

ZRNO

international festival of
alternative photography

instant

open call

DISCOVER WHY WE ARE DIFFERENT!

UNFOCUS TO SEE

INSTANTLY!

ZRNO – International Festival of Alternative Photography 2026 Exhibition Concept & International Call for Artists

– 200 Years: Almost Now –

Instant Photography – Contemporary Approaches – a travelling exhibition!

OPEN CALL: INSTANT PHOTOGRAPHY-UNFOCUS TO SEE-INSTANTLY!

See why we are different and be exhibited across Europe!

Instant photography is immediate, unpredictable, tactile, and never quite the same twice.

We are looking for photographs made using any kind of instant photography process. There are no restrictions on format, camera, film, technique, or approach. Polaroid, Instax, integral film, peel-apart film, expired film, manipulated instant photographs, transfers, lifts, emulsion experiments, altered prints, hybrids, or anything else that belongs to the broad and constantly evolving world of instant photography — all are welcome.

We are interested in what happens when photography is not simply captured, but physically produced in the moment: the accidents, imperfections, interventions, materiality, colour, chemistry, traces of time, and unexpected results that make instant photography so particular.

Show us what instant photography means to you.

Selected works will become part of a group exhibition that will travel to different locations across Europe, bringing together different approaches, generations and understandings of instant photography.

If you work with instant photography — whatever your process — we want to see it.

Curatorial Introduction

Instant photography occupies a distinct position within contemporary photographic practice, situated between immediacy and materiality, control and chance. Within the curatorial framework of the **International Festival of Alternative Photography – ZRNO**, instant photography is approached not only as a technique but as a **field of artistic experimentation and critical inquiry**.

The year 2026 marks the **200th anniversary of the invention of photography**. In 1826, French inventor **Joseph Nicéphore Niépce** succeeded in permanently capturing the view from his study on a coated tin plate, laying the foundation for photography as a reproducible image-making medium. The exhibition **200 Years: Almost Now** takes this historical moment as a point of departure to reflect on the present condition of photography.

Rather than revisiting photography as a documentary tool, the project focuses on **what defines photography as an artistic practice today**, particularly through the lens of instant photography. The instant image—characterised by immediacy, material presence, and contingency—becomes a site in which questions of time, authorship, process, and transformation are renegotiated.

This exhibition brings together contemporary artistic positions that engage with instant photography as a **material, conceptual, and process-based medium**, with particular emphasis on works that expand, manipulate, or recontextualise the instant photograph through physical intervention, hybridity, and experimental approaches.

ZRNO is committed to fostering transnational exchange and alternative photographic discourses. The exhibitions in Skopje and Vienna and its subsequent tour Venues situate **200 Years: Almost Now** within an ongoing international debate on materiality, temporality, and image culture.

About the Organiser

The International Festival of Alternative Photography – ZRNO is an independent international festival dedicated to alternative, analog, and process-based photographic practices. Zrno is a founding member of the Analog Photography Festival Network (APFN).

More information: www.grain.mk in partnership with:

The Austrian based **Verein 4k** has been organizing international Art Events & Exhibitions focused on Photography since 2014 and is a Proven Partner of the ZRNO Team, with its Curator Florian Kopr aka Galerie Guerilla.

More information: www.v4k.at

UNLIKE the usual calls, this curated selection will travel!

Exhibition Venues:

Exhibition travels to:

- [Analogmania festival](#), Timisoara, Romania, October 2026
- [Rotlicht Festival](#), Austria Nov/Dec 2026,
- [ZRNO Festival](#), Macedonia spring 2027
- Novi Sad, Serbia, spring summer 2027
- Additional international venues may be announced

Eligibility & Commitment to Diversity

- Open to artists worldwide
- Open to all backgrounds and career stages
- **No application fee**
- **Accepted artists pay fee, see below**

Zrno is committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion and seeks to actively counter structural underrepresentation within exhibition contexts.

Women artists, queer artists, artists from ethnic minorities, and artists from non-European cultural backgrounds are explicitly and particularly encouraged to apply.

All submissions are evaluated based on artistic quality and conceptual relevance, while the selection process reflects a commitment to equal opportunity, structural inclusion, and cultural diversity.

Submission Requirements

Artists are invited to submit:

- Multiple works based on or conceptually engaging with instant photography (bodies of work)
- Submissions must be provided in electronic/digital format

Each submission must include:

- Artwork images (see formats below)
- Title, year, technique
- Single images or bodies of works stated (checked in the field)
- Short description of each work/artistic statement for bodies of works
- Short artist biography (max. 150 words)
- Contact information (name, country, email)

File Formats & Technical Specifications

- Image files: JPG or PNG
- Colour space: sRGB
- Resolution: min. 2000 px on the longest side
- File size: max. 5 MB per image
- File naming: ArtistName_Title_Year.jpg
- Written texts: PDF or DOCX

All materials must be submitted digitally via the designated submission platform.

Deadline

- Submission deadline: *September 16th, 23.59 CET*
- Notification of selected artists: *September 28th*
- Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Jury & Selection Process

The jury:



[Anne-Mette S. Sommer - Kelter](#)



[Florian Kopr](#)

[Martina Pavloska](#)



The jury will select artists based on:

- Artistic quality
- Conceptual relevance
- Relation to the exhibition theme
- Overall coherence of the submitted works

Participation Fee

- Submission is free of charge
- Selected artists are required to contribute a participation fee of 200/250 EUR
- **Early bird** applicants, till August 21st pay 200, and applicants who apply after August 19th, if selected, pay 250 eur.

The participation fee includes:

- Press and media relations (online and print)
- Design and production of promotional materials (posters, flyers)
- Exhibition setup and dismantling at all venues
- Transportation of artworks between venues
- Gallery space rental in Skopje and Vienna for the full exhibition period
- Opening event costs
- Production of a printed exhibition catalogue, including a curatorial text
- Returning the works (authors cover the transport costs when sending their works)

Contact & Further Information

For questions regarding the call, please contact: ZRNO– International Festival of Alternative Photography

Email: [photofestgrain @ gmail.com](mailto:photofestgrain@gmail.com) **J. Web:** www.grain.mk

Additional Notes

- Only selected 22 artists will be contacted
- Detailed production, installation, and touring information will be provided after selection
- By submitting, artists confirm that they hold the necessary rights to present the submitted works and allow the organizer to use some of them for different promotional purposes and catalogue.
- By submitting, artists confirm that they agree with the rules and regulations of this call.