

BOT BOURSE DU TALENT

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**LES FILLES
DE LA
PICTO**

THE EMERGENCE OF NEW DOCUMENTARY APPROCHES

LAUREATES 2026

LA PHOTOGRAPHIE À TOUT PRIX

A YEAR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE BNF

EXHIBITION SITE FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND

DU 15/12/26 AU 28/03/27



2026 EDITION

Since 1998, the Bourse du Talent has been supporting and recognising emerging photographers. After 26 editions, the programme has evolved with the ambition of remaining closely connected to the practices of contemporary photographers. Today, the Bourse du Talent focuses on new documentary approaches used by photographers to tell the story of our world.

Each year, three Bourses du Talent are awarded to photographers whose projects explore new documentary strategies, whether through approaches that engage with the visual arts, science, literature or other forms of cross-disciplinary storytelling, or through the use of new technologies to enhance narrative expression.

The Bourse du Talent is open to photographers who have been residing in Europe for at least three years. It welcomes all subjects and forms of expression, and encourages environmentally responsible and committed approaches, with no age limit.

With the support of its partners, the Bourse du Talent continues to play a key role as a springboard towards professionalisation, helping photographers develop their careers within the photography market and cultural institutions. PixTrakk, La SAIF, Photo Doc and, more recently, Les Filles de la Photo are essential contributors to this mission.

The Bibliothèque nationale de France will notably present photographs by Bourse du Talent laureates alongside other prestigious awards in the exhibition La Photographie à tout Prix, opening in December.

LA SAIF BOURSE DU TALENT GRANT

La SAIF: [the authors' society committed to protecting the rights and fair remuneration of visual artists](#)

Founded in 1999 at the initiative of authors wishing to collectively defend their rights, La SAIF is a non-profit collective management organisation that today brings together nearly 9,000 members across the visual arts, including 6,000 photographers. Beyond photography, La SAIF represents and defends all disciplines within the visual arts and still image sector.

Ensuring fair remuneration for photographers, and for artists more broadly, lies at the heart of La SAIF's mission. The organisation protects authors' rights by collecting and distributing royalties on behalf of visual artists. It manages collective rights that cannot be collected individually and distributes royalties annually to all of its members. La SAIF also supports artists who wish to entrust the organisation with the management of their individual rights.

For the past 27 years, La SAIF has worked to protect and promote copyright while maintaining an ongoing dialogue with cultural institutions, broadcasters and national and international organisations. It advocates on behalf of the artists it represents, striving for fair recognition and a more equitable distribution of value.

Through its cultural initiatives, La SAIF plays an active role in supporting artistic and cultural life. It promotes contemporary creation by providing financial support for exhibitions, cultural events, educational projects and festivals dedicated to the visual arts. It also supports photographers through a wide range of awards and grants, including the **Bourse du Talent**.

2026 EDITION

The jury's deliberations took place during the opening week of the Rencontres d'Arles, hosted by [Impulse Festival](#), dedicated to emerging photography.

The jury was composed of:

- **Héloïse Conésa**, Chief Heritage Curator, Head of the Photography Department, Department of Prints and Photography, Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)
- **Loup de La Rivière**, Director of Galerie Clémentine de la Ferrière
- **Géraldine Lay**, Photography and Contemporary Art Editor at Actes Sud, Photographer
- **Charlotte Flossaut**, Founder and Artistic Director of Photo Doc
- **Isabelle Habert**, Picture Editor, La SAIF Images, and Photography Consultant
- **Aria Shahrokhshahi**, Photographer and Bourse du Talent 2025 laureate
- **Karin Hémar**, Specialist in supporting women across the cultural sector. Founder of Sisterhood and former Co-President of Les Filles de la Photo.
- **Aÿa de Faÿs**, Representative of Photographie.com
- **Sylvaine Lecoœur**, Commercial Director PixWays (PixTrakk)
- **Séverine Gay Degrendele**, Independent Curator and Exhibition Designer, Director of Impulse Festival
- **Chloé Tocabens**, Head of PICTO Foundation & La Comète

For the 2026 edition, the laureates are **Coco Amardeil**, **Sebastián Bruno** and **Antoine Lecharny**. In her series *Thérapie de Choc*, Coco Amardeil presents a fictional archive combining photography and text inspired by historical events surrounding psychological experiments. With *The Hive*, Sebastián Bruno collaborates with members of a centre for autistic adults in Bristol, where theatre and photography become a shared language for creating a collective space of imagination. In *Feu Stalinstadt*, Antoine Lecharny presents a fragmentary vision of Eisenhüttenstadt, the former model socialist city of the GDR, revealing the current resurgence of political extremism in Europe.

