

Press Release

un—realized: A New Art Prize for Switzerland
Bern, 1. April 2026

un—realized Art Prize 2026: Shortlist Announcement

The shortlist for the un—realized Art Prize 2026 has been determined.

The un—realized Art Prize focuses on the artistic potential of the idea and makes visible what often remains unseen: concepts that exist in the mind and are un-realized. In this context, «un-realized» does not necessarily refer to a lack of funding, but can also be the consequence of a radical idea. The un—realized Art Prize understands art not just as a finished object, but as a living practice. Art is not only what becomes visible, but also what is thought and potentially never realized.

The initiator of this new Swiss art prize is the Bern-based Bilas Foundation. The large number and diversity of this year's submissions show that the un—realized Art Prize closes a previously existing funding gap by focusing on the un-realized.

From 268 valid submissions, the five-member jury selected five projects for the shortlist.

Shortlist 2026

Roman Selim Khereddine
Kollektiv Haus Gawaling
Noah Krummenacher
Pilar Quinteros
Rafal Skoczek

The Un-realized Projects

Roman Selim Khereddine
Untitled

Starting from a canceled exhibition, the project shifts the starting point and reflects on the conditions of artistic production. The planned relocation of social rituals into the exhibition space and their cancellation make questions of power, censorship, and institutional responsibility visible.

Kollektiv Haus Gawaling
The Fifth Sister

A work that unfolds around the imaginary figure of a «fifth sister» and examines memory, diaspora, and un-lived life paths. Documentary, speculative, and archive-based elements intertwine, making absence tangible as a productive form of knowledge.

Noah Krummenacher

How many fog machines do we need to make them change the weather forecast?

An outdoor installation that generates artificial fog only when natural fog is already present. With this strategic redundancy, the project raises questions about control, predictability, and the human relationship to nature.

Pilar Quinteros
Searching the Middle

A cinematic and installative work that stages the Rhine as a contested transition zone and re-

“The great success with over 260 entries has far exceeded our expectations. It confirms that we have struck a chord at the right time with the theme of un-realized ideas.

This resonance motivates us to consistently develop the un-realized Art Prize and establish it as a permanent, relevant fixture in the national funding landscape.”

Irène Blaser-Dubler, Initiator

2026

Art Prize

un — realized

negotiates questions of memory and public space through the release of historical objects.

Rafal Skoczek
A very brutal red carpet?

An intervention at Sihlquai 125 in Zurich: a ten-meter-long red concrete line as a walkable “carpet” that condenses the history of a place between institution and open social space while simultaneously questioning its own necessity.



● Award and Ceremony

The jury selected independent projects that are conceptually convincing even while un-realized. From the five nominated projects on the shortlist, one winning project will be awarded CHF 20,000 for its realization. The other four positions each receive CHF 3,000 for the idea.

On August 27, 2026, the five shortlisted projects will be presented at the Kunsthalle Bern. The winning project will be announced during a celebration that evening.

Upcoming Event at Art Basel: The un—realized Art Prize will be on-site at this years Edition of Basel Social Club with the shortlisted artists on June 16.

● Funding & Jury

An independent jury selected five projects for the shortlist from all submissions. Jury 2026:

- Mitchell Anderson (Artist)
- Tasnim Baghdadi (Co-Director, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst)
- Jasmine Gregory (Artist)
- Prof. Dr. Chus Martínez (Art Historian & Curator)
- Oskar Weiss (Gallerist & Publisher)

The prize starts in 2026 in Bern and will be held annually in changing Swiss cities from 2027 onwards.

● Timeline

- Call for Applications Open: November 19, 2025
- Submission Deadline: February 14, 2026
- Jury Evaluation: March 2026
- Announcement of Selected Projects: April 2026
- Award Ceremony: August 27, 2026, Kunsthalle Bern

Further Information www.un-realized.ch

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