

## Contest Bylaws

### The Meitar Award for Excellence in Photography 2026

#### Celebrating a Decade

PHOTO IS:RAEL (PBC), producer of the International Photography Festival in Israel and the Zvi and Ofra Meitar Foundation will present the tenth Meitar Award for Excellence in Photography.

The winner will receive a \$14,000 grant to set a solo exhibition that will be featured in the 2027 International Photography Festival, (see details below)

20 shortlisted competitors selected by the panel of judges will be featured in the 13th International Photography Festival in Tel Aviv, in November 2026.

The International Photography Festival is run by PHOTO IS:RAEL (PBC), an independent, non-profit company established in 2011. The judges look for excellence in photography, with an emphasis on originality and the ability to create a body of work for the exhibition. The works will be presented to the panel of judges anonymously, without identifying markers.

#### **Eligibility:**

- A legal adult (in the country of origin).
- Participants may submit a body of work created during the last five years.
- Participation is limited to individuals. Groups or organizations may not enter.
- Each participant may submit a body of work comprising up to 12 photographs (hereinafter "body of work").
- Submitted photographs must be taken by the applying photographer.
- Applying photographers must possess full rights of use for the photographs and images therein. Participants must assert that no third-party agreement is

required for the use of the photographs and the images therein, or if such an agreement is required, that the participant has received said agreement prior to submission. Participants assert that the rights to photographs were not assigned or transferred to any third party, and their use does not breach the rights of any third party. Participants acknowledge that they are aware that PHOTO IS:RAEL is fully reliant on their assertion that all rights to the photographs and images therein belong to the participant and that no third-party agreement is required prior to their use, or that such an agreement has been given before the images were submitted. Participants are fully and exclusively liable for any third-party claim or lawsuit related to the publication of the submitted images. In any event, PHOTO IS:RAEL will not be liable in any way for any third-party claims over the use or ownership of the photographs and the images therein.

- Participants accept the stipulations of the contest regulations wholly and absolutely.
- PHOTO IS:RAEL reserves the right to review the suitability of the participants to the criteria and to rule in any dispute that may arise at any time on this issue.

## Application

- Photographs must be submitted via the contest website:  
<https://meitar.photoisrael.org/>  
(hereinafter: "Competition Website") during the competition period and follow the instructions detailed on the website. Photos must meet the "photo criteria" listed below.
- Each applicant may apply for the 2026 Meitar Award once. Any additional applications will be disqualified. Group applications and applications on behalf of various organizations will be disqualified. Any incomplete, damaged, forged images in whole or in part, illegally obtained photographs, or late submissions will be disqualified.

- Each application will be deemed to have been submitted by the owner of the email account used to apply. The "Account Owner" is the person registered to the account when it is opened.

### **Materials for submission:**

- 6-12 images, in JPG format only, measuring 1920 pixels on the long side of the image (for example, 1000x1920 pixels). Max. file size 2 MB. Please include the work's title – up to 60 characters in English.
- A description of the body of work – a short text (up to 800 tabs) describing the project and any relevant information, in English only. You may include links to video work.
- A short CV in English only

### **Photo criteria:**

The artists registering for the contest declare and undertake to verify that the images included in their work body correspond to the stipulations of the present bylaws, and meet all the following criteria:

- All photographs submitted for the contest must be original and taken by the submitter.
- If the submitted images include minors, or models/subject's incapable of explicitly consenting to be photographed, the submitter may be required to provide written consent of the subject's parents/custodians to use the image, according to circumstances.
- The submitted photographs must be free of any binding agreement with a third party that might hold the Meitar Foundation or PHOTO:IS RAEL (PBC) liable for payment to any individual or entity in connection with the images' copyright or their use.
- PHOTO IS:RAEL may disqualify an image for any reason, including, but not limited to, a breach of an individual's right to privacy.

### **Schedule:**

- Early registration for Meitar Award: 23.2.2026-19.3.2026 – \$34.00 registration fee.

- Late registration for Meitar Award: 20.3.2026-12.4.2026 – \$46.00 registration fee.
- Applicants are responsible for determining the start and closing time of the competition in their time zone (insofar as they are outside the State of Israel).
- The shortlist of artists whose works will be featured in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Photography Festival will be announced during November 2026.
- The Meitar Award winner will be announced during the International Photography Festival – November 2026.
- The International Photography Festival reserves the right to change these dates, as well as the date and venue of the exhibition featuring the Award Winner and the twenty (20) finalists, and to publish the new dates on the festival's website and/or social media.

## **Intellectual property rights**

Artists applying for the Meitar Award will maintain ownership rights of all the intellectual property (including ethical rights) related to the images comprising the working body, subject to the present bylaws. However, by participating in the contest, the artists give the Meitar Foundation, the International Photography Festival, and PHOTO:IS RAEL (PBC), and through them to any third parties involved in marketing (hereunder "The Authorized Users") their irrevocable, non-exclusive, international, royalty-free permission, within legal bounds, to change, edit, copy, duplicate and adjust the images to the format required for internet product pages and for marketing materials only, to advertise and use the photos and their content and components, including any name, place or portrait they may contain, in every type of media, including, but not limited to, digital and electronic media, computers and audio-visual media (present or future), in any language, worldwide, and in any way, without need to check, notify or receive approval, without any return or compensation. All the above for the sole purpose of promoting and/or advertising the Meitar Foundation Photography Contest, or the 13<sup>th</sup> Photography Festival. Other than the purposes listed above, and other uses intended to promote the festival, the award and the activity of PHOTO IS:RAEL, no commercial use will be made of the photographs, and all commercial rights will remain in the possession of the artist.

