



2025

>> FESTIVAL FØR --

# ROTLICHT

-- ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY <<

VIENNA  
21. - 30.11.2025

## **ROTLICHT. FESTIVAL FOR ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY**

ROTLICHT is an international festival for analog photography.

In 2025, it will take place for the fifth time in Vienna and has successfully established itself as a creative focal point for analog artistic photography in Central Europe.

This year's motto is: *"Life After Extinction?"* For us, it is an approach to address a wide range of emotions, perspectives, definitions, and personal reflections on the present and future of existence.

The concept of the ROTLICHT Festival is designed to support young photographers at the beginning of their artistic careers while also presenting the work of already established artists. Beyond the presentation of artworks, fostering connections between people and projects is one of our central aims—together with the festival's many educational elements.

In 2021 (in a reduced format due to the pandemic), and particularly in 2022, 2023, and 2024, the festival welcomed not only local audiences but also a significant number of international visitors who traveled to Vienna specifically for the event. Many stayed in the city for several days, exploring its cultural and culinary highlights. The festival therefore brings substantial international guests to Vienna, who naturally make use of the city's infrastructure. Our annual photo walks, which take participants through numerous districts, offer a chance to discover Vienna beyond the usual tourist paths.

Vienna – as a vibrant metropolis of art, shaped by its history, contrasts, and inspiring spaces—has always been, and continues to be, a place of artistic engagement. Naturally, the city stands at the heart of the ROTLICHT Festival. With the opening of the Foto Arsenal this year, alongside ROTLICHT, Vienna now has an outstanding opportunity to present photography as an essential part of the art and exhibition scene.

ROTLICHT unites established photo galleries, associations, initiatives, and off-spaces. In 2025, the festival headquarters will once again be located at the Atelierhaus of the Academy of Fine Arts (better known as the Semperdepot).

The main exhibition will feature the works of 20 winners selected by a six-member professional jury and presented to the public. In addition, the „Grand Prix Winner“ will be awarded a solo exhibition. This year, the international jury of the ROTLICHT Festival reviewed 332 submissions from 43 countries.





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© Tijana Borbely / 2023

## Festival HQ and Satellites

Our headquarters will once again be located in 2025 at the Atelierhaus of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. With its unique architecture and spatial design, the venue provides the ideal setting for the ROTLICHT Festival: an exhibition hall in the Prospekthof with 385 m<sup>2</sup>, where this year's Festival Selection will be on display, and an exhibition space in the Säulenhalle with 830 m<sup>2</sup>, reserved for the winners of the international Open Call.

In addition to the exhibitions, the Atelierhaus of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna will also host the Artist Talks, a wide range of workshops, and lectures. The spaces will be open and staffed during regular visiting hours throughout the ten days of the festival.



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## *EXHIBITIONS*

## *TALKS*



© Robin Jacob / 2023



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## *WORKSHOPS*

## TALKS

The ROTLICHT Festival places great importance on exchange and collaboration. Within this framework, we foster dialogue through lively discussions with experts in analog photography from Austria and abroad. Last year, the organizers welcomed more than 20 speakers from various countries to give lectures, and the presentations held during the festival were met with great enthusiasm. For this reason, special emphasis will once again be placed this year on the qualified transmission of knowledge in both the theory and practice of analogue photography.

## WORKSHOPS

In previous editions of the ROTLICHT Festival, we offered a wide range of workshops covering both the practical and theoretical aspects of analogue photography. It is important to us to provide courses for beginners, advanced practitioners, and professionals alike, in order to create an educational resource unique to Vienna. The workshop leaders are experienced photographers with strong didactic skills and profound expertise. In 2025, we also plan to present a broad spectrum of topics, including:

- Basics of Analog Photography
- Developing Black-and-White Negatives
- Color Development using the C-41 Process
- Analog Enlarging and Experimental Darkroom Techniques
- Polaroid: Destroy to Create
- Wet Plate Collodion Process
- Albumen Printing
- Cyanotype
- Cinematic Night Portraits
- Salt Printing
- AI as a Challenge for Photography

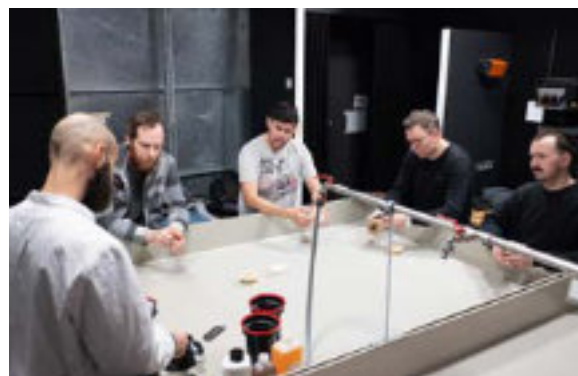
## PHOTO WALKS

In 2025, the ROTLICHT Festival once again plans to offer photo walks through various districts of Vienna. Each walk is guided by two people: a city guide and an expert in analog photography, who provide participants with insights in at least German and English. Participants have the option to purchase film or borrow cameras, but are also welcome to bring their own analogue equipment. The handling of the gear will be explained during the walk.

The event is designed so that participants can later develop their own film in a darkroom. The aim of these photo walks is to explore the creative aspects of analogue photography while at the same time discovering the many different facets of Vienna.



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## TESTIMONIALS

» Vienna is not only an open-minded city, but above all a city of culture. It is therefore a great pleasure for me that our city is hosting the ROTLICHT – Festival for Analog Photography. With a program of nearly 40 exhibitions and more than 60 artists, this festival brings photography closer to us in all its facets.

But that is not all: the festival has set itself the goal of placing education at its core. With 15 different workshops and numerous lectures by international experts, it makes an important contribution to the field of education for the people of Vienna.

The festival thus becomes an international hub for exhibitions, knowledge exchange, and dialogue on contemporary analogue photography. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on this outstanding project and invite all residents of Vienna to discover analogue photography in all its many dimensions.

CHRISTOPH WIEDERKEHR

Federal Minister for Education

»» Photography is one of the most defining media of our time—an omnipresent medium that profoundly shapes our perception. The new ROTLICHT Festival is dedicated to a very special form of photography: analogue photography, its origins, and its ongoing development.

Especially in the digital age, analogue photography stands out through its process of deceleration and its rare tactile quality. Artists focus on each individual moment and every single image—inevitably shaped by the limited number of exposures on a roll of film.

In the coming festival days, the medium of analogue photography will be redefined, so that it shines not only in the \*red light\* of the darkroom. I wish all visitors an exciting festival filled with new insights, and the entire team every success!

VERONICA KAUP-HASLER

City Councillor of Vienna for für Culture and Science

»» The events held as part of the ROTLICHT Festival in Vienna were a valuable and important addition to Austria's diverse photography scene. The networking of creative potential from different areas of contemporary auteur photography created a synergy effect that had not been seen in this form for many years.

Moreover, there has been a revival of analog recording techniques here as well (similar to what we see with music formats). Unlike digital methods, analog techniques are not threatened by data loss. In this sense, it is to be hoped that these events will continue to receive support in the future, so that they may remain an inspiration and enrichment for Austrian auteur photography.

BRANKO LENART, photographer



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## *Organizing Association*

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