

PICTO
FOUNDATION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2026
UNTIL JANUARY 27

RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

PICTO LAB /

EXPERIMENTING WITH IMAGES

a p p r o c h e

FUJIFILM

n i e k e e n

renting



FRAGILE WARNING LIGHTS N°16, 2025. © Anna Katharina Scheidegger

RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

PICTO LAB / EXPERIMENTING WITH IMAGES

AN EXPERIMENTATION AND CREATIVE RESIDENCY SUPPORTED BY A NETWORK OF EXPERTS

PICTO LAB is a residency program that offers each year an artist the opportunity to benefit from support in experimentation, creation, and production for a period of three months (May-June-July) in Paris, within the network of PICTO laboratories and production studios.

For this PICTO LAB program, Picto Foundation partners with various organizations that support and help promote the work of the artist in residence. These partners include the a p p r o c h e fair, Fujifilm, Nielsen, and rentingART.

PICTO LAB aims to facilitate the development of a new project, notably by giving a photographer the opportunity to test techniques and protocols, and to experiment with them in unexpected configurations in order to push boundaries or explore new potential fields of the image and its formal expression.

PICTO LAB offers photographers and artists in residence, in collaboration with the craftsmen of the PICTO laboratories, the chance to explore through experimentation the possibilities offered by the various available technical skills.

PICTO LAB also serves as a space for the photographer to meet and connect with professionals who may contribute to the development of their work or interact with the project undertaken during the residency.

This program is made possible thanks to his partners.



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A PICTO FOUNDATION PROGRAMME, THE PICTO LABORATORIES ENDOWMENT FUND

Since its creation in 1950 by Pierre Gassmann, the PICTO laboratories have been committed to supporting and guiding photographers in their projects and the development of their practices.

Founded in 2016, PICTO FOUNDATION, PICTO's endowment fund, continues this historic commitment. Focused on experimenting with images and supporting and promoting the professional integration of photographers, its programme is designed to encourage creative, innovative and promising initiatives and projects in the field of photography.

Whether it is a question of adapting traditional processes, experimenting with digital tools, printing on unusual media or digital innovations in image processing, PICTO FOUNDATION would like to support photographers in their contemporary photographic experiments.

www.pictofoundation.fr/en/

THE VISION OF THE RESIDENCY

PICTO LAB / EXPERIMENTING WITH THE IMAGE, a residency program offered by PICTO FOUNDATION with its partners, is aimed at artists and photographers whose work explores new forms of photography, regardless of the themes addressed.

The program provides support for the development of projects involving specific, innovative, experimental, or uncommon skills. Recognizing photography and its creators as key witnesses of our time and the world in motion, and being aware of the significant transformations affecting the photographic medium, PICTO FOUNDATION, through this residency, seeks to explore with photographers new forms of image representation and reproduction.

Faithful to the position of PICTO Laboratories as collaborators with photographers, PICTO FOUNDATION, together with PICTO LAB, has established a technical and human support system designed to allow residents to deploy the protocols, tests, and aesthetic, creative, and technical inquiries necessary for the realization of their projects over the three-month residency period.

www.pictofoundation.fr/en/experimenting-with-images/residency/

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STAKEHOLDERS OF THE PROGRAMME

a ppr oc he

a ppr oc he is the first independent salon dedicated to artists who experiment with the photographic medium. This curatorial project, which consists exclusively of solo shows, takes place every year in November at Le Molière, a private mansion in the 1st arrondissement of Paris.

www.approche.paris



FUJIFILM is a japanese company active in three sectors - Health, Equipment and Photography. In the photography sector, the entire chain from shooting to printing is developed, in particular silver-halide photo paper.

<https://www.fujifilm.com/fr/en>



Nielsen is renowned for its aluminum frames with clean lines, which have always been closely associated with photographic art. It is this refined neutrality that reveals the essence: the image. The standard frame is made in Germany, while the custom frame comes to life in the Strasbourg workshop, ensuring precision and quality. These frames have become a signature in galleries, exhibitions, and private collections. With PICTO FOUNDATION, Nielsen reaffirms its commitment to supporting photography as a living art, by giving it the frame it deserves...

