

Open call:

Noorderlicht International Photo Festival 2023 REGENERATE

The Noorderlicht International Photo Festival 2023 takes place from 26 August to 26 November 2023 at various locations, primarily in the Dutch provinces of Groningen and Friesland. The theme REGENERATE will explore the increasing pressure of immense global challenges and the effect of these on our living together. The festival gives voice to artists who express this feeling of urgency and share stories of hope and a fresh start.

With the photographic glance as a starting point, the festival focuses on the entire spectrum of the image, both analogue and digital: from computer-generated imagery to virtual, mixed and augmented reality, installations and projections. This range fits the pluriform nature of contemporary visual culture.

We are well into the 21st century and it is increasingly clear that this is a period of dramatic change, wherein we are seeing the emergence of different systems and structures around us. The concept of work is changing, identity boundaries are moving, biodiversity is declining in the midst of a climate crisis, and political landscapes are being redrawn.

We communicate online with everyone and share opinions about everything, meanwhile we lose touch with the natural world of which we are an inseparable part. Despite the wealth and technology available in the world today, millions of people remain in poverty. Impactful events like the pandemic and climate change appear to amplify existing racial, gender and wealth inequalities.

With REGENERATE as the theme, the 2023 edition of the festival brings together works exploring the transformations our modern societies face. To be regenerated is to be restored and to reforge the relationships with ourselves and others, our direct surroundings, and the world we are living in. It is about working toward the overall betterment of ourselves and our society.

In today's world many people feel a sense of disconnection. Regeneration means seeing oneself and the world we are living in as built around reciprocal relationships that are beneficial to all. A rebalanced worldview means that humans (including their technological accomplishments) and other living beings rely on one another in the world's ecosystems, for their health, wellbeing and existence.

By exhibiting projects that address new ways of thinking and facilitating open discussions about them, the 2023 festival edition aims to freely ask us questions about where we want to go and how to get there. About the times that we are living in and a time that has yet to arrive. Changing relationships with the natural world, with society at large and with ourselves will all be addressed in the REGENERATE festival.

Submissions

Noorderlicht invites artists and collectives working in photography and other media from visual culture to submit to the 2023 festival. Noorderlicht is committed to diversity and inclusion and welcomes submissions from around the world, from artists at all stages of their careers. We also welcome submissions of work in progress, as long as it is expected to be sufficiently developed to present to an audience, before the festival opening.

Curation

The festival curators are Eefje Ludwig and Michelle Kasprzak. They are supported by Noorderlicht head curator Wim Melis. We aspire to present the selected works in a variety of contexts: gallery, public space, online, etc. We also value works which handle their subject matter in such a way that opens up conversation and allows for engagement with a wide audience.

Deadline

Submissions are welcome from now to September 19th, 2022.

Guidelines for submissions

Submissions for the REGENERATE open call are free of charge. Selected artists will receive a fee in accordance with the Dutch guidelines for artists' fees for group exhibitions.

Submissions can be sent to:

pandora@noorderlicht.com

They should contain:

- Separate JPG image files, at least 1500 pixels long edge, with captions in the file info if applicable,
- and/or videos in full length, compressed to a manageable file size.
- Title and year of the series.
- A clear description of the project of approximately 100-150 words.
- A short artist/collective bio.

Longer texts can be added separately. We welcome examples of previous exhibitions and installations of your proposal or similar presentations of your work. We request that you send large files via a file transfer service, such as WeTransfer.

Entrants will first receive a confirmation of receipt followed by news of the selections at a later stage.

Presentation requirements

If an artist has specific demands with respect to size, edit or production of the work for instance, this is relevant to the selection process and such requirements must thus be stated beforehand.

Selection

For invited projects, the curators will make a selection from the work, insofar as this applies.

Production

Noorderlicht operates with its own certified printlab. The works to be exhibited will be produced by Noorderlicht in dialogue with the artist, from high resolution files supplied by the artist. If this is not possible, artist will indicate this beforehand. Noorderlicht can't pay transport costs for framed or otherwise mounted works from outside the Netherlands.

Afterwards

Works that were produced by Noorderlicht will be kept in storage for a limited time, after the festival has ended, for the option of presenting parts of the festival again elsewhere. After this period, the works will be destroyed,

Contracts

Each participant in the festival will receive a contract that formalises all mutual duties and obligations.

Research

The festival will consist of projects from the open call, joined by the personal research of the curators.

Questions?

Remaining questions can be put to the curators at regenerate@noorderlicht.com.

The Noorderlicht Festival

Noorderlicht is an international platform for contemporary perception and an inclusive platform for artist around the world. We stimulate insight and concern with artistic social stories and facilitate production of these. The photographic glance is our starting point, visual culture our working field.

REGENERATE is the 29th edition of the international Noorderlicht festival, from now on a biennale that takes places in the northern provinces simultaneously.

Noorderlicht subscribes to the Fair Practice Code for work in art, culture and creative industries.