2026 LAUREATES

Thérapie de Choc takes the form of a fictional archive, featuring contemporary photographs inspired by historical events. Produced since 2024, the series explores this unsettling territory by combining photography and text to stage real-life cases. The variety of framing and visual treatments, the format of the typewritten texts and the ambiguity of time blur the boundary between reality and reconstruction. By questioning the truthfulness of the events, the work sheds light on practices that are often forgotten or little known to the general public.



DAVID REIMER CASE (1966)

David Reimer est né en bonne santé, le 22 août 1965 à Winnipeg au Canada. Suite à une circoncision ratée, il subit l'ablation de son pénis à 8 mois et sera réassigné et élevé comme une fille par ses parents, alors convaincus par le psychologue et sexologue John Money de suivre cette voie. Celui-ci décrira la réaffectation de David comme un succès, attestant que l'identité sexuelle est essentiellement liée à l'éducation. Mais à l'âge de quinze ans, David alors devenu Brenda, a souhaité se réapproprier son identité masculine. Il a publié son histoire dans l'espoir de décourager de telles pratiques médicales et mis fin à ses jours le 5 mai 2004, à l'âge de 38 ans.

© Coco Amardeil

2026 LAUREATES



SMOKE-FILLED ROOM EXPERIMENT (1968)

L'expérience de la pièce enfumée, menée par John Darley et Bibb Latané, a démontré l'importance de la pression du groupe sur le comportement individuel. Un groupe d'étudiants de l'Université de Columbia a été invité à remplir des papiers dans une salle d'attente. Soudain, la pièce se remplit de fumée. Lorsqu'ils sont seuls dans la salle d'attente, les étudiants quittent la salle et donnent l'alerte. En présence de personnes complices des chercheurs qui ne bougent pas, les étudiants ne réagissent pas, même dans une fumée épaisse et dérangeante.

© Coco Amardeil

Although we have long been fascinated by the workings of the human mind and behaviour, it was only at the beginning of the 20th century that psychological experimentation became widespread. The aim of experimenting on living subjects was to push the boundaries of scientific knowledge. Yet such experiments raise profound ethical questions. In the name of scientific progress, some researchers abused women, men, children and animals with impunity and in secrecy. Where should the line be drawn between discovery and the violation of rights?

Throughout her studies in psychology, Coco Amardeil was confronted with these complex questions. While today it seems natural to condemn abusive practices and human rights violations, this was far from the case in the past.

