

Photography and Politics of the Earth

For the third edition of its research and creation support programme, the Institut pour la photographie invites you to turn your attention to the Earth, and its power of hospitality in the context of contemporary environmental issues.

The Earth, a resource *par excellence*, has given birth and then become home to living beings. Humans have assumed a dominant place on it, despite not being in the majority. They have populated it, explored it, travelled around it and exploited it, sometimes at the cost of fundamental changes that go beyond geophysical laws. The infinite list of environmental upheavals that have brought about as much instability as dysfunction now imposes the more global problem of planetary health. This awareness of the Earth as a *subject* requires us to consider new sensitivities, new ways of looking at the world, but also, and above all, to rethink our relationship with living things.

Invented in the wake of the industrial revolution, photography – a small physical phenomenon on a planetary scale – has accompanied man-made environmental transformations. It has been responsible for some of the representations and occupations of our Earth. Throughout the evolution of its technical performance, it has been a tool for preserving traces and images, for documenting its history, states and transformations. Thanks to its technical and technological capacities, which allow it to vary scales, points of view and perspectives, and also due to its ability to bear witness, document and disseminate, it has played a full part in this visual history.

Entitled **Photography and Politics of the Earth**, this line of research invites you to reflect on the role and impact of photography on our perception of the Earth as a subject in relation to environmental issues, Earth sciences and industries and their impact on life.

The various entries, both historical and contemporary, could consist of the following:

- Scientific iconography: Earth sciences and techniques (physics, chemistry, biology, geology, geography, etc.)
- Environment, versus lithosphere (of *rock*) and biosphere (of *life*)
- Mining industry, energy resources (post-oil, nuclear, renewable energies, etc.).
- Ways of being sensitive to different living environments and their coexistence
- Commitments and actions for the environment
- Photographic industry and sustainable development.

Photographers, artists, researchers and curators are invited to respond to this call to develop a project that would involve the contribution of photography to a visual history of the Earth and its new political stakes.