

## **SIRMIONE PHOTO RESIDENCY: CALL FOR THE FIFTH EDITION PUBLISHED**

**The project that, from Lake Garda, has captured the attention of photographers from all over the world invites a new author to portray Sirmione through an original and contemporary perspective**

*Sirmione, 7 January 2026*

The **Sirmione Photo Residency** reaches its **fifth edition**, confirming itself as one of the most significant cultural projects dedicated to author photography and the narrative of place. Born from the desire of the Municipal Administration to see its city interpreted and told through **new eyes and contemporary languages**, the project has now reached full maturity, strengthening its identity and its international scope.

Over the course of its editions, the residency has contributed to the creation of a **photographic heritage of great historical and cultural value**—an archive capable of returning, over time, an authentic and layered portrait of the city and its social fabric. A project that, while naturally situated in a location with a strong tourist vocation such as Sirmione, asserts **an absolute and universal value** as an instrument of collective memory for any territory.

With the publication of the 2026 call, the Sirmione Photo Residency officially opens the **XVII edition of the Sirmione Photography Award** and launches the applications for the selection of the **next resident photographer**.

The selected photographer will be offered a two-week residency in Sirmione, a stipend of **€2,500**, and **reimbursement of travel expenses**.

During the residency, the photographer will be able to independently develop a photographic project capable of capturing and narrating the complexity of the place: **culture, history, nature, and landscape.**

At the heart of the project lies the author's personal interpretation: An **individual visual language** for a space that becomes a **field** of research, stimulus, and inspiration. An original vision that is also able to offer a clear perception and understanding of the place.

In describing the deeper meaning of the project, the **Mayor of Sirmione, Luisa Lavelli**, highlights the human and cultural value of the encounter between the resident photographer and the city: *"Sirmione is ready to welcome the new resident photographer who will be selected through this new call, and to share with them a path of research and discovery. The Sirmione Photo Residency is a catalyst of visions: it stimulates the creation of works that become the collective memory of our community and encourages artists to experiment, pushing beyond their own boundaries, helping to shape a future photographic culture that we already feel as part of our identity."*

Characterized by the **great creative freedom** granted to the selected photographers, the **Sirmione Photo Residency** relies on a technical jury of the highest level, led by two key figures from **Magnum Photos: Andréa Holzherr**, Global Cultural Director, and **Ludovica Pellegatta**, Partnerships Director of the agency, alongside the **Mayor of Sirmione**.

The **jury** will evaluate applications taking into account the **quality, completeness, and coherence** of the submitted projects.

A partnership—between **Magnum Photos** and the **Municipality of Sirmione**—that grows and strengthens year after year, giving rise to an ongoing dialogue made up of exhibitions, workshops, and projects, contributing to the consolidation of the Prize's international positioning.

Thus **Riccardo Genovesi**, Councillor for Tourism: *“The Sirmione Photo Residency has achieved, over the years, solid recognition not only at the national level but also internationally. Today it is a cultural platform capable of attracting talent from all over the world and producing images that become true ambassadors of the beauty and uniqueness of our territory. Along this path, anticipation is growing for the new resident photographer, called upon to engage with Sirmione and interpret its identity through an innovative gaze.”*

## PREVIOUS EDITIONS

The first resident photographer was **Davide Greco**, a Turin-based author, who presented the volume **CUSTODI** to the public in October 2023. During the two weeks of residency, Greco wove an intense dialogue with the community through images and words, giving rise to **BOOK 01** of the Sirmione Photo Residency—an homage to the beauty and fragility of the territory and to those who take care of it.

The baton then passed to **Simona Ghizzoni**, photographer and visual activist for women's rights. **BOOK 02**, born from her experience in Sirmione, expanded the perspective toward the intimate, naturalistic, and symbolic dimension of the landscape.

During the 2024 residency, photographer **Mattia Marzorati** developed the project **VENATURE**, a visual investigation into the vegetal world inhabiting the margins of the urban fabric—subtle stratifications and tensions that run through the territory and its community. The work was presented in October 2025, becoming **BOOK 03** of the Sirmione photographic residency.

In autumn 2025, the residency welcomed Japanese photographer **Hiro Tanaka**, who developed a project focused on the social, environmental, and urban fabric of Sirmione within the broader context of the entire Lake Garda area, with visual incursions along many of its shores. A work currently in progress, of which a selection of preview images is attached.

**THE CALL**

In detail, to participate in the **Sirmione Photo Residency** it is necessary to submit a single PDF document containing:

- **a previously completed photographic project consisting of no fewer than 20 images**, for which the date of production is not relevant (no connection between the project and Sirmione and/or Lake Garda is required). The PDF document must include no more than one image per page;
- an explanatory text of the project (maximum one page, in English);
- the photographer's curriculum vitae (in English);
- **a summary of the project proposed for the Residency in Sirmione** (in English).

**Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on 31 March 2026. The author of the selected project will be awarded:**

- a two-week stay in Sirmione during the month of October 2026;
- reimbursement of travel expenses (up to a maximum of € 1,000);
- a total stipend of € 2,500 for the two weeks;
- 50 copies of the volume that will be printed by the Municipality of Sirmione using the photographs from the photographic project created during the Sirmione Photo Residency. The volume will be printed only if the Municipality of Sirmione and the project supervisors deem the material produced during the residency worthy of publication. Otherwise, no volume will be printed.
- guidance and supervision in the development of the project and in the editing of the book by **Andréa Holzherr**, Global Cultural Director, Magnum Photos, and **Ludovica Pellegatta**, Partnerships Director of Magnum Photos.

**INFORMATION**

[sirmionefotografia.it](http://sirmionefotografia.it) | [visitsirmione.com](http://visitsirmione.com)

[sirmioneaward@sirmionebs.it](mailto:sirmioneaward@sirmionebs.it) | [cultura@sirmionebs.it](mailto:cultura@sirmionebs.it) | +39 030 9909 184