2026 LAUREATES

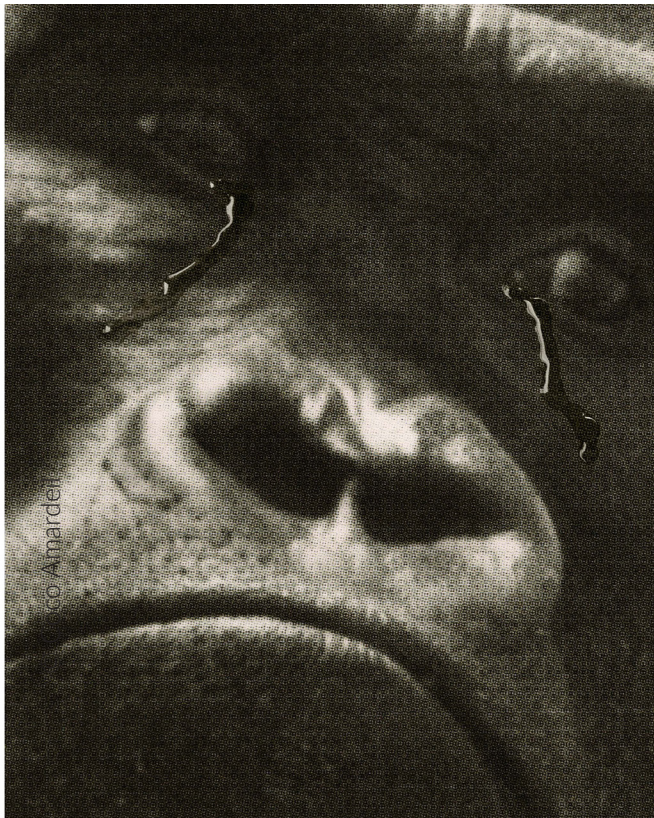
© Coco Amardeil



MARSHMALLOW TEST EXPERIMENT (1972)

"Le test du marshmallow" ou "L'expérience de la guimauve" est une étude sur la gratification différée conduite par le psychologue Walter Mischel de l'Université de Stanford. Celui-ci offre une guimauve à chaque enfant. Si l'enfant résiste à l'envie de la manger, il en reçoit deux autres en guise de récompense. En analysant la durée pendant laquelle chaque enfant résiste à la tentation, les scientifiques souhaitent démontrer le lien entre patience et succès, c'est à dire entre "maîtrise de soi" et "chances de réussite".

COCO AMARDEIL - THÉRAPIE DE CHOC



INVISIBLE GORILLA EXPERIMENT (1999)

Le test du gorille invisible, mené par Daniel Simons et Christopher Chabris, fait suite à des études antérieures initiées par Ulric Neisser et Robert Becklen en 1975. Des sujets ont pour consigne de compter les passes entre les joueurs de baskets de deux groupes distincts, lors d'une courte vidéo. Concentrés sur le décompte, la plupart des sujets ne remarque pas qu'une personne en costume de gorille apparaît au centre de l'image, faisant signe à la caméra. Ce phénomène cognitif (appelé "cécité d'inattention") indique que la relation entre ce qui se trouve dans le champ visuel et la perception que l'on a, possède un lien étroit avec nos ressources attentionnelles.

2026 LAUREATES

Coco Amardeil is a Franco-Canadian photographer and filmmaker, born in Toronto in 1965. After growing up between London, São Paulo, Montreal and Sydney, she settled in Paris, where she continues her artistic career. A graduate in psychology from McGill University, she turned to photography as a self-taught artist before refining her practice by assisting fashion photographers in Canada and France for nearly ten years. In 1998, following a year in Australia, she chose to establish herself in Paris as an independent photographer.

Coco Amardeil's work is characterised by striking contrasts. Her subjects, often unexpected and diverse, range from fashion models to sewers, sharks to teenagers, and bikers. This diversity of themes, together with her visual approach, is central to her artistic identity. Recognised for her creativity and her distinctive, incisive style, she pursues personal artistic projects alongside editorial and commercial commissions for renowned publications such as Telegraph Magazine, Vogue Bambini and Madame Figaro, as well as iconic brands including Bollinger, Le Bon Marché, Rochas, Hermès and Armani Perfumes.

Coco Amardeil's work is regularly exhibited. A resident artist at the Planches Contact Festival in Deauville in 2024, she has received numerous awards, including the Professional Fine Arts Award in 2018, the LensCulture Portrait Award in 2017, the La SAIF Prize at Voies Off in Arles in 2017, and the "Coup de Cœur" Bourse du Talent at the BnF in 2018. She was also a finalist for the Virginia Prize in 2016.



2026 LAUREATES

Sebastián Bruno's work seeks to understand and explore the complexity of human relationships within their political, historical and social contexts. Interpreting the world, communities and individuals who may have been overlooked in the name of progress drives him to create authentic and nuanced narratives that transcend the boundaries of traditional documentary practice. His practice has thus evolved towards a collaborative approach to documentary, incorporating photography, moving image, sound, text and immersive installations.

Sebastián was born in Buenos Aires in 1989. In 2010, he moved to Wales, where he studied Documentary Photography at the University of South Wales, graduating in 2015 before completing a master's degree in 2018. Since 2022, he has been based in Paris.

