



Sophie Ristelhueber 2025 Hasselblad Award Laureate

Press Release
Gothenburg
March 8, 2025

Victor Hasselblad's
birthday

The Hasselblad Foundation is delighted to announce that Sophie Ristelhueber is the 2025 Hasselblad Award laureate, the world's largest photography award, consisting of SEK 2,000,000, a gold medal, and a Hasselblad camera. The laureate is honoured with a solo exhibition at the Hasselblad Center in Gothenburg from 11 October 2025 until 18 January 2026, along with a series of events during Hasselblad Award Week, including: a seminar in collaboration with the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland and a concert with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra on 9 October; an opening reception, book launch, and formal award ceremony on 10 October in Gothenburg, and an artist talk at Bonniers Konsthall in Stockholm on 15 October.

The Hasselblad Foundation's citation regarding the Hasselblad Award laureate 2025, Sophie Ristelhueber:

A precise, consistent, and unique body of work exploring landscapes and territories – both public and private – defines the artistic career of French artist Sophie Ristelhueber spanning forty-five years. Through her series, created in war-torn regions, she challenged the field of journalistic photography, developing her own visual language. The traces and scars of violence – on land, the human body, and architecture – are central to her powerful, tightly cropped images, most notably in her acclaimed series focusing on the Middle East and the Balkans. Ristelhueber's large-scale photographs are often presented in unconventional ways and combined with video and sound in site-specific installations.

The Hasselblad Award Jury 2025

The jury which submitted its proposal to the Hasselblad Foundation's Board of Directors this year consisted of:

John Fleetwood, Jury Chair

Director of Photo., South Africa,
Co-Head of Photography,
Royal Academy of Art, the Hague,
Netherlands

Raquel Villar-Pérez

Independent researcher, writer,
and curator. PhD candidate at the
Edinburgh College of Art, University
of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Shoair Mavlian

Director, Photographers' Gallery,
United Kingdom

Francesco Zanot

Independent curator, Italy

Anna Planas

Artistic Director, Paris Photo, France

Karolina Ziębińska-Lewandowska

Director, Museum of Warsaw, Poland



Sophie Ristelhueber: “As you know, one does not die from being unloved, but from being unbelieved, an old friend of mine used to say when we were talking about the artist’s condition. What is at stake is that we put everything on the line, inventing new patterns without knowing if they will ever resonate. And this is why, for me as an artist, this prestigious award holds such a deep significance.”

Kalle Sanner, CEO of the Hasselblad Foundation: “We are deeply honoured to celebrate Sophie Ristelhueber as the 45th recipient of the Hasselblad Award. Her photographs remain constantly relevant, and I hope her work can offer us new insights into the world we live in. It is incredibly exciting that the Hasselblad Foundation will present her collected works to a wider audience in Scandinavia for the first time.”

About Sophie Ristelhueber

Lebanon, Kuwait, the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, and the West Bank – places marked by conflict often make up the core of Sophie Ristelhueber’s work. Avoiding the sensational, she instead captures an emotional intensity in the silent, enduring traces of human presence and activity. A recurring theme in her artistic practice is humanity’s perpetual cycle of creation and destruction, followed by renewal. The photographs in her series are meticulously selected fragments of a larger narrative, where the viewer is invited to create the story.

Sophie Ristelhueber was born in 1949 in Paris, where she still lives and works. She studied literature at the Sorbonne, with a focus on the literary movement *le nouveau roman* – the new novel – which challenged traditional narrative structures through fragmented storytelling and an emphasis on detail. These principles have influenced Ristelhueber’s photographic practice, where she highlights traces and details rather than depicting the actual event. Her literary background is also evident in her acclaimed publications. Ristelhueber’s artist books are often small in format, incorporating text fragments as an integral part of the visual narrative. She has personally designed and published many of her books in limited editions, which have all since become sought-after collectors’ items.

Ristelhueber’s work has been exhibited in numerous international institutions, including MoMA (New York, US), Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, US), Albright-Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo, US), The Power Plant (Toronto, CA), Tate Modern (London, GB), Imperial War Museum (London, GB). She has participated in biennials of Johannesburg, São Paulo, Triennial of Etchigo-Tsumari, as well as the photo festival *Rencontres Photographiques d’Arles*. Some of her notable solo exhibitions in Paris include Centre Pompidou, Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Musée Zadkine, Musée d’Art Moderne de Paris, Musée Rodin and Institut Giacometti. Her most recent exhibition, with the thought-provoking title *What the Fuck!*, was shown at Galerie Poggi in Paris, 2025.



The exhibition at the Hasselblad Center will be the laureate's first solo exhibition in Scandinavia, on view from 11 October 2025–18 January 2026.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Hasselblad Foundation is collaborating with the Gothenburg-based camera company Hasselblad, which honours this year's award recipient by including a new camera as part of the award.

About the Hasselblad Foundation

The Hasselblad Foundation was established in 1979 in accordance with the will of Erna and Victor Hasselblad following the sale of the Hasselblad camera company. The purpose of the foundation is to promote scientific education and research in photography and the natural sciences. The annual, international Hasselblad Award has been presented since 1980 and is the world's biggest award in photography.

The foundation holds a photography collection focusing on Hasselblad Award winners and Nordic photographers. The Hasselblad Center is the foundation's exhibition space, situated in the Gothenburg Museum of Art. Stipends for photographic advancement are awarded annually, and the foundation itself is engaged in the field of academic and artistic research through the publication of books, symposiums, and collaborations with Swedish and international universities.

Hasselblad Award Laureates

2025	Sophie Ristelhueber	2002	Jeff Wall
2024	Ingrid Pollard	2001	Hiroshi Sugimoto
2023	Carrie Mae Weems	2000	Boris Mikhailov
2022	Dayanita Singh	1999	Cindy Sherman
2021	No prize awarded	1998	William Eggleston
2020	Alfredo Jaar	1997	Christer Strömholm
2019	Daido Moriyama	1996	Robert Frank
2018	Oscar Muñoz	1995	Robert Häusser
2017	Rineke Dijkstra	1994	Susan Meiselas
2016	Stan Douglas	1993	Sune Jonsson
2015	Wolfgang Tillmans	1992	Josef Koudelka
2014	Ishiuchi Miyako	1991	Richard Avedon
2013	Joan Fontcuberta	1990	William Klein
2012	Paul Graham	1989	Sebastião Salgado
2011	Walid Raad	1988	Edouard Boubat
2010	Sophie Calle	1987	Hiroshi Hamaya
2009	Robert Adams	1986	Ernst Haas
2008	Graciela Iturbide	1985	Irving Penn
2007	Nan Goldin	1984	Manuel Alvarez Bravo
2006	David Goldblatt	1983	No prize awarded
2005	Lee Friedlander	1982	Henri Cartier-Bresson
2004	Bernd & Hilla Becher	1981	Ansel Adams
2003	Malick Sidibé	1980	Lennart Nilsson



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