<https://www.nielsendesign.fr/>



rentingART creates bridges between the economic world and artistic creation. We support companies, real estate groups, architects, and public actors in designing and implementing cultural projects with strong human, participatory, and inclusive value. Since 2024, we have opened Espace CO42 in Clichy, our creative laboratory: a residency and exhibition space where contemporary artistic practices meet and intersect.

<https://rentingart.fr/>

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TO ENSURE SUPPORT, PICTO LAB PROVIDES:

1- A residency grant of €4,000.

2- Technical funding of €10,000, dedicated to the experimentation phase and the production of works at PICTO laboratories. The laureate will be supported throughout their process by a mentor who can provide guidance and respond to production needs.

3- Support from Nielsen for the framing of works produced during the residency.

4- rentingART will host the photographer in residence at Espace Co42 in Clichy for a three-month period from May to July. This live-work studio will allow the artist to focus on their practice and, at their initiative, create synergies with actors in the photography world through open studios and meetings.

5- The winning project will be presented in November 2026 at the salon a ppr oc he. The works produced during the residency will be exhibited and sold by the artist. Production of the works must be completed within the residency period.

6- Production costs not covered during the experimental phase of the residency, as detailed above, remain the responsibility of the artist. If the winning artist is represented by a gallery, the gallery will commit to presenting the artist's works at the salon; no commission will be taken by a ppr oc he. Otherwise, the works will be presented and sold by the salon organizers with the support of a dedicated professional trained specifically for their presentation and sale. In return, a 40% commission will be applied to sales made during the event.

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PRODUCTION FACILITIES :

For reference, below is a list of production facilities that the artist could potentially have access to:

- Black-and-white and color analog laboratory (Picto Bastille, Paris, 11th arrondissement)
- Traditional black-and-white film development, L'ATELIER Filippo (Picto Bastille, Paris, 11th arrondissement)
- Services and materials available on the Picto Online platform (PictoOnline.fr)
- Access to the machinery available at the production sites of Picto Bastille (Paris, 11th arrondissement) and Picto Grand Paris (Gennevilliers, 93)
- Meetings with experts as required, depending on the production facilities identified

Overview of production facilities available at Picto Bastille and Picto Grand Paris:

Lambda photographic imager, color and black-and-white developer for prints up to 127 cm wide, Frontier digital printer (APS format, 6×9, 9×12, 25×38 cm), pigment inkjet printer up to 160 cm wide, professional scanning, retouching, large-format printing up to 219 cm wide (indoor and outdoor printing on all types of flexible and rigid supports), laminator (for mounting, laminating, and encapsulating), cutting table and plotter (for all types of flexible and rigid media), etc.

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- The PICTO LAB residency is aimed at photographers who have been developing their practice for at least two years. The jury will pay particular attention to applications for which this opportunity could serve as a genuine springboard in their career.
- PICTO FOUNDATION and its partners will prioritize supporting a photographer who has not yet had the means to experiment, produce, and disseminate the project submitted in the application.
- The photographer must be presented by an organization (art center, institution, gallery, etc.) that commits to presenting an exhibition or installation of the work produced by the resident within the calendar year following the completion of the PICTO LAB residency. This presentation by the sponsoring organization can only take place after the a ppr oc he fair, or in agreement with it for any other planned date. The organization also commits to being present throughout the entire a ppr oc he fair (from November 9 to 15, 2026), alongside the photographer, to provide full support.
- A letter of commitment will be required from the sponsoring organization.

CONTENTS OF THE APPLICATION PACK

- A curriculum vitae (PDF) detailing the photographer's artistic background (education, exhibitions, residencies, awards, etc.);
- A portrait
- An artistic portfolio (PDF - 20 pages maximum) presenting a set of works representative of the artistic approach and enabling the research topics to be identified, with any useful additional links to sound, audiovisual and multimedia elements;
- A statement of intent (PDF – maximum 4 pages) describing the motivations, the preliminary project, and the avenues of exploration and production envisaged;
- A letter from the structure sponsoring the application, specifying the reasons for supporting this project, the presentation plan proposed for its space, as well as its commitment to being present during the exhibition.

