



ACADÉMIE  
DES BEAUX-ARTS  
INSTITUT DE FRANCE

Press release  
September 29, 2023

## Graciela Iturbide

Winner of the 3rd edition of the Prix de Photographie  
de l'Académie des beaux-arts - William Klein

Graciela Iturbide. Portrait by Luis Poirot, Chile, 2015



The Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award – William Klein was created in 2019 by the Académie des beaux-arts with the support of the *Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum* and pays tribute to the work of William Klein.

A lifetime achievement award, the prize honors a single photographer of any nationality for their body of work and long-term contribution to the field of photography. The laureate is awarded the sum of 120,000 euros. The award is held every two years, alternating with the Prix de Photographie Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière - Académie des beaux-arts, which rewards established photographers working or residing in France. The prize was awarded to Raghu Rai (India) in 2019 and to Annie Leibovitz (USA) in 2021.

**In 2023, the prize will be awarded to Graciela Iturbide (Mexico).**

**The Prize will be given in the Grande salle des séances of the Palais de l'Institut de France on October 18, 2023,** by the Permanent Secretary Laurent Petitgirard, and the founder of the *Chengdu Contemporary image museum*, Zhong Weixing.

An exhibition of the photographer's work will also be held at the *Chengdu Contemporary image museum* (China).

## Graciela Iturbide

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Graciela Iturbide, born May 16, 1942 in Mexico City, is a major icon of Latin American photography. For over five decades, she has created images that navigate between a documentary approach and a poetic sensibility.

Today, Graciela Iturbide is especially renowned for her portraits of the Seris Indians of the Sonora desert, the women of the Juchitán region, and for her photographic projects devoted to Mexico's ancestral communities and traditions. She has always paid an almost spiritual attention to landscapes and objects. For her, photography is a "ritual" in which she strives to capture the most mythical part of the human being.

In the early 1970s, Iturbide worked as an assistant to Manuel Álvarez Bravo and toured Latin America. In 1978, she was commissioned by the Ethnographic Archive of Mexico's National Institute of Indigenous Peoples to photograph the country's indigenous peoples. A year later, the artist Francisco Toledo asked her to photograph the community of Juchitán. This series, begun in 1979 and completed in 1988, was published in her book *Juchitán de las Mujeres* and reinforced her commitment to women's causes.

Over the next two decades, Graciela Iturbide was invited to work in various locations, including Cuba, East Germany, India, Madagascar, Hungary, Paris and the United States. She has organized numerous solo exhibitions, including at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, MoMA in San Francisco, the Philadelphia Museum, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the MAPFRE Foundation in Madrid, the Museum of Photography in Winterthur, the Barbican Gallery and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris.

Graciela Iturbide has received numerous awards, including the W. Eugene Smith Memorial Foundation Prize in 1987, the Grand Prix du Mois de la Photo in Paris in 1988, a Guggenheim Fellowship for her "Fiesta y Muerte" project in 1988, the Hugo Erfurth Prize in 1989, the International Grand Prix in Japan in 1990, the Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie Prize in 1991, the Hasselblad Prize in 2008, the National Prize for Science and Art in Mexico City in 2008, as well as doctorates from Columbia University in Chicago in 2008 and the San Francisco Art Institute in 2009.

## The jury

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**Mr. Laurent Petitgirard**, secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie des beaux-arts, co-chairman

**Mr. Zhong Weixing**, founder of the Chengdu Contemporary image museum, co-chairman

**Mr. Yann Arthus-Bertrand**, member of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts

**Mr. Jean Gaumy**, member of the photography section of the Académie des Beaux-Arts

**Ms. Françoise Huguier**, member of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts

**Ms. Dominique Issermann**, member of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts

**Mr. Sebastião Salgado**, member of the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts

**Mr. Jean-Luc Monterosso**, director of the Chengdu Contemporary image museum

**Mr. Bernard Perrine**, correspondent for the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts

**Ms. Sylvie Hugues**, correspondent for the photography section of the Académie des beaux-arts

## Visuals for the press

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*El señor de los pájaros, Nayarit, México, 1984*



*Los ojos de la tierra, 2023*



*Virgen de Guadalupe, Chalma, 2007*



*Nuestra Señora de las Iguanas, Juchitán, México, 1979*



*Tecali. Puebla, 2011*



*Mujer Ángel, Desierto de Sonora, 1979*

## The Académie des beaux-arts

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The Académie des beaux-arts, as it has been known since 1803, is one of five academies that make up the Institut de France, which cover the French language, sciences, humanities, philosophy and political science. It is the successor to the separate academies for art, music and architecture: the Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture (1648), the Académie de Musique (1669) and the Académie Royale d'Architecture (1671). The role of the Académie des Beaux-Arts is to defend and highlight France's artistic heritage and promote its growth in all its forms of expression. In order to fulfill its mission, the Académie des Beaux-Arts provides funding in France and abroad in various formats: awarding prizes to emerging or established artists, organizing competitions, financing artists' residences, and supporting projects, events and associations of an artistic nature. It also manages assets consisting of donations and legacies and administrates a large museum heritage, including the Marmottan Monet Museum (Paris) and Marmottan Library (Boulogne-Billancourt), the Claude Monet Foundation (Giverny), the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild (Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat) the Fondation Jean et Simone Lurçat (Paris) and the Villa des Pinsons (Chars). It maintains an active policy of partnerships with a broad network of cultural institutions and patrons. Today the Académie des beaux-arts comprises 67 members in 9 artistic sections.



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