

Terms and conditions of entry for the Swiss Competition for Art, Architecture, and Critique, Publishing, Exhibition

Stand: 1.10.2026

Preliminary remarks

All sections

As of the 2025 edition, the limit of no more than 6 participations in the competition and the special clause on participations prior to 2012 have been removed. Anyone who was no longer eligible to participate may do so again, provided none of the exclusion criteria set out in 1.2. apply to them.

A break of at least one year must be taken between each entry into the competition. Therefore, persons who have registered for the 2026 edition can re-register for the 2028 edition at the earliest.

Section Critique, Publishing, Exhibition

As of the 2025 edition, all the finalists in the Critique, Publishing, Exhibition section will present their project. Like the finalists in the Art section, they will select a space in the Swiss Art Awards exhibition. The Federal Office of Culture (FOC) provides a one-off payment towards the costs of implementing the project as for the art section.

By submitting their application, participants agree to the following terms and conditions of entry:

1. Eligibility

1.1 Artists, architects, critics, editors and curators in the fields of art and architecture who are Swiss citizens or who are resident in Switzerland are eligible to enter, provided none of the exclusion criteria listed in 1.2 applies. The residence requirement applies for the entire duration of the competition.

In the case of joint works, at least one member of the group must be eligible to take part, i.e. must be a Swiss citizen or permanently resident in Switzerland.

No member of the group may additionally compete for an award as an individual in the same year.

All group members must create a AGOV Login, which must be specified in the application.

A group member who does not have Swiss citizenship or permanent residence in Switzerland is admitted with the status of non-eligible member. Non-eligible members are subject to the same rules as the others and cannot apply twice in a row.

1.2 Prospective applicants are not eligible to compete if:

- they have submitted an application to the Swiss Art Award for Art, Architecture or Critique, Publishing, Exhibition in the previous year
- they have already received three Swiss Art Awards
- they are former winners of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim
- they are taking part in the Swiss Design Competition in the same year
- they are taking part in the Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize in the same year
- they are enrolled at an art or architecture school (Bachelor/Master) at the time of entering the competition, unless they already hold a Master's degree in art or architecture.

The FOC is entitled to exchange information and personal data with schools and the Kiefer Hablitzel Foundation for the purpose of verifying the conditions of participation. By registering, participants consent to this exchange of data.

2. Procedure

2.1 First Round: Entry process and dossier

Applicants can enter the Swiss Art Competition between 23 October and 3 December 2026 at esub.admin.ch.

Consequence of late submission: the application will not be considered.

Only individuals or groups may enter (no organisations).

Dossiers must be uploaded as PDF files. All links to online material (Vimeo, YouTube, etc.) must be included in the PDF file, along with the associated passwords. The dossier must be written in a national language or in English.

In the Art section, the dossier (max. 20 A4 pages and 10 MB) must be submitted as follows:

- One title page (last name, first name, competition category)
- Page 2: statement on the content of the work (max. 1,500 characters)
- Pages 3–19: explanation of the development of the activity over recent years and the applicant's current practice, with particular emphasis on developments since the last participation.
- Page 20: applicants' CVs (1 A4 page)

In the Critique, Publishing, Exhibition section, the dossier (max. 20 A4 pages and 10 MB) must be submitted as follows:

- One title page (last name, first name, competition category)
- Page 2: statement on the content of the work (max. 1,500 characters)
- Pages 3–19: explanation of the development of the activity over recent years and the applicant's current practice, with particular emphasis on developments since the last participation.
- Page 20: applicants' CVs (1 A4 page)

In the Architecture section, the dossier (max. 10 A4 pages and 10 MB) must be submitted as follows:

- Title page (last name, first name, category)
- Page 2: statement on the content of the work (1 A4 page)
- Page 3: reference image for statement (1 A4 page)
- Pages 4–6: own projects with relevance to the statement (min. 3 A4 pages), with particular emphasis on developments since the last participation.
- Pages 7–10: other own projects (max. 4 A4 pages)
- Page 11: applicants' CVs (1 A4 page)

Additional material (e.g. publications) may be sent by post to the following address by 3 December 2026 latest (date of postmark): Federal Office of Culture (FOC), Cultural Creativity Section, Swiss Art Competition, Monbijoustrasse 74, 3003 Bern. The material will not be returned.

In the first round, the Federal Art Commission (FAC), assisted by experts, selects the participants for the second round from among the eligible entries. Applicants will be notified of the decision in writing by the end of February.

2.2 Second Round: Exhibition and Jury

All sections: The projects must be realisable subject to the logistical conditions that will be communicated together with the official decision in February. The FAC and its experts will determine the award winners before the exhibition opens, on the basis of the works and projects presented. The decisions will be communicated to the finalists in writing at the start of June. Each award is worth CHF 25,000.

In the Art section, the participants selected for the second round will present an original contribution as part of the Swiss Art Awards exhibition in June, in parallel with Art Basel. The FOC provides a one-off payment towards the costs of implementing the project.

In the Critique, Publishing, Exhibition section, the finalists will present an original contribution or an existing work in the form of documentation, archive holdings or an object presentation at the Swiss Art Awards exhibition in June, in parallel with Art Basel. The FOC provides a one-off payment towards the costs of implementing the project.