He has received several awards and commissions, including project production grants from the Arts Council of Wales in 2016, 2020 and 2022, as well as support from Ffotogallery, the national photography development agency in Wales, in 2017, 2019 and 2021. His work has also received several distinctions, including the Premio Mallorca de Fotografía Contemporánea and the national commission Regards du Grand Paris. In 2019, his first film, *The Dynamic*, commissioned by BBC Wales, was nominated for the BAFTA Awards.

His work has been published in book form by Ediciones Anómalas in 2018 and 2023, and by ICVL in 2023. He has also exhibited internationally through solo and group exhibitions, notably at the Martin Parr Foundation, PhotoEspaña, the National Museum of Wales, Fundación Luis Seoane and Galerie Vu', among others.



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Since June 2023, Sebastián Bruno has been collaborating with members of The Hive, a centre for autistic adults and people with learning difficulties based in Bristol, England. After getting to know one another, the participants began using theatre and photography as a shared language, a medium to move beyond simple observation and engage in collective and physical acts of imagination. They perform fictional scenes, often inspired by their own lived experiences, creating characters and alter egos.



© Sebastián Bruno

SEBASTIAN BRUNO - THE HIVE

These sessions are open-ended, with participants joining and leaving over time. A role or storyline emerges, disappears, and resurfaces days later.

Drawing on Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed — which conceived theatre as a space where the oppressed could directly give voice to their own struggles in pursuit of political change — Sebastián Bruno explores how performance can unlock latent expressive and communicative abilities. The space becomes a laboratory of the senses, a place where gesture, sound, texture and movement challenge the ordinary and give voice to inner experience.

2026 LAUREATES



© Sebastián Bruno

SEBASTIAN BRUNO - THE HIVE

Once printed, the images return to the participants. In their hands, the photographs become raw materials for transformation: they are cut, painted, annotated and layered. They evolve into collaborative artefacts that reveal the participants' energy, creativity and subtle resistance to societal expectations.

Breathing exercises merge into a collective movement. A simple white room transforms into a dance floor, a medical office, or spaces inhabited by a reincarnated Margaret Thatcher or by creatures born from the participants' imagination. Here, stillness carries as much meaning as action. Every gesture, every shift in posture, becomes an expression of self, community, history and politics.

2026 LAUREATES

With *Feu Stalinstadt* **Antoine Lecharny** presents a project exploring the post-war years, their ideological and heritage remnants, as well as the current resurgence of hatred and violence in Europe. Due to its singularity as a model socialist city, built in the GDR in 1950, he chose to focus his attention on Eisenhüttenstadt, originally named Stalinstadt.

At the time of its creation, Eisenhüttenstadt was conceived by the East German communist regime as a concrete symbol of rupture with the Nazi past and of the construction of an anti-fascist and socialist future. The city's defining elements — statues, mosaics, human-scale buildings, green spaces, stained-glass windows and frescoes — were intended to visually embody this break. They were also meant to ensure a high quality of life and an egalitarian social fabric. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the city experienced major deindustrialisation, mass emigration and, more recently, a political shift towards the far right.

