

## Application form near. prize 2026

### **Candidate**

Surname	First name
Email	Telephone
Address	Website
Member of near. since	Instagram
Title of the submitted project:	

## Rules of the near. prize

*Lausanne/Zurich, April 2026*

### 1. General information

near. was founded in Lausanne in 2009 and its principal aim is to promote contemporary photography. The association organises activities set around four main objectives: to promote and disseminate the work of Swiss and Swiss-based photographers for established talent as well as young artists; to enable a continuous cultural exchange between regions and among professionals in the field of photography (artists, historians, critics, curators, journalists and editors); to actively contribute to critical thinking on the subject of contemporary photography; and finally, to advertise Swiss photography to a wider audience. Among other things near. organises exhibitions, screenings, interviews, conferences and gatherings between professionals.

With the idea of developing additional support for the association's photographers, near. organises every year the near. prize, an annual award aimed at providing a financial incentive to encourage production and connecting photographers to photography professionals in Switzerland and beyond. All near. members are invited and encouraged to participate.

### 2. Award

The winner of the near. prize 2026 will be awarded:

- The opportunity to showcase their work at Galerie & Edition Stephan Witschi (dates of the exhibition to be defined together with the gallery). Communication and opening reception to be covered by Galerie & Edition Stephan Witschi and near. committee.
- 1,000 CHF grant money from near. association which can either cover the production of the exhibition or support the artist's work
- One-year free near. membership

### 3. Schedule

Applications are open from April 27 to June 7, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

The jury of the near. prize 2026 will select a winner whose identity will be revealed in June 2026.

### 4. Candidates

Participation in the near. prize is reserved exclusively for photographers who are members of the association. Photographer-members who are part of the association's committee can participate only if they are not linked to the organisation of the near. prize.

### 5. Application procedures

**Submission Format:** All application materials—including the image series, project description, and signed form—must be compiled into a **single PDF file**.

#### **Application includes:**

- A series of photographs consisting of 7 (minimum) to 15 (maximum) images. The series does not have to be unpublished but must be not older than 3 years (i.e. from 2023 or later). It may come from the photographer's practice or be created on the occasion of the prize.
- A description of the project in English, French or German (approx. 300 words)
- Filled and signed award application form

**File Size:** The digital file must not exceed **25 MB**.

**File Naming:** To ensure your application is processed correctly, name your PDF file using the following format: 2026\_Surname\_FirstName\_ProjectTitle.pdf.

**Delivery:** Completed files must be sent via email to **info@near.li** before the deadline. For files near the size limit, participants may also provide a download link (e.g., WeTransfer or Dropbox) within the email.

**Email Subject:** The subject line of the submission email must contain: “**near. prize application 2026**” + Name

Each participant can only submit one project.

## 6. Jury

The jury for the near. prize consists of two external experts, akin to contemporary photography and chosen by the association’s committee, together with near. committee counting as one vote. The composition of the jury changes each year.

The 2026 jury experts are:

- o Stephan Witschi and Barbara Liebster, Galerie & Edition Stephan Witschi
- o Georgina Casparis, Head & Curator, Art Vontobel

## 7. Conditions, rights and requirements

### **Ownership and Rights**

By entering the near. prize 2026, participants warrant that they are the sole authors of their submitted work. Participants further guarantee that they hold the full rights to all submitted texts and images, and that the distribution or exhibition of these works does not infringe upon any third-party rights. near. assumes no liability for third-party claims regarding the winner's work.

### **Usage and Promotion**

The winner grants near. and Galerie & Edition Stephan Witschi the rights to reproduce and use the submitted images and information for all promotional purposes, communication, and exhibitions related to the prize. All images used for advertising and communication will include the author’s credit.

### **Grant Usage**

The winner will receive a 1,000 CHF grant from the near. association. This financial incentive is intended to support the artist’s work and may be used to cover the production of the exhibition or to support the artist's existing body of work.

### **Production**

The winning artist is responsible for delivering the fully produced body of work for the exhibition. The artist may choose to exhibit work that has already been produced, provided it meets the project requirements.

### **Artist Responsibilities**

The winning artist is required to assist with the exhibition installation. Additionally, the winner agrees to conduct a "takeover" of the near. Instagram account to feature the winning project.

### **Exhibition Concept**

The exhibition at Galerie & Edition Stephan Witschi will be organized by the gallery's curatorial team in collaboration with the winning artist. The gallery will develop an original exhibition concept based on the artist's proposal, with the near. association committee providing consulting support upon request.

### **Sales and Commissions**

In the event of work being sold during the exhibition at Galerie & Edition Stephan Witschi, the near. committee will take no commission. All sales transactions and potential gallery commissions are to be handled exclusively between the winning artist and the gallery.

### **Costs and Support**

Exhibition communication will be managed jointly by the gallery and the near. committee. near. will cover the costs of the opening reception.

## 8. Cancellation

near. swiss association for contemporary photography reserves the right to cancel the near. prize 2026 in the event of insufficient participation. In such circumstances, all participants will be duly notified. near. will not be held liable for any losses or damages arising from the cancellation of the near. prize 2026.

## 9. Timetable reminder

- From April 27 to June 7, 2026: Submission of applications
- July 2026: Deliberation by the jury and announcement of the winner

### **Application file checklist**

- Series of 7 to 15 images
  - Project description
- Filled and signed application form

near. swiss association for  
contemporary photography

I have read the rules of the near. prize and I accept all terms and conditions.

Date :

Signature :