

# PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, Jan 5, 2026

## **REPOSITIONING OF THE C/O BERLIN TALENT AWARD**

Thematic Focus 2026: *Body Politics*

Since 2006, C/O Berlin has supported emerging artistic and academic talent through the C/O Berlin Talent Award. Since its inception, the program has presented more than 90 outstanding talents to a broad public. The year 2026 marks the award's 20th anniversary—an occasion to rethink the funding conceptually.

In recent years, C/O Berlin has presented numerous groundbreaking projects that engaged in different ways with the overarching theme of *New Documentary Strategies*. Award recipients include, among others, Stephanie Moshhammer, Anna Ehrenstein, and Karolina Wojtas, as well as Sheung Yiu, who will open his solo exhibition at C/O Berlin on Feb 6, 2026.

Against the backdrop of current global and societal challenges and the ongoing transformation of photographic practices, C/O Berlin will realign the Talent Award starting in 2026. The award will be shaped by annual thematic focuses that address contemporary issues and highlight diverse perspectives within contemporary photography. In doing so, the award aligns with C/O Berlin's mission of actively promote photography and its surrounding discourses, critically engage with them, and provide a sustainable platform. As part of this repositioning, the application process will transition to an open call format.

The C/O Berlin Talent Award 2026 is dedicated to the theme **Body Politics**. The term describes the complex interplay of power, institutions, and discourses that shape, control, or render bodies (in)visible. In a time marked by multiple overlapping crises, the body once again emerges as a central site of resistance, identity, and memory. What role do photography and lens-based media play in making these tensions visible and reflecting upon them? This year's theme invites participants to explore the body as a political field, as an archive of experience, or a medium at the intersection of the individual and society.

Winning the C/O Berlin Talent Award in the *Artist* category includes a solo exhibition at C/O Berlin and an accompanying publication published by Spector Books. The publication features an interview as well as a scholarly essay by the concurrently awarded *Theorist*. Both award recipients receive prize money of EUR 5,000 each. The award provides international visibility, exchange, and networking opportunities and represents a decisive step in the careers of many recipients. The C/O Berlin Talent Award is curated by Veronika Epple.

The Open Call for the *Artist* category is now open. The submission deadline is Jan 25, 2026. The announcement of the winner will take place in spring 2026, followed by the exhibition opening and the publication release in spring 2027. The Open Call for the *Theorist* category will be published in spring 2026. Further information and participation requirements can be found on the C/O Berlin website.

Since 2020, the C/O Berlin Talent Award is made possible by the Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung.

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<b>Opening Hours</b>	Daily . 11:00–20:00
<b>Admission</b>	12/6 euro
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