Internationale
Photoszene
Köln
WE DO ARE PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOSZENE FESTIVAL
May 14 – June 13, 2027

Terms of Participation & Information

General Information

Dates: The next Photoszene Festival will take place throughout the city of Cologne from May 14 to June 13, 2027!

The Concept: The Photoszene Festival in Cologne is a participatory photography festival taking place throughout the city of Cologne. It consists of a curated core program organized by Photoszene, the event's organizer, and the Photoszene Parcours—an exhibition and presentation format in which museums, galleries, art spaces, and studios can participate with themes of their own choosing.

The Program:

 # Artist Meets Archive #5 – For the fifth edition of the program, Internationale Photoszene Köln and the institutions involved in the project are inviting four artists from Colombia/Berlin, Portugal, Ukraine, and the Netherlands to Cologne: Lana Mesić, Maria Trabulo, Viktoriia Tymonova, and the duo Juana Awad and Luisa Ungar. The participating archives are the German Dance Archive Cologne, the Archive of the Schmölz Photo Workshop, the Greven Digital Archive, the LVR State Museum in Bonn, and FrauenMediaTurm Cologne.
In addition, as part of a collaboration with the Academy of Media Arts, the visual aspects of (Cologne) pop journalism will be highlighted. The central point of departure is the archive collection of photographer Wolfgang Burats: a founding member, co-editor, and one of the first photographers of SPEX.

 # Photoszene Co-Labs – An exhibition program on the theme "Photography & The Unknown," which builds on the "Congress of Not-Knowing" in October 2026 and explores the role of not-knowing, poetry, and utopia in photography.

 # Photoszene Parcours – Exhibition collaborations involving Cologne's art and cultural scene, museums, galleries, art spaces, and associations throughout the city.

***# NEXT! Festival of the Young* Photoszene** – This innovative festival program for children and young people will take place once again at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum from May 14 to June 13, 2027.

 # Thousandfold Photobookfair featuring international art and photobook publishers

 # Portfolio review with international photography experts

 # Photoszene dinner for all exhibitors, artists, volunteers, etc., at cost

 # Inclusive supporting program—featuring guided tours, artist talks, and other inclusive educational activities.

Registration to Participate in the Photoszene Festival

Who can register?
Registration to participate in the Photoszene Festival is open to artists, curators, gallery owners, and collectives—including museums, galleries, art spaces, and studios.

When can you register?
You can register your exhibition from December 1, 2026, through February 15, 2027. The prerequisite is that your exhibition be on view starting May 14, 2027, and that you have a space where this exhibition will be displayed.

What's in it for me?
The Internationale Photoszene Köln will incorporate your exhibition into its national press and public relations efforts. Your exhibition will be promoted on the website, social media, and in print media; an inclusive educational program will be developed.

How much does it cost to participate?
To include an exhibition in the festival program, the Photoszene charges a communication fee or a contribution toward printing costs. There are four different categories under which you can register your exhibition: Museum/Institution, Gallery, Art Space, or Pop-Up/Studio. Participation fees range from €100 (Pop-Up/Studio) to €1,000 (Museum). These funds go directly toward Photoszene's promotional efforts.

Contact for questions:
Anna Döbbelin festival@photoszene.de
Mail: festival@photoszene.de
Mobil (Anna): 0049-(0)179 – 934 74 53
Telefonzeiten: Di. + Do., 9 – 17 Uhr