

SAN AGUSTÍN

PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

PREMIO DE FOTOGRAFÍA SAN AGUSTÍN · FIRST EDITION

Terms of the call

2026 Edition · Espera

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Nature of the prize

The Premio de Fotografía San Agustín recognises authored photographic series on the origin of coffee.

The decision rests with the jury, whose composition is published in these terms.

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Theme and subtheme of the 2026 edition

The prize's permanent theme is the origin of coffee: the land and the climate, the people and the work, the processes and the atmospheres of the places where it is grown.

Official 2026 subtheme: «Espera»

Coffee at origin lives at a pace that cannot be forced. The plant takes years to bear fruit. The cherry ripens when it ripens. Fermentation cannot be hurried without losing quality. Drying takes weeks. Nothing at origin happens fast.

This first edition seeks series that find that temporal dimension—in the land, in the work, in the people or in the processes—and make it visible. The aim is not to portray the literal act of waiting, but to look at origin through the rhythm that sustains it.

Origin admits many approaches: the documentary and the conceptual, landscape and portrait, the classical and the experimental all have a place. The prize assesses the author's voice and the coherence of the series.

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Who may participate

Photographers of any country may participate, of legal age under the legislation of their country of residence.

There is no entry fee.

Members of the jury may not participate, nor may their direct relatives or collaborators with a stable professional relationship.

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The work

Each entry is a series of between three and five images accompanied by an author's statement.

- Series: three to five images. The exact number and the order of the sequence are decided by the author. The sequence and the visual rhythm are part of the work and will be assessed as such.
- Series title: the name the author gives the work. It is part of the work and will be the public identifier of the series in all communications of the Prize.

- Statement: an author's text in Spanish or English, maximum one hundred (100) words. It must explain the intention of the series, not describe it. It must not include the author's name, signature or personal data, in order to preserve the anonymity of the evaluation. If submitted in English, the organisation will provide a faithful translation to the jury.
- Unity of the work: the submitted images form a single narrative body. Single, stand-alone photographs are not accepted.

The series must have been made in coffee-growing regions of origin.

Works already published or shared by the author are accepted, provided they have not been awarded in another photographic competition.

The series must have been made between 1 January 2026 and the registration closing date. The organisation may verify the dating of the work through capture metadata and, in the case of finalists, through the original file. Consistency between the metadata, the original file and the author's declarations is the author's responsibility; unjustified inconsistencies result in exclusion.

The call remains open from September to February so that those who consider the harvest relevant to their series can align it with the calendar of the country in which they photograph. Each origin has its own moment within that interval.

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Technical specifications

The prize accepts digital capture photography.

- Format: high-quality JPEG.
- Dimensions: long side between 3,000 and 6,000 pixels.
- Metadata: files must preserve the technical capture data (date, exposure, camera) and must not contain signature, watermark, or author or copyright fields. The organisation will treat any residual technical data as confidential; the jury has no access to the metadata.

The six finalists will be asked for the RAW file or capture original of each image, as well as the JPEG at the highest available resolution, in order to verify the authenticity of the work and to constitute the prize archive. Failure to deliver them within the deadline results in exclusion.

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Authenticity

The prize recognises photographic work. The image originates from a real photographic act, captured by the author. The processing and development of the digital file belong to the current photographic language and are the author's work as much as the shot itself.

No tool —artificial intelligence or otherwise— is accepted that adds, removes or replaces information that was not captured by the camera at the moment of the shot. Photographic processing that works on what was already captured is accepted.

- RAW development with standard tools is accepted: adjustments to exposure, highlights, shadows, colour, contrast, tonal curve, white balance, conversion to black and white, dodge & burn, noise reduction, cropping and straightening.
- Computational processing applied by the camera at the moment of capture (HDR, night, portrait and similar modes) is accepted, as part of the photographic act.

- No generative intervention is accepted: fill or expansion, sky replacement, fabrication or removal of elements, substitution of persons or faces, AI super-resolution that invents detail, or any tool that adds information absent from the shot.

Cropping and the order of the series, being authorial decisions, are not considered alteration. Establishing a work as photographic is the author's obligation; failure to do so results in exclusion.

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Registration

Registration is made through the registration form on this website, within the established period. Each author may submit a single series. Registration entails full acceptance of these terms.

Registration opens	1 September 2026
Registration closes	28 February 2027
Finalists announced	March 2027
Originals requested from finalists	March 2027
Jury decision	April 2027

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Jury

The jury is composed of at least three members. The evaluation is anonymous: series are presented to the jury identified by a registration number, without the author's name or provenance. The identity of the authors is revealed after the selection of finalists.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- The strength and coherence of the series as a single narrative body.
- The reading of origin: conceptual depth as opposed to mere illustration.
- The relationship and coherence between the statement and the visual work.
- The sequence, rhythm and editing decided by the author.

