

***The landscape and its stories***  
**7th edition of the Institut's Grant**  
**Research and creation support programme**

The very essence of landscape lends itself well to visual representation. Painters and, later, photographers were well aware of this. Landscape art, closely linked to the invention of perspective, arose an ambition to create a faithful representation of it, to render its reality. Over the past two decades, this notion of landscape has been challenged. On the one hand, landscape is increasingly seen as a cultural construct of the West rather than as direct relationship with “external” or wild “nature”, as in Romanticism. The works of Anne Cauquelin and Alain Roger described it, the landscape reflects the perspectives of societies that have cultivated and shaped it according to specific aesthetic ideals. On the other hand, the very idea of a conflict between “nature” and “culture” has been fiercely criticised by anthropology, especially since the publication of Philippe Descola's influential book, *The Ecology of Others* (2011).

The seventh edition of the Institut's Grant is in line with many artistic and scientific works that seek to rethink the aesthetic construction of landscape, attempt to untangle its artifices, shift its viewpoints, and reconsider the signs and impacts of living beings, including their history.

Two main directions are highlighted in this reflection on landscape Photography. The ecological approach encourages us to consider the overarching trend of the de-anthropisation of our environment, opening up to new forms of observation and reflection on the non-human world. In the words of ecological pioneer Aldo Leopold, it invites us to “think like a mountain” (1949). The second, political approach, builds on Jacques Rancière's analysis in *The Time of the Landscape* (2020), which studies the relationships between landscape and social order, questioning, among other things, the assigned place of humans in the landscape.

Conceiving an image of landscape, opening the door to new experiences of landscape, conjuring up its origins, narratives, and myths. ... ***The landscape and its stories*** could be explored through a wide range of artistic practices and research topics, leading to many sensitive, speculative photographic expressions, from memorial to fictional, from research to investigation or fiction, even anticipation, as well as contributions to the visual history of landscape Photography.

The Institut's Grant aims to develop and integrate diverse approaches to Photography - history of Photography, anthropology of images, visual studies, digital humanities, human and social science, research in the visual arts. As in previous years, this call for projects is open to photographers, artists, researchers, and curators. Both international in scope and deeply rooted in the Hauts-de-France region, the Institut will also pay particular attention to projects that use specific local resources and participate in the programme's various public events.

**Application deadline : December 2nd 2024, 3 PM (Paris time)**