

PRESS RELEASE

Oslo, 6 October 2026

Big crowds expected as Oslo Negativ returns to the National Gallery

From 10 to 25 October, the old National Gallery in Oslo is filled with photography. The Oslo Negativ photo festival celebrates photography in all genres, bringing together Norwegian and internationally renowned photographers for exhibitions over three weekends in October. The festival is now bigger than ever.



Record attendance last year: queues on the steps of the National Gallery during Oslo Negativ 2025. Photo: Helle Frogner

"Last year's record attendance shows that there is enormous interest in photography, so this year's festival is even bigger, with more space, more guided tours and an even richer programme. And with such breadth, it should be just as much fun for the passionate enthusiast as for someone visiting an exhibition for the first time," says Nina Sørli, Chair of the Board of Stiftelsen Oslo Negativ.

This is the festival's sixth edition. Last year it drew 10,000 visitors, and even more are expected this year as Oslo Negativ also takes over another floor of the old National Gallery. In total, more than 2,000 square metres will be filled with photography. The festival will offer more guided tours and make room for more events for businesses and organisations during the festival period. For the first time, photographs also hang in the Munch Hall of the National Gallery, which has previously shown only Edvard Munch's work. Here, Knut Bry's photographs are shown in an exhibition curated especially for the festival.

Passion takes centre stage

This year's theme is Passion, and the festival features both major international names and strong Norwegian projects. Magnum Photos presents Alec Soth's iconic series "Sleeping by the Mississippi", a moving portrait of a deeply complex America. Magnum photographer Cristina de Middel is also represented with her breakthrough work "The Afronauts" (2012), inspired by Zambia's little-known space programme of 1964. Dutch artist Erik Kessels is building the installation "The Last of the Lens", a mountain of discarded cameras that questions the future of photography at a time when images are increasingly made without a camera.

The festival also presents the winner of Preus museum's international Open Call, which shared the festival's theme of Passion. The jury received 600 submissions, and the winner is British photographer Laura Pannack with "The Journey Home", about the everyday lives of young people in the gang-controlled Cape Flats area of Cape Town.

"We are delighted to present Laura Pannack as this year's Open Call winner. She represents some of the best of socially engaged documentary photography, with a focus on youth and participation. We look forward to showing her project to the festival audience," says Cecilie Øien, Director of Preus museum.

In total, around 200 photographers are shown in more than 40 exhibitions, spanning everything from documentary and fine art photography to reportage and fashion. Alongside the exhibitions, the festival has its own programme of guided tours, artist talks, workshops, conversations and debates. Many of the works are for sale directly from the exhibitors. There is also a wide selection of photobooks to explore, make yourself or take home.

On the opening day, Casper Faassen creates a new work with dancer Anaïs Touret of the Norwegian National Ballet, and the panel discussion "The end of the lens?" asks how long the camera will survive. Later in the festival, Knut Bry meets ballet director Ingrid Lorentzen for a conversation about dance and photography.

See the full programme at oslonegativ.no/program.

Festival weekends and opening hours:

- Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October, 11:00–18:00
- Friday 16 (14:00–18:00), Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October (11:00–18:00)
- Friday 23 (14:00–18:00), Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 October (11:00–18:00)

Venue:

Nasjonalgalleriet (the former National Gallery), Universitetsgata 13, Oslo

Café:

The festival café in the French Hall (Den franske sal) is open throughout the festival, offering food and a fully licensed bar. It also hosts events large and small, so keep an eye on the programme.

Tickets:

- Festival pass (entire festival): NOK 600
- Day ticket, adult: NOK 250
- Day ticket, student/concession: NOK 125
- Children aged 12 and under: free

Images and more information: [Press room with images and press material \(Dropbox\)](#)

Festival exhibitions ON26:

- Alec Soth (Magnum Photos): Sleeping by the Mississippi
- Cristina de Middel (Magnum Photos): "The Afronauts" (2012)
- Erik Kessels: The Last of the Lens
- Laura Pannack (winner of Preus museum's Open Call 2026): The Journey Home

Competition exhibitions:

- Open Call 2026, Preus museum. Winner: Laura Pannack (UK), "The Journey Home"
- Portfolioprisen 2026, Fotografi magazine. Winner: Catherine Lemblé (Belgium), "Only Barely Still. On Women and Wilderness", about the women of Longyearbyen, Svalbard
- Norges Fotografforbund (NFF): exhibition based on submissions to Landskonkurransen and Gullsnitt, curated by Isidor Åstrøm and Margaret M. de Lange

Other exhibitions and activities:

- Bjørka, Verksted for Fotografi: When the World Shimmers, curated by Stephanie von Spreter
- BRUU Studios: Max Øien Barel
- CYAN mørkerom: analogue photography workshop run by Stig M. Weston, with the exhibition "a collection of collections" and guest artist Caroline Roberts
- DÁIDDA: Rikke Pihlstrøm, Repurpose
- The Norwegian Association of Fine Art Photographers (Forbundet Frie Fotografer, FFF): photobook workshop for children and young people aged 5 to 16
- Fotoboka: photobook shop throughout the festival
- Fotoboka/Raymond Mosken: the aerial photography project "FLY", book launch during the festival
- Fotogalleriet: Rafiki
- Fotografiens Hus: Pål Hansen, "Splitter naken" (Stark Naked)
- Fotografiska Oslo: Passion for Photography. Photographers from the Møller Collection (Møllersamlingen) who have also been shown at Fotografiska
- Fritt Ord/NJP: Norwegian Journal of Photography, seventh edition
- Galleri Brandstrup/Dag Alveng
- Galleri Fotoblikk: Hanne Jonassen, "Morgenbaderne" (The Morning Swimmers)
- Galleri MELK and Nitja Centre for Contemporary Art (Nitja senter for samtidskunst): Dev Dhunsi, "Unmistakably You"
- Galleri Semmingsen: "Lidenskap for livet" (Passion for Life) with Erik Asla, Geir Harald Samuelsen, Christine Istad and Marius Schultz
- HEST/Ivar Kvaal: installation in the main staircase
- Jan Walaker/WA?: launches his new photobook "story" and shows a selection of pictures by Mick Rock. Walaker also brings his magazine WA?
- Juvodden Agenter: Helena Schütz, Leikny Havik, Shawn Arvind, David B. Torch, Yrjan Olsnes and Jói Kjartans
- Kollektivet (Oslo): Arne Adli, Agathe Berjaut, Line Strømnæss, Anders Jørgensen and Trond Lindholm
- Multipress: Mariken Kramer and Siri Ekker Svendsen
- The Møller Collection/Casper Faassen: photo hybrids inspired by Tōhaku Hasegawa, created with dancer Madoka Kariya, and a new installation with dancer Anaïs Touret of the Norwegian National Ballet
- NORDphotography: Anna Clarén (Sweden), Stig M. Weston (Norway), Ragne K. Sigmond (Norway/Denmark)
- Norlis Antikvariat
- Norsk Fotofagskole (Norwegian School of Photography, Trondheim): photobooks from the Masterclass further education programme, 25th anniversary
- Notes Press/Nina Strand: The Notes Series
- Oslo Fotokunstscole (OFKS): group exhibition of work by students at the school
- Oslo Kameraklubb (OKK): Lidenskap for Oslo (Passion for Oslo), curated by Ansgar Valbø
- Oslo Museum: Sverre Heiberg, Heibergs Hammersborg
- Oslo Street Photography Collective: street photography, documentary photography and new topographic photography from Oslo and the surrounding area
- OsloMet Photojournalism: documentary work by bachelor's students in photojournalism
- Preus museum/Knut Bry: selected photographs curated by Tina Holth and Rasmus Vasli, shown in the historic Munch Hall
- Snø Galleri: Trine Søndergaard and Zhang Dali

- Studio Technika: production workshop for photography
- Tinagent: a new photographic dogma with twelve of the agency's photographers, including Aksel Jermstad, Cathrine Wessel, Knut Bry and Marthe Thu
- Vasli Souza x SKOG: Pixy Liao and Liu Hsing-Yu
- WILLAS Contemporary: Arno Rafael Minkinen (Finnish-American), self-portraits in the landscape since 1969

This year's theme: Passion

Passion is a strong force that drives us, engages us and moves people to act on what they believe matters. At a time marked by strong opinions and clear divisions, this year's theme opens up personal perspectives and makes it possible to notice what we might not see at first glance. The theme is also the starting point for Preus museum's international Open Call competition, and a common thread through the festival exhibitions.

Organised by Stiftelsen Oslo Negativ, in collaboration with a diverse photography community

The festival is organised by Stiftelsen Oslo Negativ (the Oslo Negativ Foundation), on the initiative of the Møller Collection and Preus museum. It is a collaboration between a wide range of galleries and photography communities. Its vision is to increase interest in photography through exhibitions, conversations, workshops and events.

Oslo Negativ has become an annual meeting point for photography enthusiasts of all kinds, with rich contributions from the country's photographers, galleries, colleges, photography organisations and enthusiasts. The festival is made possible with support from Eckbos legat, the Bergesen Foundation (Bergesenstiftelsen), the Fritt Ord Foundation (Stiftelsen Fritt Ord), Preus museum and Aars/the Møller Collection. Sparebankstiftelsen also supports some of the participating projects.

About the Møller Collection

The Møller Collection is one of Norway's largest private photography collections, comprising around 1,200 photographs from around 1850 to the present day. The collection grew out of Harald Møller and his family's interest in photography. In 2028, the Møller Collection will become part of the photography house Deich. Read more at mollersamlingen.no. Nina Sørli is senior curator of the Møller Collection and Chair of the Board of Stiftelsen Oslo Negativ.

About Preus museum, Norway's national museum of photography

Preus museum is Norway's national museum of photography, based at Karljohansvern in Horten. The museum is a leading centre of expertise, and through its collection, research and outreach it covers the artistic, cultural-historical and technical aspects of photography. As co-organiser of Oslo Negativ, the museum seeks to live up to its responsibility as a key institution for photography and documentary practice in Norway. Read more at preusmuseum.no. Cecilie Øien, Director of Preus museum, is a board member of Stiftelsen Oslo Negativ.

Contacts

Nina Sørli, Chair of the Board, Stiftelsen Oslo Negativ. +47 951 13 976 / nina@oslonegativ.no

Cecilie Øien, Director, Preus museum. +47 472 33 640 / cecilie.oien@preusmuseum.no