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SELECTION PROCESS AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The deadline for submitting an application is January 27, 2026.

Applications must be sent by email to the following address: pictofoundation@picto.fr

All applications will first be reviewed by a pre-jury composed of the prize organizers and the a ppr oc he fair to select the shortlisted candidates. These finalists will then be presented to the final jury.

The jury, appointed by PICTO Foundation, will consist of one representative from the Foundation, one representative from the PICTO laboratory, a representative from the a ppr oc he fair, and invited experts.

The winner will be announced in mid-March via the PICTO Foundation newsletter.

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

- The originality of the artistic proposal and the technique in the field of image experimentation.
- The added value of the residency in the candidate's artistic and professional development.
- The feasibility of the project within the timeframe of the residency.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

A residency contract will be signed with the selected photographer, specifying the respective commitments, prior to the start of the residency.

The conditions for exhibiting the works created during the residency will be established in a separate agreement between the photographer and the relevant partners.

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ANNA KATHARINA SCHEIDEGGER, GUEST ARTIST AS PART OF THE PICTO LAB /EXPERIMENTING WITH IMAGES PROGRAMM 2025

Anna Katharina Scheidegger works in analog photography, video, and live performance, emphasizing the primacy of the documentary, which she continuously redefines and refines. The modes of expression, organization, and development of her work demonstrate how the relationship between still and moving images is reshaped according to the subject matter. During her residency, she practiced photography in its etymological sense: « I write with light ».



Anna Katharina Scheidegger, FRAGILE WARNING LIGHTS - salon a ppr oc he - ©Tomy Do

FRAGILE WARNING LIGHTS is a photographic exploration of the characteristics of bioluminescent phytoplankton (notably Dinophytes, also known as Dinoflagellates). Bioluminescence is the emission of light by living organisms, resulting from a chemical reaction that converts chemical energy into visible light.

Marine plankton is one of the main supports for the existence of our own species. It forms the base of the marine food chain, captures carbon dioxide, and releases oxygen. These microorganisms represent only 1% of the planet’s total plant biomass, yet produce more than half of the oxygen we breathe. This “lung” of the planet is under threat: since the 1950s, phytoplankton populations have declined by 40%.

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The artist seeks to reveal the beauty of these declining microorganisms. By placing bioluminescent plankton onto sheet film, she allows it to expose itself solely through its own light emission. The instantaneous flashes and the plankton’s movement are thus captured in an image that, by recording motion, reveals gradients and creates a sense of visual depth.



Anna Katharina Scheidegger - salon a ppr oc he © Tomy Do
Unique pieces. Excerpt from the series FRAGILE WARNING LIGHTS 2025.
Enlargement print from negative. © Anna Katharina Scheidegger

The pieces presented were created in collaboration with Christophe Batifoulier for the production of the negatives and with Fred Jourda for the color enlarger prints. Under the light of the enlarger, they composed and played with the phytoplankton in contact with the photosensitive surface of the photographic paper, paying homage to the historical photogram process. The exhibition and presentation of the series, titled “FRAGILE WARNING LIGHTS”, provided an opportunity for Anna Katharina Scheidegger to discuss the working protocol with numerous visitors in person..



Left and right: Unique pieces. Excerpt from the series FRAGILE WARNING LIGHTS 2025. Enlarger print from negative.
© Anna Katharina Scheidegger
Salon a ppr oc he photos © Grégory Copitet

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AGENDA

JANUARY 27, 2025
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025
NOMINATIONS SHORTLIST AND JURY MEETING

MID-MARCH 2025
RESIDENCY RECIPIENT ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY TO JULY, 2025
COMPLETION OF THE RESIDENCY

NOVEMBER 2025
FIRST PRESENTATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE APPROCHE SALON

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