ANTOINE LECHARNY - FEU STALINSTADT



© Antoine Lecharny

2026 LAUREATES

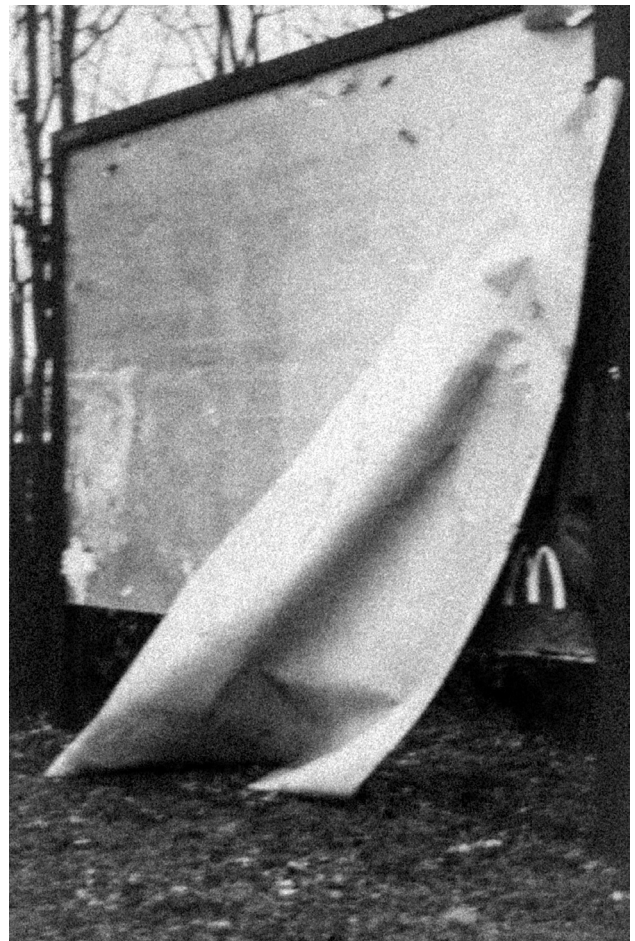
Through *Feu Stalinstadt*, Antoine Lecharny presents a fragmentary vision of Eisenhüttenstadt, reflecting the fragmentation of its urban planning, memory and social fabric. Conceived in response to the possible return of the far right to power in many European countries, the project seeks to convey a portrait of a city that embodies this perspective.

Feu Stalinstadt takes the form of a constellation of images that are consistent in their treatment yet diverse in their subjects. Each fragment reveals a different dimension of the city and an assumed subjectivity. Together, they reveal the interweaving of eras and ideologies, and the discontinuity of history.

ANTOINE LECHARNY - FEU STALINSTADT



© Antoine Lecharny



© Antoine Lecharny



Antoine Lecharny is a photographer, painter and sculptor, born in 1995.

His work, exhibited and awarded in France and internationally (including the Jury Prize at the Planches Contact Festival, the Public Prize at Les Boutographies and the Paris Match Prize), is held in several public and private collections, including that of Marin Karmitz. Winner of the Audi Talents Prize alongside artist Henri Frachon, he exhibited the sculptural project *Disegno Astratto* at the Palais de Tokyo in 2021, which led to a publication by Tonini Editore. The Sit Down gallery, which represents him, hosted his first solo photography exhibition in Paris in 2023, entitled *Côté fenêtre*.

In 2025, he received the Gomma Grant B&W Prize, recognising his long-term work devoted to the memory of the mass shootings of Jews in Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries during the Second World War. This project, entitled *Sous terre*, was published as a book in 2025 by Éditions d'une rive à l'autre. The same year, Antoine Lecharny was a finalist for the Prix Le BAL / ADAGP with his project *Feu Stalinstadt* and was among the three artists selected by Sarah Moon as part of the Grand Prix de l'Académie des beaux-arts.



© Antoine Lecharny

LAUREATES ENDOWMENTS

The Bourse du Talent aims to support laureates in their professional development and integration into the photography ecosystem. The main award of the Bourse du Talent is the production of an exhibition and the promotion of the photographers' work. This includes:

- The production of an exhibition presented for several months at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), François-Mitterrand site, a prestigious venue where major names in photography are regularly exhibited and which offers exceptional visibility. The laureates' prints are produced by PICTO workshops.
- The inclusion of the laureates' works in the shared and universal heritage of photography. The laureate agrees that a significant selection of the prints exhibited at the BnF, whose production is provided by PICTO, will be donated and integrated into the collections of the Department of Prints and Photography at the BnF, as part of the French legal deposit system.*
- PixTrakk, a long-standing partner of the Bourse du Talent, provides an annual subscription to its online image tracking service, combined with legal support to help photographers defend their copyright.
- A €500 credit offered by PICTO to the laureates on Picto Online.
- Following the announcement of the laureates, La SAIF and the organisers will select one of them to receive the Bourse du Talent La SAIF (Société des Auteurs des arts visuels et de l'image Fixe), worth €4,000, to support the creation of an upcoming or ongoing documentary project.

