Research Grant, Yves Klein Fondation, Lugano

Nov 2–Dec 16, 2026
Application deadline: Dec 16, 2026

Fondation Yves Klein

The Yves Klein Foundation works to promote and foster the public understanding of Yves Klein's work through exhibitions, research projects, publications, the preservation of his body of work and the development of the catalogue raisonné.

Based in Lugano (Switzerland), the Foundation carries forward the fundamental mission initiated by its founding members, Rotraut Klein-Moquay, Yves Klein's widow, and Daniel Moquay: to preserve, study, share with a large audience and highlight the artist's major contribution to the history of art in the second half of the 20th century.

A key figure of the avant-garde, Yves Klein played a decisive role in redefining art, calling for the "overcoming" of its "problematic." He radically and poetically transformed what art can be, the way it manifests, and the spaces and media through which it takes form, even forging his own system of values. His art, writings and ideas laid the groundwork upon which contemporary art has developed.

Faithful to the artist's spirit of innovation and driven by the desire to carry forward, more than sixty years after his passing, the boldness and strength of his vision, the Yves Klein Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of a new research grant program. Its purpose is to support the renewal of scholarship dedicated to the artist and to encourage deeper exploration of his work, ideas and enduring creative legacy.

The first research grant was launched in spring 2026 and from 2027 onward, the Foundation will award two grants per year. The program includes a residency and a stipend of CHF 6,000. It is intended for emerging researchers of any nationality and aims to foster new narratives, situate the artist's work within a broader cultural context, shed light on its resonance with contemporary societal and ecological challenges and consider its reception across diverse geographies.

Through this initiative, the Foundation seeks to support a new generation of researchers by promoting mobility, facilitating access to resources and offering dedicated scholarly guidance. It aims to keep Yves Klein's legacy alive and to situate it within the most contemporary debates, reaffirming his place as an artist whose work continues to resonate powerfully with our present.

ELIGIBILITY

The Yves Klein Research Grant program is open, through a call for applications, to researchers of any nationality and country of residence conducting research in art history, aesthetics or the

humanities.

Applicants must hold a PhD or postdoctoral degree, demonstrate strong academic proficiency in French or English—both written and spoken—and be under 35 years of age at the time of application.

Applications are evaluated based on the relevance and originality of the project, the scientific and methodological quality of the research, the need to access documentary resources related to Yves Klein, and the feasibility of the project within the framework of the grant.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Selected on the basis of their application by a jury composed of four art-world professionals and the Director of the Yves Klein Foundation, the grantee receives an award of CHF 6,000 to support their research and writing. Travel and accommodation expenses are covered by the Foundation.

The award is disbursed in two instalments by bank transfer from the Yves Klein Foundation to the grantee: CHF 3,000 net during the research residency and CHF 3,000 net upon completion of the final text, once it has been submitted to the Foundation.

The research residency lasts one week. The grantee receives tailored support for their research, facilitated access to documentary resources and a dedicated workspace.
The Foundation will coordinate and facilitate access to the artist's archives in Paris.
The residency will conclude with a review and presentation to the Foundation's President and Director.

The final text, submitted by the grantee within six months of the residency, may be published in both French and English on the website yvesklein.com. The Yves Klein Foundation may also consider, together with the grantee, additional forms of public dissemination to accompany the text (podcast, lecture, publication, etc.).

By accepting the award, the grantee agrees to:
• begin the research residency either in Spring 2027, no later than the first half of June, or in Autumn 2027, no later than the first half of December.
• be present on site for five working days;
• write and submit a text of 30,000 characters (including spaces), in French or English, within six months after the conclusion of the residency.
The residency will be governed by a contract signed by the Yves Klein Foundation and the grantee.

YVES KLEIN RESEARCH GRANT # 02 — CALENDAR

November 2 – December 16, 2026: Call for applications
End of January 2027: Selection of the grantee by the jury.
Each applicant will receive an email informing them of the jury's decision on 8 February 2027.
The grantee shall provide, within one week of being notified of the award, a high-resolution portrait photograph (minimum 1.5 MB) with cleared usage rights.
February 22, 2027: Public announcement of the grantee on yvesklein.com
Spring 2027 *: Research residency (exact dates to be defined with the grantee – no later than the

first half of June 2027)
October 2027: Submission of the final text by the grantee

YVES KLEIN RESEARCH GRANT # 03 — CALENDAR

November 2 – December 16, 2026: Call for applications
End of January 2027: Selection of the grantee by the jury.
Each applicant will receive an email informing them of the jury's decision on 8 February 2027.
The grantee shall provide, within one week of being notified of the award, a high-resolution portrait photograph (minimum 1.5 MB) with cleared usage rights.
February 22, 2027: Public announcement of the grantee on yvesklein.com
Autumn 2027 [s. note]: Research residency (exact dates to be defined with the grantee –
no later than the first half of December 2027)
April 2028: Submission of the final text by the grantee

[note: Applicants may indicate in their application which residency period they would prefer — Spring or Autumn 2027 — depending on their professional commitments.]

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The application file must include:
• A statement of intent (max. 4,000 characters, including spaces) presenting a well-argued project that can be carried out within the framework of the residency, demonstrating the need to access documentary resources related to Yves Klein and to receive scholarly support. The statement of intent must include, as an appendix, the bibliographic references relating to Yves Klein that are mobilized by the project, in order to specify the theoretical framework adopted and to ensure that the proposal is situated within a relevant set of references.
• A detailed curriculum vitae (max. 4 pages) indicating current position, academic background, ongoing research and recent publications.
• A writing sample authored by the applicant and published in a book, journal or online.
• One letter of recommendation signed by a research professional.

Additional Guidelines:
• Once the application has been submitted it can no longer be modified. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that all required documents are included; no notification will be sent in the event of missing materials, and only complete applications will be reviewed.
• All documents must be written in French or English; any materials in other languages must include a translation.
• Submitting an application implies full acceptance of the commitments and conditions set out in this call for applications.
• All application materials must be compiled into a single PDF file (max 10 MB), organized in the order indicated above and titled as follows:
LASTNAME_Firstname_research.pdf

Applications must be submitted exclusively by email before
December 16, 2026 – 11:59 p.m. (Central European Time),
to the following address: research@yvesklein.com

Reference:
STIP: Research Grant, Yves Klein Fondation, Lugano. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 2, 2026 (accessed Nov 2, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/54810>.