

PhEST

PhEST - international festival of photography and art
Monopoli, Italy
X edition

GENERAL RULES

PhEST Pop-Up Open Call - THIS IS US - A CAPSULE TO SPACE

PhEST, the international festival of photography and art in Monopoli, Italy, launches the fifth edition of the international contest, on the theme of the 2025 edition of the festival: **THIS IS US - A CAPSULE TO SPACE**. Together with LensCulture and PhMuseum and with the support of Fujifilm Italia and San Marzano Wines, we have organized a free and fast pop-up open call, **open to all, for only two weeks: from 12 to 25 May 2025**.

After a 2024 edition dedicated to the dream, the 2025 edition of PhEST - in line with the festival's central theme - invites artists and photographers to investigate **our relationship with time, memory and the future, and to imagine what humanity should send into space as a testimony of its existence**.

We are looking for works that are **intense, intimate and profound**, capable of telling our **present with an eye to the future**. All visual languages are welcome: **photography, illustration, collage, animation, and video**.

THE GUIDELINES

From 12/05/2025 to 25/05/25 (by 11:59pm CET) you can submit your works here:

<https://forms.gle/Z4cU2xu68pGN3z588>

With the exception of a possible extension, which will be communicated in advance by the organizers, applications will not be accepted after the indicated deadline.

The participation form must be filled in in all its mandatory parts and accompanied by the requested additional materials:

- Project title
- PDF containing a short description of the work of maximum 200 words in English and related multimedia apparatus (photographs, drawings, links and any other material useful to describe the project). Maximum PDF size: 10MB.
- CV or short biography in English (PDF format)

You can participate with any visual expression without media limits ranging from photography, painting, drawing, graphics/illustration, sculpture, installation, video.

Below are the specifications on the materials for each artistic category:

- Photography/illustrations/graphics: Send a project consisting of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 images. The high-resolution files must already be available to the Artist, but must not be sent in this first phase.
- Video: Send a maximum of 1 video. In the PDF file you will need to insert the Vimeo or YouTube link of the video you intend to register (with any required password). The high-resolution video must already be available to the Artist.
- Painting: Include in the PDF a technical sheet for the submitted works, specifying measurements, weight and any technical peculiarities. The paintings must already be available to the Artist.
- Sculpture / Installation: Include in the PDF a technical sheet for the submitted works, specifying measurements, weight and any technical peculiarities. The works must already be produced and available to the Artist.

Each artist can submit multiple projects for the call by filling out a new form for each project.

THE PRIZES

Five prizes will be awarded by the international jury:

1. PhEST 2025 Award: an exhibition at the 2025 edition of PhEST (opening Aug. 8th, 2025)
2. San Marzano Award: an exhibition dedicated to an artist residing in Puglia, Italy, at the 2025 edition of PhEST, awarded by San Marzano Wines;
3. A mirrorless FUJIFILM Camera X-T50 black / XC15-45 mm Kit (€ 1,679 value), offered by Fujifilm Italia;
4. A publication on PHmuseum's platform for photography;
5. A publication on LensCulture's communication channels.

Additionally, a selection of submissions will be projected during one of PhEST 2025's opening-night events.

THE JURY

Jim Casper, Editor-in-Chief of LensCulture
Giuseppe Oliveiro - CEO & Founder at PhMuseum
Arianna Rinaldo, Curator of Photography at PhEST
Giovanni Troilo, Artistic Director at PhEST

TIMING

Registration for the Open Call is open from May 12 to May 25, 2025 (11:59pm CET).
Finalist names will be announced by July 15, 2025 via email and subsequently on PhEST channels (unless further postponements occur).

All other applicants who are not selected will learn the outcome exclusively through the organization's official public announcements.

The finalist artists must send all the material necessary for the production and/or preparation of the exhibition (for awards including the production of an exhibition) and for communication, as indicated by the PhEST organizational secretariat or their partners.

EXHIBITION PRODUCTION FOR PhEST 2025 AWARD and SAN MARZANO AWARD

The winning Projects of the PhEST 2025 Award and the San Marzano Award will be showed within the PhEST exhibition program in Monopoli from August 8 to November 16, 2025.

The production of the winning exhibitions will be curated by the organizer together with the winning Authors of the two prizes.

Production by the Organizer is expected but not mandatory. The winning Author can provide for the production of the Work himself, provided it meets the specifications (size, support, material) indicated by the Organizer.

