hannah Darabi was awarded the Bernd and Hilla Becher sponsorship prize by the city of Düsseldorf for her entire artistic output in 2022, and the Madame Figaro award for her exhibition at the Rencontres d'Arles in 2023.



Ways of Becoming a Lover: 116 chosen good girls from 30 towns in Iran, and according to the Shah of Iran, society needs a true religion, not Islamist Mandarism.

Hannah Darabi, *Ways of Becoming a Lover*, « Mahvash Book Of Pleasure », 2024, from the series *Why Don't You Dance?*, work in progress © Hannah Darabi



On Homosexuality: He became a swallow and flew away, he travelled to anonymous deserts, he became a star and rose into the arch of the sky.

Hannah Darabi, *Homosexuality*, « Mahvash Book Of Pleasure », 2024, from the series *Why Don't You Dance?*, work in progress © Hannah Darabi



Phantoms of the Past: Suitable for your leisure time and fun walks.

Hannah Darabi, *Phantoms of the Past*, « Mahvash Book Of Pleasure », 2024, from the series *Why Don't You Dance?*, work in progress © Hannah Darabi

Hannah Darabi's Project

Why Don't You Dance? is an artistic research project exploring Iranian popular dance through three key figures: Mahvash, Jamileh, and Mohammad Khordadjan.

Combining photographic series, archival material, and participatory workshops, the project examines how dance, depending on social and political contexts, can become a tool for identity expression and emancipation, particularly within the Iranian diaspora. Inspired by Mahvash's autobiography and the karaoke nights at Cabaret Tehran in Los Angeles, it connects past and contemporary dance practices.

Prix Elysée. An international photography prize

The Prix Elysée is one of the most prestigious photography awards. It is awarded every two years following an international call for entries, without theme or age limit, and is dedicated to photographers in the middle of their career. The Prix Elysée allows to finance an ambitious and unpublished project, and to publish it as a book. After a first stage, eight artists are nominated and each receives CHF 5,000 to start a new project. An international jury meets in Lausanne to choose the winning project from the eight nominees. With CHF 80,000, the winner then has one year to finalize his or her project and publish it.

Offering support and financial means to photographers is as important as preserving their heritage for future generations. It is in a shared commitment to encourage creativity and the creation of new works that Photo Elysée and Parmigiani Fleurier have been associated since 2014 for the Prix Elysée.



Hannah Darabi at Paris Photo 2024 © Eloïse Genoud / Photo Elysée



Constitutional Law. Polygamy. Yes / No. In this stage, one man lives with one woman, but the relationship is such that polygamy and occasional infidelity remains the right of the men, even though for economic reasons polygamy is rare, while from the woman the strictest fidelity is generally demanded throughout the time she lives with the man, and adultery on her part is cruelly punished.

Hannah Darabi, *Constitutional Law, Polygamy, Yes / No*, « Mahvash's Book Of Pleasure », 2024, from the series *Why Don't You Dance?*, work in progress © Hannah Darabi

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