

ROVINJ PHOTODAYS 2026

Rovinj Photodays 2026 – Winners and Finalists Announced!

Dear members of the press,

We are pleased to present the results of the **19th edition** of the Rovinj Photodays international photography competition. Following a record-breaking number of submissions and a thorough judging process, we proudly announce the finalists of Rovinj Photodays 2026!

This year's competition, which closed on March 1st, received over **3,000 photographs from artists across 30 countries**, once again reaffirming the international significance of the festival and its role in promoting contemporary photography.

The judging panel for 2026 consisted of seven distinguished experts from the fields of photography, curatorial practice, and visual arts:

1. **Sabina Salamon**, Senior Curator of the Photography Collection at MMSU Rijeka – Jury President (Croatia)
2. **Dubravka Lazić**, doctor of filmology, artist, professor (Serbia)
3. **Dino Rekanović**, founder of the ROTLICHT festival and chief curator of the Photo Cluster gallery (Austria)
4. **Stefania Rössl**, photographer and director of the SIFEST Festival (Italy)
5. **Hrvoje Slovinc** – Visual Artists (USA)
6. **Massimo Sordi**, photographer and co-director of the SIFEST Festival (Italy)
7. **Jano Viazio**, photographer, curator, and CEO of the PARADAJS PHOTO platform

The jury's task was to select finalists across the competition categories, as well as the overall winner of the **Grand Prix Rovinj Photodays 2026**. Jury members were granted full autonomy in determining both the number and composition of finalists, ensuring a high-quality and carefully curated final exhibition.

During the selection process, the jury also made the decision **not to include finalists in the Fashion category**, as the submitted works in that category were assessed as not meeting the required standard for exhibition. This decision reflects the festival's ongoing commitment to maintaining a high level of quality and professional criteria.

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ROVINJ PHOTODAYS 2026

“This year, the international jury of the Rovinj Photodays festival reviewed around 3,000 thousand photographs submitted from around thirty countries around the world. In addition to the already established names, a significant number of new applicants were recorded, and authors from neighboring Italy are leading the way. We are satisfied with the high level of the selected works. To maintain uniformity in quality, the jury decided to omit the Fashion category this year, because it received a significantly smaller number of applications that significantly differed in quality from the other categories. Congratulations to everyone and we look forward to seeing you in May.” — Sabina Salamon, Jury President

The finalists represent the following countries: Croatia, France, Italy, Serbia, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine and Mexico. Final Exhibition

During the festival, held on **May 15 and 16, 2026**, a **group exhibition of all finalists** will take place — the central highlight of this year’s edition.

The **Grand Prix winner** will be officially announced during the **closing night ceremony** on **May 16** at **Island Hotel Istra**.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Online presentation of all finalist works and author statements on the official festival website
- Inclusion of all finalist works in the festival’s permanent digital museum archive
- Printed diplomas for all finalists and winners
- Official digital catalogue of the final exhibition
- Complimentary accommodation (half board) for finalists at Island Hotel Istra during the festival
- Category winners will also receive the **Kadar** statuette

GRAND PRIX PHOTODAYS 2026

- Monetary prize of **€2,000**
- **Solo exhibition** with accompanying catalogue at Rovinj Photodays 2027
- **Complimentary accommodation** at Island Hotel Istra in both 2026 and 2027
- Inclusion of the awarded work in the museum archive under curatorial care (in digital or printed format)
- Official title and plaque: **Grand Prix Photodays 2026**

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FINALISTS 2026

DOCUMENTARY

1. Matteo Trevisan (IT)
2. Robin Tutenges (FR)
3. Akoš Kovač (RS)

NUDE / BODY

1. Cinzia Canneri (IT)
2. Paola Sablić (HR)
3. Sergey Melnitchenko (UA)

ARCHITECTURE

1. Gianluca Santoni (IT)
2. Katerina Kouzmitchova (PL)
3. Fadil Šarki (RS)

LANDSCAPE

1. Filippo Ferraro (IT)
2. Stefan Stefanovski (RS)
3. Ema Lančaričova (SK)

PORTRAIT

1. Monica Almereyda (MX)
2. Bojan Batar (RS)
3. Emanuele Artenio (IT)