If produced by the Author: the Work remains the property of the Author. The Organizer will cover the shipping costs if the works are located in Italy; otherwise, delivery/collection methods and cost-sharing will be agreed with the Author.

If produced by the Organizer: the costs covered vary by category, within the edition's budget limits, as it follows:

- Photography/Illustrations/Graphics: production (printing and installation) by the Organizer.
- Video: installation by the Organizer.
- Painting: transport costs (Italy) and installation by the Organizer.
- Sculpture/Installation: transport costs (Italy) and installation by the Organizer

The methods of production of the exhibition will be communicated and coordinated by the Organizer together with the Author at the time of communication of the Finalist Project.

The installation and dismantling of the exhibitions is supervised and is the responsibility of the Organizer, who may define the spaces to be dedicated to the projects at his sole discretion for the best realization of the exhibitions. The Organizer will also be responsible for any insurance of the works on display. The works on display will be accompanied by explanatory materials relating to the exhibited author. The preparation and printing of the signs will be handled by the Organizer.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By participating in the Open Call, you accept the following terms and declare:

- To be the sole Author, to hold all rights to the submitted images, and to possess the necessary consents for participation. As an Author, you are and remain the copyright owner of your submitted works.
- If your submitted work contains materials not owned by you as the Authors, and/or portrays individuals, you affirm you had obtained before the application all releases and consents required for publication, exhibition and use of the works without additional compensation. For minors, you confirm having secured signed releases from a parent or legal guardian.
- You grant PhEST permission to use and publish submitted images, in whole or in part, in any kind of media worldwide, for the sole purpose of promoting the Open Call, the festival and its exhibitions—both current and future—without compensation. All images will be credited to the Author.
- Traveling Exhibitions: At the conclusion of the 2025 edition of the festival, PhEST will include the artist's work in the list of Traveling Exhibitions, together with a selection of works from this and previous editions of the festival, and will offer it for rental to third parties. Each potential venue will be discussed with the artist. The number of photos, the duration of the exhibition and the commercial revenue from the rental will be defined each time based on the location and the lessor.

PhEST - See Beyond the Sea

PhEST is the international photography and art festival in Monopoli, Italy. PhEST is produced and promoted by the PhEST cultural association, with the support of the Puglia Region and the Municipality of Monopoli. PhEST was born in 2016 in Monopoli in Puglia from an idea of Giovanni Troilo, artistic director of the festival, and Arianna Rinaldo, who is in charge of the photographic curatorship. With the organizational direction of Cinzia Negherbon. PhEST is photography, cinema, music, art, contaminations from the Mediterranean. A way to give back their own voice to the thousand identities that make up the sea in the middle of the lands, redefining a new imaginary.

www.phest.it

LensCulture

LensCulture is a global community of photographers and industry professionals. As one of the world's largest online destinations for discovering contemporary photography, LensCulture also provides some of the best opportunities for global exposure, international recognition, ongoing learning and creative development. LensCulture is committed to inspiring and empowering its thriving community of over 3 million, across 145 countries and in 13 languages around the world.

FUJIFILM Italia S.p.A.

An integral part of the FUJIFILM Group, FUJIFILM Italia S.p.A. plays a leading role in the Italian market, establishing itself as a point of reference for photography professionals and enthusiasts. With a consolidated presence for years, FUJIFILM Italia actively supports cultural events, exhibitions and projects that promote the value of photography as a means of expression and communication. Its offer stands out for its attention to quality, innovation and customer needs, proposing solutions that range from professional imaging to creative experiences for the general public.

PhMuseum

PhMuseum is an international platform dedicated to contemporary photography. Since 2012 it has supported a new generations of photographers and visual artists through its Grants and Education programs. Most recently, it launched PhMuseum Days, an international photography festival and Photobook Mania, an event for publishing and printed matter.

San Marzano Wines

Based in Salento, in San Marzano di San Giuseppe (TA), it is known on the Italian market and in about 80 countries around the world where its wines are exported; it has a sixty-year production history and a philosophy that respects the thousand-year-old winemaking heritage of Puglia with a constant push for research. It is known for producing wines with a strong territorial connotation, modern and distinguished by a clear stylistic figure made of elegance and a clean taste. The company has revolutionized the perception of Puglia wines in the world, bringing with it the pride of its community and its territory, and also identifies itself as something that goes beyond: a recognized lifestyle brand, which embodies Mediterranean culture, freshness and modernity.

Start Date: May 12th, 2025

Deadline: May 25th, 2025 (11:59pm CET)

Submission fee: Free