

Descartes Spring" Competition Rules Session

2025

ARTICLE 1. PRESENTATION OF THE LITERARY EVENT

1.1 Frame

The "**Printemps Descartes**" Prize is a creative exercise inspired by the "**Printemps des Poètes**" and extended to the graphic and photographic arts, organized by the Arts Office of the École nationale des ponts et chaussées. Participants are invited to write a short story of up to 10,000 characters, including spaces, a poem (free format) or an illustration (free format) of up to A3 in 2 dimensions. The Prize will run from January 14, 2025 to March 28, 2025. The competition organized by the **Arts Office of the École nationale des ponts et chaussées**, located in P228 Bâtiment Carnot, in collaboration with the Bibliothèques Ouvertes Plus (BO+) libraries on the Descartes campus in Champs-sur-Marne.

1.2 Goal

The aim of this constraint-based creative game is to promote the production of literary, graphic and photographic works of art. It is also to give those with a passion writing, graphic art, photography or literature a chance to reveal themselves to themselves and to their audience.

1.3 Theme

The theme of the Prix 2025 is "**Volcanic**".

All the definitions of the word "*Volcanic*" can be used, as well as their various interpretations. "*To mean boiling volcanoes and molten rock, of course. But, above all, pure creative energy, the eruption of the imagination, its lava flows, which turn the word into a vision. To say that poetry, when it bursts forth to split the horizon and show the world differently, is effervescence, overflow and, above all, the force of life. For say that poetic eruption knows no bounds. Think of all those verses that have, reading after reading, deposited themselves in you, one layer after another, like strata of lava, think of the persistence of the vision they conceal. It will spring up again. Because that's what poetry is. Volcanic.*"¹

1.4 Course

By March 6, 2025 (11:59 p.m.), each contestant may submit a short story of up to 10,000 characters, including spaces AND/OR a poem (free format) AND/OR a photograph AND/OR a 2-dimensional work of graphic art no larger than A3. A maximum of four entries per candidate.

Graphic artworks and photographs must be submitted to the various participating libraries² with a digitized version, and texts sent to the following e-mail address

¹ <https://www.printempsdespoetes.com/Edition2025>

² La Source-bibliothèque de l'École nationale des ponts et chaussées | Institut Polytechnique de Paris, the École's library d'architecture de la ville & des territoires Paris-Est (ENSA Paris-Est), or at the Georges Perec library Gustave Eiffel University.

bureaudesarts@enpc.fr (see 2.3). These works will all be published on the event website, and will also be available via a Google Drive link.

The jury reserves the right to disqualify works that do not comply with theme and length constraints.

There will be :

- The prize for the best poem - chosen by the jury
- The prize for the best poem - French as a Foreign Language (FLE) category - chosen by the jury
- The prize for the best short story - chosen by the jury
- Best short story - French as a Foreign Language (FLE) category - chosen by the jury
- The prize for the best work of graphic art - chosen by the jury
- The prize for best photography - chosen by the jury
- The People's Choice Award for best poem - votes by electronic poll.
- Best Poem Award - French as a Foreign Language (FLE) category - electronic poll votes
- The People's Choice Award for Best Short Story - votes by electronic poll.
- Best Short Story Award - French as a Foreign Language (FLE) category - electronic poll votes
- The People's Choice Award for best graphic artwork - electronic survey votes
- The Best Photography Award - electronic poll votes
- Prix de l'audace / coup de cœur - chosen by the jury

In the event that the Jury chooses the work selected by the Public, the winner of the Public Prize will be selected in the order of the votes cast. At the same time, the Jury reserves the right to award a special mention to any work that catches its eye, and whose quality it feels warrants promotion and presentation to the public. After the prize closes, the organizers may decide whether or not to leave the works online, or to withdraw them. The author may also request that the publication be withdrawn at any time.

ARTICLE 2. TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

2.1 Text format

Candidates may submit a short story of up to 10,000 characters, including spaces, and/or a poem (free format). Texts must be in French.

2.2 Format of graphic artwork and photography

Candidates may create a 2-dimensional work graphic art (painting, drawing, collage, digital production, a mixture of the above, etc.) up to A3 in size. Photographs must also be no larger than A3. If in doubt about the possibilities of the format, contact bureaudesarts@enpc.fr.

2.3 Prize registration

The Prize is open to anyone aged 14 and over. Participants must belong to (student or staff) to one of the participating institutions³. All entrants must send their short story AND/OR poem to bureaudesarts@enpc.fr or hand in their work.

