



Terms and Conditions 2026

Short Summary

The participation fee is 50,- EUR for photographic series of up to 20 images or 30,- EUR for single works (student discount, to be redeemed by 29 March 2026: 50%). The 2026 competition motto is ESCAPISM. Please submit your work in digital format via PICTER (<https://site.picter.com/portraits-hellerau-photography-award-2026>). After the deadline (3 May, 2026), a jury will select the participants for various solo and group exhibitions. For every work selected for exhibition, a separate exhibition contract will be drafted. As an alternative to sending your printed work in via courier or mail, local production of prints via a sponsorship is possible for free for selected participants.

Among the finalists, three cash prizes (EUR 5,000, EUR 2,000, EUR 1,000) will be awarded at the evening of the first vernissage in autumn 2026.

1. Organizer

The organizer of the competition is the Portraits Hellerau e.V. in cooperation with HELLERAU – European Center for the Arts, Technische Sammlungen Dresden and Kunstagentur Dresden.

2. Competition period

The competition starts on 1 February 2026 and ends on 3 May 2026.

3. Participant

Any person of legal capacity who has reached the age of 18 at the time of submission may be a participant in the contest. The following are excluded from participation: (i) employees and freelancers of HELLERAU – European Center of the Arts (ii) of the Kunstagentur Dresden (iii) the jury (iv) sponsors of the competition.

4. Competition Entry

A single photographic portrait or a series of up to twenty photographs is permitted as a competition entry, dealing with the competition motto ESCAPISM. Works created using AI ('Artificial Intelligence') are not eligible for the competition. Each participant may submit several entries in the

competition, subject to the participation fee rules (see 5). The time of creation for the work is not relevant for participation in the competition.

5. Implementation

Participation in the competition requires the successful submission of a Competition Entry and the full receipt of the participation fee by the organiser within the competition period.

a) Upload

For the evaluation by the jury, the competition entries must be submitted digitally in the first round. The competition entries are made via Picter (<https://site.picter.com/portraits-hellerau-photography-award-2026>). The works themselves may not contain any written information, copyright notes or similar. There is no time limit regarding the year the work was created.

b) Jury

The jury selects the participants of the Annual Exhibition from all entries submitted. From these finalists, the four prize winners of the competition will be determined.

c) Exhibitions and awards ceremony

The participants selected by the jury will be informed by e-mail about the participation in the Annual Exhibition or the Finalist Exhibition and will send the selected works by post / courier by 30 Juni 2026. All transport costs are covered by the participant.

Alternatively, selected participants are given the opportunity to produce prints of their series free of charge by a photo lab and have it sent to the project manager for free. After completion of all the exhibitions of the competition year, the produced prints will be sent to these participants on request at their own expense and for a production fee of 75 EUR. If the prints are not picked up by the participants six months after completion of all exhibitions or sent to them on request, they will become the property of the Kunstagentur Dresden. Alternatively, the participant may opt for a destruction of the exhibition prints within the period set forth in the previous paragraph (6 months).

The award ceremony will take place at the exhibition opening of the Finalist Exhibition in autumn 2026. Prize winners who cannot be present will be informed by e-mail.

d) Image and exhibition rights

The participant agrees to the submission of their competition entry in the exhibition and unlimited temporal and spatial use in the context of PORTRAITS exhibitions. The participant also agrees that their competition entry can be reproduced and reused for scientific and organizational purposes in the context of the competition. Prize winners agree to the presentation of their work, in whole or in part, in all media worldwide, indefinitely as part of any journalistic coverage of PORTRAITS.

The consent given under 5.d) does not concern commercial use. For the utilization of the submitted works for the reproduction in the exhibition catalogue and for commercial use, a separate agreement might be concluded between the participant and the Portraits Hellerau e.V.

6. Fees

The full participation fee is €50 for a series of up to 20 images or 30€ for a single image. For students who have been registered in 2025 at a school, university or art academy, fees are reduced by 50%. The participation fee is to be paid for each entry (see 3). If you are interested in applying with the reduced fee, please send us an e-mail (info@portraits-hellerau.com) until 29 March 2026 and attach a .jpg or .pdf copy of your student ID or any other proof of your current academic status to receive a 50% discount code. After payment of the participation fee, there is no entitlement to a refund at any time. This also applies to exclusion from the competition (see Nr. 7, last paragraph).

7. Copyright

By uploading a competition entry, the participant confirms that he or she is the true creator and copyright holder of the work. The participant further confirms that his work does not violate any third-party property rights (personality rights, copyrights, motives). The participant also confirms that he has all the necessary consents, in particular those of the persons depicted or their authorized representatives.

The entrant indemnifies the organizers from any liability, injunctive or compensation claims of third parties in connection with non-compliance with these conditions. In the absence of one of the conditions, the immediate exclusion from the competition will also occur.

8. Other

These conditions of participation apply exclusively and without any additional or supplementary agreements. Any breach of these terms may result in exclusion from the contest. The legal process is excluded.

In the event of any difference of interpretation between the German and English versions of these Terms and Conditions, the German version is definitive.

Dresden, 28 January 2026