

Press Release
Hamburg, July 2, 2025

9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026 Alliance, Infinity, Love – in the Face of the Other

June 5 – September 22, 2026
Opening Days: June 4 – 14, 2026
2026.phototriennale.de

From June 5 until September 22, 2026 the 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026 presents, under the title *Alliance, Infinity, Love – in the Face of the Other*, eleven exhibitions in eight renowned museums and exhibition houses in the city of Hamburg. Curated by the Artistic Director Mark Sealy, the festival focuses on a photographic praxis which welcomes diverse and different ways of being, with the aim of generating a sense of community that works against photography's historical violent regimes.

Mark Sealy explains: "The 9th Triennial of Photography offers a place for thinking critically about the work that photographs may do in culture, as moments of intimate embrace rather than moments of intimate terror. Here we consider that photography's liberatory future may lie radically and consciously in working towards acts of cultural reparation and repair in direct contrast and against the regimes of photography's violent observational history, we offer radically a break with photography's old ontological order."

Participating Institutions

The participants in the 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026 are the Deichtorhallen Hamburg with the Hall for Contemporary Art,

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the PHOXXI – Temporary House of Photography, the F.C Gundlach Collection and the Falckenberg Collection; the Bucerius Kunst Forum; the Hamburger Kunsthalle; the Kunsthaus Hamburg; the Kunstverein in Hamburg; the MARKK – Museum am Rothenbaum. World Cultures and Arts; the Museum of Work as well as the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg.

About the Theme

Alliance, Infinity, Love – in the Face of the Other draws on the poetic and political power of the song *Nature Boy* – written by proto-hippie eden ahbez and made internationally famous by the singer Nat King Cole in a unique creative partnership. The song stands for a radical and simultaneously gentle message of love and humanity. It was released in 1948, a year that stands for political upheavals and the clash of the old and new world orders.

At the same time, the theme refers to the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, who understood the infinity of human existence and responsibility towards the Other as the foundations of humanity and solidarity.

Against this background, the 9th Triennial foregrounds photographic voices which emphasise inclusion and dialogic encounter. Here the term love, with reference to bell hook's ground-breaking book *All About Love* from 1999, is not understood romantically, but as a conscious, politically effective act: as a counterweight to alienation and as a motor and source of change.

Mark Sealy emphasises: "The bringing together of different, divergent or the in-between voices of photography for the 9th Triennial aims to function as an ensemble-like manoeuvre that provides space for

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opening ‘the familiar and seeking out the unfamiliar’ in the body politic of cultural production concerning rights and representation.”

Symposium 2025

The 9th Triennial is launched with an international symposium on November 7 and 8, 2025 in the Deichtorhallen Hamburg and in the Halle 424 in the Oberhafenquartier. Under the key concepts of *Alliance, Infinity, Love*, it opens up spaces for discourse and imagining on the role of photography with respect to human rights, cultural dialogues, difference and forms of recognition. The symposium is organised in cooperation with the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR).

About Mark Sealy

Mark Sealy, an internationally renowned curator and author, lives in London. Since 1991 he has directed the *Autograph ABP* (*Association of Black Photographers*) and curated numerous exhibitions, residencies and publications. He was awarded a doctorate from Durham University for his thesis on photography and cultural violence and is professor for *Rights and Representation* at the University of the Arts London. His most influential publications include *Decolonising the Camera: Photography in Racial Times* (2019), *Photography: Race, Rights and Representation* (2022) as well as his new book *A Lens on Liberation: Photography as Resistance* (2025).

Triennial Expanded – Open Call

With the programme Triennial Expanded, the 9th Triennial once again promotes the visibility of Hamburg’s independent photo scene. The goal is to bring together regional and international positions and

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generate new artistic connections. Artists, photographers, collectives, galleries and project spaces from Hamburg are invited to respond to the Triennial's thematic focus. Selected contributions will be funded and included in the official festival programme.

Further information on the Open Call and the 9th Triennial is immediately available on the new website under:
2026.phototriennale.de

The main sponsor of the 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026 is the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Ministry of Culture and Media.



Hamburg | Ministry of
Culture and Media

The Triennial of Photography Hamburg is pleased to announce Sony as official main sponsor in the field of camera technology for the upcoming 2026 edition.

SONY

The Triennial of Photography Hamburg has been held every three years since 1999 in cooperation with the city's major museums, exhibition houses and cultural institutions and is an important German-wide photo event with an international reach. With a large number of photo exhibitions under a common theme, it illuminates contemporary photographic trends. The Triennial is accompanied by international symposiums. Since 2014 the Triennial of Photography has been organised by the Deichtorhallen Hamburg GmbH.

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