³ École nationale des ponts et chaussées | Institut Polytechnique de Paris (ENPC IP Paris), École Nationale des Sciences Géographiques - Géomatique (ENSG), Ecole d'architecture de la ville & des territoires Paris Est (ENSA Paris-Est), Université Gustave Eiffel

to the various libraries⁴, in odt or docx format. The submission a work of graphic art and a photograph must be accompanied by sending of a digitized version of the work to bureaudesarts@enpc.fr . Candidates can submit their work **until March 6, 2025 (11:59 pm)**.

All entries (text, graphic art or photography) must also include the following information: the entrant's first and last name, telephone number or e-mail address, the institution to which he or she belongs* and whether he or she agrees to his or her name (or pseudonym) being used as a caption for his or her work(s) at the exhibition (cf. 4.2) To do so, simply mark "I accept that my name (or pseudonym) be used as a caption for my work the exhibition" or "I do not accept that my name (or pseudonym) be used as a caption for my work at the exhibition". If any of the above information is missing,

the organizer may, if he wishes, suspend the entry. If participants wish to compete under a pseudonym, they may add to the above the name under which they wish to compete. The organizers must be able to contact participants easily to organize the prize-giving ceremony.

All data collected will be used by the organizers to communicate about the competition and will then be deleted. In accordance with the French Data Protection Act of January 6, 1978 as amended by the law of August 6, 2004, participants have the right to access, rectify and, where applicable, challenge any data concerning them. Any request for access, rectification opposition should be sent to the following address: bureaudesarts@enpc.fr

2.4 The votes

The exchange of votes, in particular via specialized platforms (for digital influence peddling), is forbidden. In the event of invalid votes for a work, the organizing team reserves the right to withdraw them any time, either during the Prize or after the close of the Prize, scheduled for March 6 (23:59).

The organizers alone may decide to withdraw from the competition any text they deem inappropriate.

2.5 Recovery of graphic arts and photographs

Participants will be able to pick up their graphics at the end of the competition in the various libraries⁵ and at the end of the exhibition.

ARTICLE 3. AWARDS

3.1 Composition of the Jury

The Jury will be made up of 10 members from the various participating institutions³. In particular, the jury will at least: 3 ENPC, 2 ENSG, 2 ENSA Paris-Est, 1 Université Gustave Eiffel.

3.2 Lots

Prizes may not be contested or exchanged for cash.

⁴ La Source-bibliothèque de l'École nationale des ponts et chaussées | Institut Polytechnique de Paris, the École's library d'architecture de la ville & des territoires Paris-Est (ENSA Paris-Est), or at the Georges Perec library Gustave Eiffel University.

⁵ École nationale des ponts et chaussées | Institut Polytechnique de Paris (ENPC IP Paris), École Nationale des Sciences Géographiques - Géomatique (ENSG), Ecole d'architecture de la ville & des territoires Paris Est (ENSA Paris-Est), Université Gustave Eiffel

ARTICLE 4. RIGHTS, WARRANTIES AND LIABILITY

4.1 Warranties and liabilities

Participants guarantee on their honor that they hold the . Participants guarantee that the text they submit has not already been published.

The use of ChatGPT and any artificial intelligence for the writing of texts and for the production of graphic artworks and photographs is strictly forbidden. The organizers and the Jury reserve the right to withdraw from the competition any production suspected to have been produced by an artificial intelligence.

4.2 Reproduction and distribution

The winning texts may be reproduced and distributed by the organizers by any means and on any written or audio medium, free of charge or for a fee, without time limit and on the Internet. Participants guarantee the organizers non-exclusive reproduction and distribution rights for this work on all media and by all means. The organizers may display texts, graphic artworks and photographs in participating institutions⁶. For each work submitted, the organizers may add a caption bearing the name of the candidate (or pseudonym) who gave his or her consent at the time of entry, and the title of the work.

All participants in the Prix du Printemps Descartes must first have read and accepted the present rules. Participation in this competition implies full acceptance of the present rules.

This contest is governed by French law.

Drafting of these rules on 9/12/2025, inspired by the rules of the short-edition© platform.

(<https://short-edition.com/fr/prix/jeunes-ecritures-2024/reglement#:~:text=Chaque%20candidat%20peut%20soumettre%20entre,formulaire%20de%20soumission%20du%20Prix>).



⁶ École nationale des ponts et chaussées | Institut Polytechnique de Paris (ENPC IP Paris), École Nationale des Sciences Géographiques - Géomatique (ENSG), École d'architecture de la ville & des territoires Paris Est (ENSA Paris-Est), Université Gustave Eiffel