



At Arles, photography takes a step aside

The Rencontres d'Arles returns this year with a program dedicated to environmental issues. The festival invites us to rethink our relationship with the living world, even as we try to grapple with the realities of climate change.

With 243 days of drought forecast for 2050, Arles will rank among the driest towns in France over the coming decades. This situation testifies to the state of the climate and the upheavals to come. In an era of pandemics, climate disruption, and economic collapses, this 54th edition of the festival aims to be “supportive, committed and responsible,” in the words of festival director Christophe Wiesner. With a dozen exhibitions and installations dedicated to the territory, the *Geographies of the Gaze* section places ecology centerstage.

Next, we head for the Camargue, a wetland in southeastern France, famous for its white horses, and an experimental photographer's paradise. In *Insolare*, artist duo Eva Nielsen and Marianne Derrien combine photography, serigraphy, and painting. Winners of BMW Art Makers award, they capture the intensity of natural phenomena such as drought and rising sea levels, anticipating the consequences of global warming through an irradiated nature that is slowly being scorched.

Press Review
Blind, Iris Mandret, July 2023



Eva Nielsen. *Insolare I*, acrylic on paper and digital photography on tracing paper, 2023. Courtesy of the artist / BMW ART MAKERS