



YOUNG SCHOLARS' WORKSHOP

ÉCOLE DU LOUVRE  
MUSÉE DU LOUVRE

2024.2025

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**  
MUSEUM AND PHOTOGRAPHY:  
PRACTICES, OBJECTS, NARRATIVES

# MUSEUM AND PHOTOGRAPHY: PRACTICES, OBJECTS, NARRATIVES

For the ninth consecutive year, the École du Louvre and the Musée du Louvre (Museum Studies and Research Support Department) are jointly organizing a workshop for young scholars, one day per month from January to June 2025, at the Centre Dominique-Vivant Denon (Musée du Louvre, entrance Porte des Arts). The 2025 workshop will continue the discussions about "Museum and Photography" that we started in 2024, and we shall also be thinking about the celebrations for the bicentenary of photography that will be held in 2026.

The Louvre Museum, through its history and also its rich photographic documentary resources, bears witness to the major role of photography as a documentary medium and also as an artistic object. Similarly, the École du Louvre, whose degree programmes include working closely with objects, illustrates the place occupied by the photographic medium (in its various manifestations) in the formation and dissemination of knowledge in archaeology and art history. The workshop for young scholars organised by the two institutions in 2025 will further examine the multiple uses of photography in the museum.

From its beginnings in the nineteenth century, photography participated in the transformations that the museum was undergoing. Photography is a technique that took the museum as one of its objects, that became a museum object, that established itself at the heart of many museum practices, that has promoted the awareness and popularization of collections, their exploitation and (mis)appropriation; in a variety of ways, it has shaped both the reality and the imagination of museums. This work has continued during the twentieth century with the development of printing techniques, colour photography, and new media. Nowadays, this is speeding up, on a global scale, in higher resolution, and even in three dimensions. The museum is invented by photography; its history is written by it. As a medium of memory, photography has a museum dimension. We hope to explore the following topics in this year's workshop:

**The museum as an object of photography.** Museums and their collections have been photographed from very early on and extensively. A museum visit is usually prepared and followed, or even replaced, by the viewing of photographs. How does the museum exist as a photographic object, as an extension of itself? This practice needs to be questioned: in which forms, in which parts of the museum, by which actors, with which rights, for which practices and ideas? In return, how does photography shape a visit to the museum, and the reality of museums?

**Photography in the museum.** In the museum, photography is a tool used to study, manage, publicize and appropriate collections. Photography is also a museum object, both as a document or as an artwork, held in archives or museum facilities. Both photographic practices and collections of photographs can be considered, from daguerreotype to photogrammetry and to other imaging techniques, insofar as they question museums.

**In focus: photography, arts and sciences.** Outside museums, photography informs the development, dissemination and appropriation of knowledge in art history, archaeology and other sciences, often laying claim to "objectivity". At the heart of the relationships between museums, research, education, publications and society, it fosters a specific perception of objects: monochrome for a long time, often out of scale, above all visual and two-dimensional. What are the strengths and shortcomings of photography - a technique that captures and fragments reality - in support of diverse narratives? How can we think of the museum and of objects with photography, and without it?

Workshop participants, who can be working in the fields of the history of art, the history of science, archaeology, museology and other social sciences, can present their work in either French or English. Whilst the workshop is primarily aimed at doctoral students (from all institutions), applications related to post-doc projects that are particularly relevant to the issue may be considered. The programme will also include some visits and some contributions from guest speakers. The workshop is intended as a space for discussion. Expenses for travel by train for participants residing outside Île-de-France may be covered in some cases (please specify your needs in the application).

Please send your applications (cover letter, CV, project description on one page) by **November 15, 2024** as a single pdf document to [troisiemecycle@ecoledulouvre.fr](mailto:troisiemecycle@ecoledulouvre.fr) and [recherche@louvrefr](mailto:recherche@louvrefr), mentioning in the subject line: Louvre doctoral workshop.

## Conception and organization:

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