



August Sander: Photographer, c. 1926
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August Sander Archive, Cologne; VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2025

Call for Entries – AUGUST SANDER AWARD 2026

Prize for Portrait Photography

Sponsored by Ulla Bartenbach and Prof. Dr. Kurt Bartenbach
in collaboration with Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur, Cologne

August Sander Award:

The prize is endowed with €5,000 to use as the winner sees fit.

Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur will also organize if possible a solo exhibition of the winners' works in cooperation with the artist.

Purpose and eligibility:

The prize is designed to promote young artists working in the field of documentary and conceptual photography. In honor of August Sander's seminal contribution to portrait photography, the candidates' photographic work should primarily focus on portraiture. The prize is awarded every two years.

National and international artists born as of January 1, 1986 who work mainly with photography are eligible to enter.

How to enter:

The artist should submit a largely completed series of maximum 20 photographs produced especially for the award. The submission must consist of unframed working prints in exhibition quality from this single series, with a maximum edge length of 60 cm. Candidates should also include a PDF file (max. 10MB) containing all motifs of the series, dates and measurements. The title of the PDF should be as follows: "candidates name_title of the series.pdf". Please send the PDF to the following address: projekt@sk-kultur.de.

Only works that form a thematically coherent group or sequence will be reviewed; individual images will not be considered. Works that have already won awards in other competitions will not be accepted.

The entry must also include the following documents and will only be accepted if these documents are complete. Incomplete entries will be returned at the candidate's expense.

- Completed entry form (Annex 1)
- Transfer of rights/indemnification (Annex 2)
- Mailing/delivery information (Annex 3)
- Copy of identity card or passport
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Re: Annex 2:

The candidate confirms with his/her signature that the submitted photographs are not subject to third-party rights. Participation includes a transfer of rights/granting of indemnity for all activities involved in the awards ceremony and its documentation, such as public relations, social media etc.

Re: Annex 3:

Candidates send in their documents at their own expense. Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur assumes no liability for the loss or damage to the materials submitted, including but not limited to loss or damage in transport or due to inadequate packaging. The documents can alternatively be delivered personally by appointment and/or picked up again after the jury session. **The submitted series will only be returned at the explicit request and expense of the sender. If their return is not requested, the works will be destroyed.**

Jury:

The jury is composed of five members:

Dr. Anja Bartenbach, sponsor family, Cologne; Gabriele Conrath-Scholl, Director, Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur, Cologne; Jean-Paul Deridder, Curator, Brussels; Andreas Mader, Photographer, Winterthur; N.N.

The jury will not disclose any information about the decision-making process at any time, neither about the winner, nor about the shortlist, nor about those who were not considered for nomination.

Announcement of winner:

A shortlist will be published in May 2026. The winner, resulting from the shortlist will be announced in June 2026.

Award ceremony:

The award ceremony will take place in September 2026 on the premises of Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur in Cologne.

The prize winner is responsible for the taxation of the prize money.

Entry deadline: February 27, 2026 (postmark)

Address for submissions: Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur
Im Mediapark 7, 50670 Cologne/Germany

All personal information will be used by Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur in accordance with its Privacy Policy.

Please address any questions to Marianne Breuer or Claudia Schubert, Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur, Tel.: 0221/88895300, photographie@sk-kultur.de

Annex 1:

Entry Form for the August Sander Award 2026	
Last name, first name	
Address	
Telephone no.	
E-mail address	
Short CV with date of birth (day/month/year)	
Title and date of the submitted project	
Brief description of the submitted project (max. 3,000 characters)	

List of submitted
prints (quantity,
titles, dates,
dimensions,
technique)

Annex 2

I hereby confirm that no third-party rights are affected within the scope of the submitted project.

The holder of the rights to the submitted photographs is _____
Name of candidate

The candidate agrees to transfer the rights to the submitted photographs to the organizer of the award competition for all activities involved in the awards ceremony and its documentation, such as public relations, etc.

Town, date, signature

Mailing/delivery information

(please mark the version you prefer and sign below)

- I would like my work to be returned to the return address below and have enclosed sufficient postage (in the form of German stamps, online franking).
- I will order a courier service at my expense to pick up my entrance documents at Die Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur after the end the competition.

Return address:

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Town: _____

Country: _____

- I do not need my works back and they can be destroyed after the official announcement of the winner.

Title of the work/series _____

Number of photographs _____

Town, date, signature