

Prize regulations

ARTICLE 1 – THE PRIZE

Organized by the Fonds de Dotation La Cense, whose headquarters are located at RD 988 - 78730 Rochefort-en-Yvelines, the La Cense Prize recognizes an active professional photographer whose work highlights the relationship between humans and horses through a unique series of images or a singular personal, artistic, or documentary visual approach.

The prize is awarded to a single winner, selected from among all participating applicants by an independent jury of competent and relevant professionals. For the 2024-2025 edition, the jury will be presided over by actor, director, and photographer Viggo Mortensen and will include French and international figures from the fields of photography, culture, and equestrianism.

ARTICLE 2 – CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The call for submissions is open to both French and international photographers who can provide proof of a professional photographic practice. There is no age limit for applicants. Furthermore, applicants may be represented by an agency, collective, or gallery.

The jury will pay particular attention to the personal and creative approach of each applicant. The applicant's body of work will be evaluated based on aesthetic, technical, and narrative criteria determined by the jury. Each application must include a project proposal outlining and describing the project, along with a portfolio in .PDF format, not exceeding 50MB, containing a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 20 images, all titled, dated, and captioned, and, if necessary, preceded by a brief introductory text.

ARTICLE 3 – APPLICATION PROCESS

Participation in the Prize and submission of an application implies full, complete, and irrevocable acceptance of these rules. Failure to comply with these conditions will result in the nullification of the applicant's participation.

The application file, submitted in either French or English, must include the following elements:

- A completed application form and the Prize rules, initialed and signed;
- A portfolio in .PDF format containing a maximum of 20 images, titled, dated, and captioned, and, if applicable, preceded by a brief introductory text;
- A short biography of no more than 1,000 characters, as well as a CV;
- Proof of professional practice (e.g., a professional ID card or a letter of recommendation from a gallery, agency, or collective);
- Proof of identity (National ID card or passport).

ARTICLE 4 – SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The complete application file, titled with the applicant's first and last names, must be exclusively submitted and validated on the Prize's website between November 7, 2024, and March 1, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. French time. An email acknowledgment of receipt will be sent to each applicant as proof of submission.

Incomplete applications or those not meeting the eligibility requirements will not be processed or considered by the jury.

The jury's decisions are final and cannot be discussed or contested by unsuccessful candidates.

For any inquiries regarding the application submission process, additional information must be requested via the contact form on the competition's website.

**La Cense Equestrian
Photography International Prize**

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ARTICLE 5 – SELECTION PROCESS

The jury will unilaterally select the winner's work based on several criteria, including their professional background, the technical, aesthetic, and narrative qualities of their submission, and the relevance of the work concerning the goals of the Prize. Following the jury's decision, the winner will be personally contacted and informed before the official announcement, which is scheduled for June 2025.

This announcement will also be featured in *Polka Magazine* in conjunction with a feature planned for publication in May 2025, with the official release to the public in June 2025.

The award ceremony, with the winner in attendance, will take place in Paris in June 2025.

ARTICLE 6 – PRIZE REWARD

The winner will receive a cash prize of €10,000 to support the continuation of their work, as well as material prizes, including a Leica SL3-S camera body valued at €5,190 (incl. taxes) and a Sigma 70-200mm f/2.8 DG DN OS Sports lens with a Leica mount, valued at €1,699 (incl. taxes). Additionally, the winner will have an exhibition funded, produced, and organized in collaboration with Polka, scheduled for summer 2025.

ARTICLE 7 – COMMUNICATION

The winning photographer agrees to provide the La Cense Prize with between 5 and 10 royalty-free images, titled and captioned, for use in communications promoting the La Cense Endowment Fund, particularly for the promotion of the La Cense Prize.

The jury reserves the right to highlight the work of up to three shortlisted finalists to promote the La Cense Prize. If this occurs, the shortlisted photographers also agree to provide up to 3 royalty-free images, titled and captioned, for use in communications benefiting the La Cense endowment Fund, especially for the promotion of the La Cense Prize.

These royalty-free images may be used across all paper or digital communication platforms intended for free public distribution (brochures, flyers, press releases) for a period of two years, worldwide.

They may also be included in royalty-free image packages made available to the press for articles related to the La Cense Prize for up to one year from the announcement of the winner.

The La Cense Prize commits to crediting all images with the author's name and, if applicable, the name of their collective, agency, or gallery.

The winner agrees to be available to participate in the La Cense Prize ceremony, scheduled to take place in Paris in June 2025. By accepting these rules, the winner authorizes the La Cense Prize to retain their contact details.

ARTICLE 8 – EXHIBITION

A pop-up exhibition of the winner's work will be organized at the Polka Gallery or the Polka Factory. The La Cense Endowment Fund reserves the right to extend the winner's exhibition – and, if applicable, include shortlisted finalists whose works were also selected for display – to other venues where its activities are held.

For the purposes of these exhibitions, the winner and, if applicable, shortlisted finalists (up to three candidates) grant the La Cense Prize organization a free, non-exclusive right to reproduce a selection of images from the application process, chosen by the Prize's organizers, for exhibition purposes. This right is granted for two years, starting from the announcement of the Prize winner, and may be tacitly renewed unless terminated by either party via registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt. The winner will provide between 5 and 20 images, while shortlisted finalists will provide 1 to 3 images each, if applicable.

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At the end of this period, the winner agrees to donate one from the exhibition, free of charge, to the La Cense Endowment Fund's collection. The other exhibition prints will either be destroyed at the winner's expense, within the technical capabilities of the La Cense Prize team, transferred in full ownership to the La Cense Endowment Fund with express written consent, or returned to the winner at their own expense, with the winner retaining ownership.

The La Cense Endowment Fund will cover the costs of production and organization of the exhibitions (prints, framing, transportation, insurance, management, mediation, and communication) up to €6,000 (excluding taxes).

On the back of each exhibition print, the La Cense Prize will include a statement indicating that the print has no commercial value and is intended for exhibition purposes.

ARTICLE 9 – RIGHTS

The organizers of the La Cense Prize commit to not using the photographs of candidates who were not shortlisted in any manner whatsoever. The candidate guarantees that they hold all exploitation rights (related to individuals or property) associated with these images and, if applicable, have obtained all necessary authorizations (licenses, permits, third-party rights, etc.). The candidate must also have secured the required permissions from individuals whose image is used in the photographs.

ARTICLE 10 – CONTINUITY OF APPLICATION

In the event of the winner's death before the official La Cense Prize ceremony in June 2025, the jury will convene to select a new winner. In the event of the winner's death after the official award ceremony, their heirs and successors agree to uphold the terms of this agreement on the winner's behalf for its entire duration.

ARTICLE 11 – FORCE MAJEURE

In the case of force majeure or if circumstances require, the organizers of the La Cense Prize reserve the right to modify these terms, postpone, or cancel all or part of the La Cense Prize without notice. The organizers shall not be held liable for any such changes.

ARTICLE 12 – GENERAL CONDITIONS

The jury has the final authority to resolve any situations not covered by these rules. If none of the submissions meet the required criteria, the jury reserves the right not to award the La Cense Prize. These rules are governed by French law. Participants are therefore subject to the French regulations applicable to competitions.