*See Articles L131-1 to L133-1 and R131-1 to R133-1 of the French Heritage Code, supplemented by decrees from 1995, 1996 and 2006. The selection of prints entering the collection is made upon the recommendation of the curators responsible for the collections of the Department of Prints and Photography at the BnF. These photographs, acquired through the legal deposit system by a national public institution of worldwide reference, are inalienable and imprescriptible.

FINALISTS ENDOWMENTS

A professional jury selected 20 finalists from the applications received. These finalists will benefit from dedicated communication on our [website](#). The selected finalists will be announced through our [newsletter](#) and social media channels. The Bourse du Talent aims to support finalists in their professional development and integration into the photography ecosystem. Each finalist will benefit from a dedicated professional support day, including:

- A visit to the PICTO production laboratories and workshops, located at 53bis rue de la Roquette, 75011 Paris, offering an opportunity to discover the full range of expertise and services provided.
- Exclusive meetings with a dedicated team from Les Filles de la Photo — the first professional women's network working to promote and defend photography and its ecosystem — as well as access to their white paper on best practices.

1. **A special edition of the *Tête-à-Tête* sessions** : these practical and strategic interviews go beyond traditional portfolio reviews, offering finalists personalised guidance on their career development challenges. They will take the form of two separate 30-minute meetings with experts from Les Filles de la Photo. Topics commonly addressed during these one-to-one sessions include preparing an application for a prize, festival or residency, building a portfolio, presenting a project for publication, exhibiting work, responding to commissions, collaborating with curators, communicating about one's work, or choosing a professional status.
2. **Free access to the digital book *Y voir clair dans le méli-mélo de la photo – Vers les bonnes pratiques dans les processus de sélection***. This practical guide to professional development, published by Les Filles de la Photo, provides valuable guidance for photographers in their daily practice.

2026 FINALISTS



© Guillaume Chevalier Futsec



© Antoine Lecharny



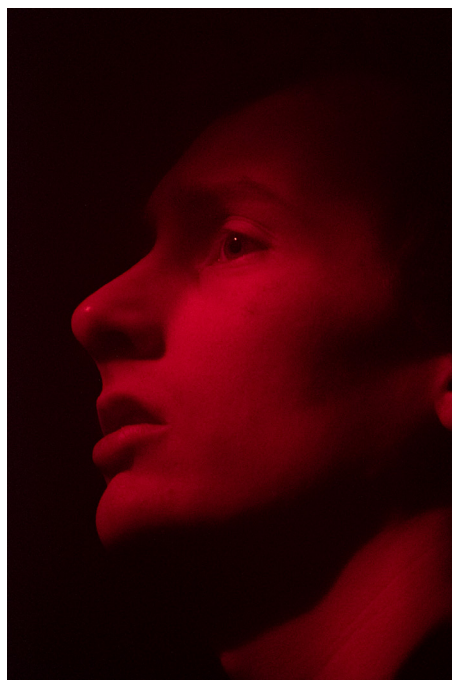
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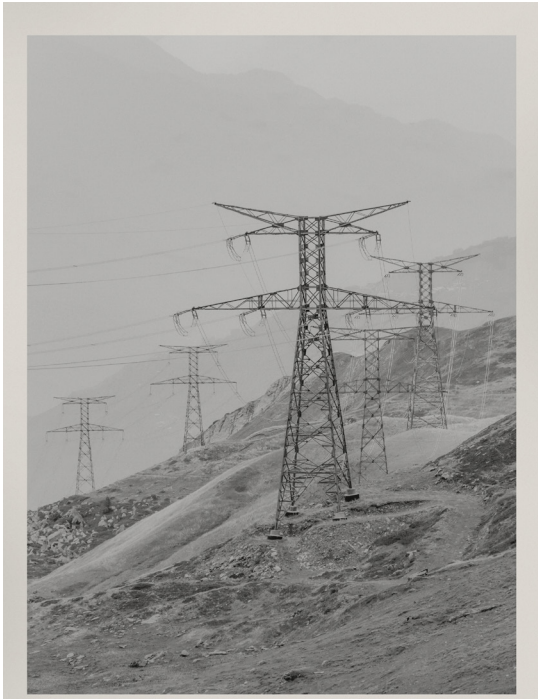
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