

EURAZEO ANNOUNCES THE WINNER OF THE FIRST EDITION OF THE EURAZEO PHOTO PRIZE

Paris, 23 September 2026

The 2026 Eurazeo Photo Prize grant, centred on the theme “Stories of Europe”, has been awarded to Vincent Catala. It recognizes his photographic project, selected from among 140 applications submitted by photographers of 20 different nationalities.

Meeting on 21 September, the Jury* reached its final decision after interviewing the five shortlisted candidates. **Vincent Catala was named the winner of the 2026 Eurazeo Photo Prize for Balta Jūra – The White Sea.**

“My photographic project will unfold along the coastline of the three Baltic States, from western Lithuania, bordering Kaliningrad, to eastern Estonia, on the Russian frontier. Stretching over several hundred kilometers, this coastal strip forms one of Europe’s regions most profoundly marked in recent history by repeated and abrupt shifts in sovereignty, borders and populations. These ruptures have left behind a layering of legacies and identities, now rekindled by rising tensions with Russia. My work will also be built around this idea of layering. The sea, whether visible or beyond the frame, will provide both its geographical unity and its psychological depth.”

The Eurazeo Photo Prize Grant builds on the legacy of the Eurazeo Photo Award. Established in 2010, the award has supported 15 winners to date. In its new format, the Eurazeo Photo Prize invites applications from professional photographers of all nationalities, whether based in France or internationally.

The Eurazeo Photo Prize is part of the Eurazeo Endowment Fund's commitment to education and access to culture. This new format enables applicants to submit an original project that they commit to developing and producing over a six-month period. Proposed projects should explore Europe through human stories and contemporary issues, from the local to the international level.

Each year, the Eurazeo Photo Prize will support one photographer by providing the resources needed to undertake a long-term photographic project and enhance its visibility through both artistic and strategic support.

As the winner of this inaugural edition of the grant, Vincent Catala will produce his project from October 2026 through spring 2027.

William Kadouch-Chassaing, Co-CEO and jury member, declared:

"For many years, Eurazeo has supported photography and the artists who offer a unique perspective on the world around us. This grant enables us to highlight artistic excellence and promote contemporary photography. This edition is particularly meaningful as it coincides with the bicentenary of photography and the launch of the Eurazeo Photo Prize grant. We are delighted to honour Vincent Catala, whose project offers a sensitive and deeply European perspective on the changes reshaping Europe. It perfectly reflects the ambition of this new grant: to support stories that help us better understand the world we live in."

Jean-François Camp, Chair of the jury, declared:

"After carefully reviewing the submissions and selecting five outstanding photographers, the Eurazeo Photo Prize Grant Jury, following interviews with each finalist, selected Vincent Catala's project, whose distinctive perspective resonates particularly strongly with the theme of this call for projects. Spanning the three Baltic States, his project explores a part of Europe where histories, identities and contemporary transformations intersect. After spending more than a decade in Brazil, his return to Europe brings a unique photographic perspective that is both personal and deeply sensitive."

Five shortlisted photographers

The winner was selected from a shortlist of five photographers:

- Vincent CATALA, for *Balta Jūra – The White Sea*
- Philippe CHANCEL, for *Intourist Romania — 1982-2027*
- Tami NOTSANI, for *A Camembert Box Changed My Life*
- Courtney ROY, for *Perfect Weather*
- Ambroise TEZENAS, for *The Last Photograph Five Final Glances at an Overvisited Europe*

About Vincent Catala

A member of Agence VU' from 2014 to 2026, Vincent Catala returned to France this year after spending more than a decade in Brazil. Through his work, he explores the relationship between individuals and their environment, and the subjective ways in which these connections are perceived and represented, addressing themes such as solitude, resilience and freedom. His work is rooted in long-term projects focusing on specific territories that are both clearly defined and inherently complex, where human encounters and distinctive landscapes reveal broader, universal themes. His practice also incorporates text, video and sound installation.

Developed over several years in the anonymous fringes of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Brasília, where he successively lived and worked, his project *Île Brésil* ("Brazil Island") resulted in an eponymous monograph published by Éditions Dunes in 2025 and an exhibition at the Musée de la Photographie de Charleroi from May to September 2026. His work has been presented at Paris Photo and the Instituto Moreira Salles and is held in the Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection at the Museum of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro, as well as in the Bibliothèque nationale de France's collection of contemporary Brazilian photography. Vincent Catala was also a recipient of the CNAP's grant for documentary photography.

*The Jury

- William Kadouch-Chassaing, Co-CEO of Eurazeo
- Coralie Savin, Head of Communications at Eurazeo
- Jean-François Camp, Jury Chair, President of Galerie DuRev and former CEO of Central Dupon
- Dimitri Beck, Director of Photography, Polka Magazine
- Elisabeth Bret, photographer
- Olivier Roller, photographer
- Hélène David-Weill
- Thierry Grillet, writer and essayist
- Aurélie de Lanlay, Deputy Director of Les Rencontres d'Arles
- Anne Lesage, Head of the Images Department at the Centre des monuments nationaux

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PRESS CONTACT

Martial Hobeniche & Mathilde Sandlarz

2e BUREAU

eurazeo@2e-bureau.com

+33 (0)1 42 33 93 18