In the Architecture section, the chosen applicants will present a proposal for an architectural intervention in June, to be implemented the following year in the context of an art exhibition. The proposal should include an architectural model in any scale and material, but with a surface area of no more than 84 × 120 cm (A0), along with the associated concept, set out on a page of A4 paper. The FOC provides a one-off payment towards the costs of developing the project.

2nd-round specification – Architecture:

- The intervention is of the candidate's choosing and has no special function.
- The intervention must be present in the hall for the entire duration of the exhibition, but its position and format are not prescribed.
- The intervention takes place in the context of an art exhibition and must therefore fit into it.
- The intervention is temporary and must therefore be reversible. The award winners are responsible for installing and dismantling it. Potential re-use is welcome but is not mandatory.
- The finalists are required to comply with SIA standards.
- The winning project will be selected by the jury at the start of June. The winner will receive prize money of CHF 25,000 as well as an additional budget of CHF 25,000 to implement the Architecture project the following year.

3 Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize

3.1 The terms and conditions along with documentation for the Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Competition (age limit 30) can be found on the Foundation's website www.kieferhablitzel.ch.

4 Additional provisions

4.1 The FAC decides on the evaluation and decision-making process. When judging the works presented, particular attention will be paid to their quality, impact, contemporary relevance and innovativeness. The jury consists of the members of the FAC and a group of experts.

4.2 By entering, the participants grant the FOC the right, without payment, to make free use, from a personality rights perspective, of portrait photographs and images as well as other visual depictions (graphics, films, film stills, etc.) showing participants, in the context of the competition for Art, Architecture, and Critique, Publishing, Exhibition, specifically to disseminate them, including publicly, for the purposes of documentation and publication, in either analogue or digital form and on the internet.

By entering, participants transfer to the FOC, without payment and without limitation in terms of place or time, the usage rights to the dossiers submitted including images of earlier works, portraits of the participants, and to the works exhibited. This transfer of rights will also encompass future forms of use and technologies unknown at the time of entering. The FOC is authorised to use and process the works named as part of events for the Swiss Art, Architecture, and Critique, Publishing, Exhibition Competition and in all publications in any way possible, in particular:

- After the first round: publication and dissemination of the images of earlier works and portraits of the finalists submitted in the first round in the press, on the internet and via social media
- Second round: Photographs, films and videos of the works exhibited as well as performances by all participants, film and photographic recording of the ceremony (winners only) and the vernissage. Publication and dissemination of the photographs and film recordings via social media, on the FOC website and on the website www.swissartawards.ch, editing of the publications containing the photographs, use of the photographs for internal reports.

By entering, participants warrant and represent that publication by the FOC does not infringe any third-party rights (in particular personality rights and copyrights), and indemnify and hold the Swiss Confederation harmless in respect of any claims by third parties in this connection. They undertake to defend claims by third parties relating to the infringement of rights (in particular personality rights and copyrights) without delay, and to assume all costs, including compensation for damage, incurred as a result by the Confederation.

4.3 By entering, participants confirm that they themselves are the creators of all the works presented by them. The FOC may disqualify works not created by the participants themselves and/or created under guidance, and/or works wrongfully accepted on the basis of untrue or incomplete information, and may also demand the return of any awards already granted.

4.4 Except where otherwise stipulated herein, the provisions of the Swiss Law on Cultural Promotion, the Swiss Ordinance on Cultural Promotion, and the Promotion Concept for prizes, awards and purchases of the FOC apply.

4.5 The competition may be cancelled or conducted in a form other than that set out in the regulations as a result of force majeure, specifically events or actions beyond the FOC's control.

ART

CRITIQUE, PUBLISHING, EXHIBITION

ARCHITECTURE

Enter between
23.10. and 4.12.2026
20 pages dossier

Enter between
23.10. and 4.12.2026
20 pages dossier

Enter between
23.10. and 4.12.2026
11 pages dossier

February 2027
First jury
and information to
participants

February 2027
First jury
and information to
participants

February 2027
First jury
and information to
participants

March 2027
Submit description of art
project

March 2027
Submit description of criti-
que, publishing, exhibition
project

April 2027
Submit description of ar-
chitecture project

Saturday and Sunday
05. - 06. June 2027
set-up 2 days in Basel

Saturday and Sunday
05. - 06. June 2027
set-up 2 days in Basel

Sunday 06. June 2027
set-up one day in Basel

June 2027
Second jury
Selection of winning works

June 2027
Second jury
Selection of winning work

June 2027
Second jury
Selection of winning
project

June 2027:
Award ceremony and exhibition opening

14–20 June 2027
Swiss Art Awards Exhibition

Prize money of
CHF 25'000 paid

Prize money of
CHF 25'000 paid

Prize money of CHF 25,000
paid, + CHF 25,000 for
project implementation

May 2028
Implement 2027
winning project

June 2028 Vernissage of
2027 winning project



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI
Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI
Dipartimento federale dell'Interno DFI
Departament federal da l'Intern DFI
Bundesamt für Kultur BAK
Office fédéral de la culture OFC
Ufficio federale della cultura UFC
Uffizi federal da cultura UFC