JURY COMPOSITION

- Lisa Palper — graphic designer, illustrator and 3D artist, Barcelona, Spain. lisapalper.com
- Nicolás Fernández — documentary photographer and filmmaker, Bogotá, Colombia. [instagram.com/nicocinq](https://www.instagram.com/nicocinq)
- Julián Rus — photojournalist, Oviedo, Spain. julianrus.com

The jury's decision is final.

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Selection and decision

- Finalists: each jury member reviews the series independently and proposes those they consider best. From the pooling of these proposals come up to six finalist series, which proceed to exhibition; the jury may name fewer than six if it considers that the level does not justify it. Finalists are asked for the capture original.
- Decision: from among the finalist series, the jury designates the winning work by joint deliberation. The jury may declare the prize void if no series reaches the required level.

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The prize

— Amount: €2,000 gross.

The organisation may establish additional non-monetary recognitions for selected finalists, on the terms announced together with the decision.

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Exhibition and diffusion

The six finalist series are shown in the prize's web section and announced through the organisation's diffusion channels, including San Agustín's Instagram profile (@sanagustincafes), always with the author's credit. The organisation may present the finalist works in physical exhibitions and in other cultural and diffusion media linked to the prize.

I2

Rights over the works

AUTHORSHIP

Authorship and ownership of the rights always belong to the photographer. Every reproduction made by the organisation will carry the author's credit.

LICENCE UPON REGISTRATION

Upon registering, the author grants the organisation a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to reproduce and display the work during the evaluation process and to announce and present the finalist series.

LICENCE OF THE FINALIST WORKS

With respect to the six finalist series, the author grants San Agustín Tostadores de Café S.L. a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide licence of unlimited duration to reproduce, exhibit, communicate publicly, distribute and preserve the work for the purposes of exhibition, diffusion, publishing and archiving of the prize, in any present or future medium. The licence covers the prize website, exhibitions, catalogues, monographs, photobooks, critical essays and the historical-documentary archive, whether distributed free of charge or offered for sale. Every reproduction will carry the author's credit.

SCOPE AND LIMIT OF THE LICENCE

Expressly excluded from this licence are advertising uses of the San Agustín brand or of third parties, product marketing materials, packaging and any other use that links the work to the commercial promotion of a good or service other than the prize itself. Such uses require an express agreement with the author, independent of this licence.

EDITORIAL COVERAGE

The organisation may grant media outlets limited sublicences for the use of the finalist series in editorial pieces linked to coverage of the prize. Every sublicense will require the author's credit, exclusively informative use and respect for the integrity of the work.

AUTHOR'S WARRANTIES

The author warrants that they are the sole holder of all rights, that the work is original and that they have obtained the authorisations necessary for the use of the image of recognisable persons appearing in it, in accordance with the legislation applicable at the place of the shot and with the ethical standards of documentary photographic practice. The organisation may request from the author, at any point in the process, documentation or explanation of the conditions under which the work was obtained.

INDEMNITY

The author holds the organisation harmless against any third-party claim arising from breach of the foregoing warranties.

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Data protection

- Controller: San Agustín Tostadores de Café S.L., NIF ESB01621838, calle El Vago n.º 15, 24195 Villaobispo de las Regueras, León, Spain. info@sanagustin.com
- Legislation: GDPR (EU 2016/679) and Organic Law 3/2018 (LOPDGDD).
- Legal basis: the data subject's consent given upon accepting these terms, and legitimate interest for the preservation of the historical archive.
- Purposes: to manage participation, to announce and exhibit the finalist series with authorship credit, and to preserve the historical-documentary archive.
- Retention: contact data is deleted at the close of each edition. The names of finalist authors are kept associated with their work as an authorship credit in the prize archive.
- Recipients: data is not shared with third parties save by legal obligation; the jury evaluates anonymously.
- Rights: access, rectification, erasure, objection, restriction and portability, by writing to info@sanagustin.com. The authorship credit is an inalienable moral right.
- Complaint: you may lodge a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (aepd.es).

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General provisions, taxation and disputes

Participation entails full acceptance of these terms. The organisation may resolve any circumstance not foreseen herein.

Taxation: the prize amount is understood as a gross value and is subject to the withholdings and taxes applicable under Spanish tax legislation in force. For non-resident winners, Double Taxation Conventions will apply if the tax residence certificate is provided within the deadline.

Documentation: the awarded author will have thirty (30) calendar days from notification of the decision to provide identifying, tax and banking documentation. After that period, they will be deemed to have renounced the prize.

Disputes: these terms are governed by Spanish law. The parties will seek to resolve any disagreement in good faith. If it persists, they will turn to mediation under Law 5/2012 before judicial proceedings. The courts and tribunals of the city of León (Spain) will have jurisdiction, save for mandatory legal venues.

Questions about the call? premio@sanagustin.com