**Privacy Waiver**

The artists positively agree that personal details to be provided as part of the registration process, including name, mailing address and email, will be kept, processed and stored by and may be used in other ways for the purposes of the competition and as part of the competition.

It is hereby stated that the organizers may also use this data to verify the identity and personal details of the participating artists. For the record, artists' payment details are not considered part of their personal data. The payment details will not be kept and will not be used in any other way by the organizers.

Failure to provide full personal details during the application process may lead to the disqualification of the artist. The winning artist agrees that the Meitar Foundation, the International Photography Festival and PHOTO IS: RAEL may use his/her name and/or portrait and the winning body of work without further compensation for the purpose of presenting him/her as the winner of the competition in advertising and marketing materials of the aforesaid bodies, for a reasonable period after the end of the competition and until and after the 13th Photography Festival.

The artist undertakes to bear in full and exclusively any claim of infringement by a third party as a result of the publication of the images that will be submitted.

**The Prize**

The winner of the competition will be granted a \$14,000 prize, to be divided as follows:

- A \$2,500 personal award, to be granted to the winner (hereinafter "The Personal Prize") within 60 days of announcement.
- A sum of \$11,500 will be dedicated to curating, setting up and producing a solo exhibition that will be part of the 14th International Photography Festival. The above sum will be transferred to the winner through PHOTO IS:RAEL in a schedule to be determined in coordination between the winner and PHOTO IS: RAEL and the Meitar Foundation during preparations for the 2027 International Photography Festival.
- The winner will receive the \$2,500 award even if the International Photography Festival is canceled due to an act of God or for any other reason.

Should the Festival be canceled, the balance of the prize, amounting to \$11,500, will not be allocated to the winner or any other party.

- The Meitar Family Fund and PHOTO IS:RAEL (CIC) may request additional images or photographs from the artist which were not included in the original submission. Receipt of the award is subject to the winner's willingness to provide additional images at the request of PHOTO IS:RAEL.

**Additional awards:**

The twenty finalists selected by the judging panel will be given the opportunity to present the body of work at the 13th International Photography Festival, scheduled to take place in November 2026. It is stated that in case the Twelfth International Festival is canceled or does not take place, for any reason, the additional prizes as aforesaid will not be distributed and the participants will not be entitled to any alternative prize.

**General Comments regarding the prize:**

- A winner who has not claimed the award, for any reason, will not be entitled to any alternative compensation, and will have no claim, complaint or demand against PHOTO IS:RAEL or any of its sponsors concerning this matter.
- The award may not be exchanged for money or its worth, nor for any other award or product. The winner may not request such an exchange for any reason.
- PHOTO IS:RAEL retains the right to suspend and/or cancel one or more of the awards, for any reason which by law requires the suspension or cancellation of the award.
- The winner will be solely responsible for all tax liabilities, should those exist, and receipt of the award shall be contingent on their payment.
- PHOTO IS:RAEL may alter and/or replace the content of the award as detailed herein, and/or alter its quantities, and/or include additional awards, at its discretion.

- The winners of the competition may be published in the press. When applying for the competition, the participant expresses his consent to the publication of his name and coverage of his winnings, including on the Internet, radio and in the press, all subject to the Legal Qualifications and Guardianship Law, 1962, the Protection of Privacy Law, 1981 and under any other law.

## **Liability**

Participation in the Meitar Award will be the sole liability of the participants. PHOTO IS:RAEL and its representatives shall not be liable for any damages, including, but not limited to, physical injury to any of the participants resulting from participation or non-participation in any part of the award process. PHOTO IS:RAEL will likewise not be liable for any losses or expenses incurred to any participant in direct or indirect relation to the competition and its results. PHOTO IS:RAEL will not be liable in any way for the quality of the awards provided during the competition, for any reason. Participants hereby agree to compensate and/or indemnify PHOTO IS:RAEL, upon its request, for any claim and/or demand and/or complaint made against PHOTO IS:RAEL and/or its associates in direct or indirect relation to their participation in the contest, including the violation of these bylaws.

## **General Comments**

- By participating in the competition, applicants accept de facto all the bylaw clauses.
- PHOTO IS:RAEL reserves the right to make changes and updates, at its discretion, to the competition, including dates, awards, jury panel members and/or these by-laws. PHOTO IS:RAEL may also cancel the competition at any time, at its sole and exclusive discretion. Any change and/or cancellation of the by-laws will be announced in advance, and participants shall have no claims as to the alteration of the competition by-laws as detailed in this clause. Publication of said changes on the competition website shall be deemed an announcement by the terms of this clause. If the competition is cancelled, registration fees will be refunded.

- The decision of the panel of judges is final and irrevocable.
- Jurisdiction and arbitration: The terms of these by-laws shall be subject and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Israel; should any clause be deemed void or unenforceable, the validity of all remaining clauses shall not be affected. The judicial courts of the city of Tel Aviv are hereby given exclusive jurisdiction over the execution and/or validity and/or violation of these by-laws.
- By entering the competition, participants assert that they are aware that PHOTO IS:RAEL is solely responsible for the execution of this competition and will not hold the Zvi and Ofra Meitar Family Fund, or any of its representatives, liable for the competition, its management and its results.
- Participation includes a non-refundable registration and handling fee.
- Participation will be based solely on the records and data held by PHOTO IS:RAEL. PHOTO IS:RAEL shall not be held responsible for data which was not entered or received in its digital databases, for any reason.
- A short listing of the applications will be done by PHOTO IS:RAEL's curatorial team

For questions and additional information please contact [info@photoisrael.org](mailto:info@photoisrael.org)