



**PRIX
JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT**

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 26 June 2026

JULIEN HEINTZ WINS THE JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT PRIZE 2026

The 15th Jean-François Prat Prize was awarded to the artist Julien HEINTZ on Thursday 25 June 2026 at the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art 53 quai d'Orsay, Paris

His work was presented to the Jury by Rose VIDAL, artist, author and art critic

The Jury was chaired by Chiara PARISI, director of the Centre Pompidou Metz

Julien HEINTZ, born in 1997 in Paris, is the winner of the Jean-François Prat Prize 2026. The two other artists presented were HIPPOLYTE HENTGEN and Sojourner Truth PARSONS.

Julien HEINTZ's portraits stand out from the current profusion in this genre for their singularity, as they draw attention to nameless soldiers or prisoners whom we do not necessarily register beyond their roles as oppressors or oppressed, but who are, above all, persons, human beings. Working on the basis of historical archive films, the artist deliberately blurs and smooths the faces so that they are almost indistinguishable, prompting us to look at them much more closely, to give them due attention and to question the actions committed by of these individuals.

Chiara PARISI, who chaired the Jury, expressed what interested her in this edition of the Jean-François Prat Prize:

“This year’s prize—marking the event’s 15th anniversary—demonstrates a high level of rigor regarding the very act of painting, as well as the thinking of painting and the stories it tells. There is a profound faith in painting here.”

Public exhibition of the works of the three selected artists runs until 31 August (on Saturdays, through online reservation at:

<http://www.bredinpratfoundation.org/en/visit-the-exhibitions/>)

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JULIEN HEINTZ



Drawing inspiration from documentary archive films on historical events of the 20th century, Julien HEINTZ's paintings capture atmospheres from a different time, representing blurred yet recognisable traits of anonymous human figures, initially perceived in motion, on the verge of abstraction and figuration.

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Two officials oversee Chernobyl's catastrophe, 2025
Oil on canvas
51.2 x 45.3 in. / 130 x 115 cm

“It is as if erasure were the only way to combat the emotional amnesia that history can engender: we are moving towards abstraction, but something resists. A face.”

Rose VIDAL, supporting curator for Julien HEINTZ

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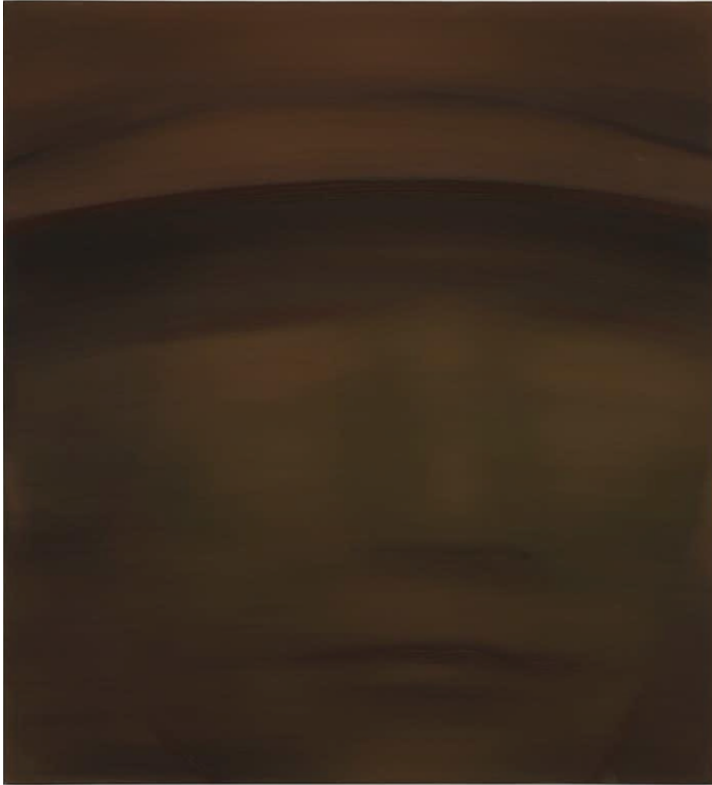


Invasion of Finland, 1939 Russian Prisoner, 2025
Oil on canvas
29.5 x 26.8 in. / 75 x 68 cm

"I cannot paint oppressors or the oppressed in a neutral way. One does not paint a Nazi prisoner like any other subject. Black and white is a conscious statement. The statuesque, symmetrical treatment of the lines, for example. There is also a sense of respect in indicating what one is looking at and where it comes from. My titles are often very descriptive, scientific: "Russian Prisoner in 1944". These are very serious images. In a way, it is a response to today's geopolitical events, and thus an attempt to prevent history from repeating itself."

Julien HEINTZ

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German troops in Poland post-Stalingrad, 2025
Oil on canvas
43.3 x 39.4 in. / 110 x 100 cm

“It falls to painting to render their presence – and it does so through its own scarcity; pictorial silence, an absence of objects and setting, never a whole body, rarely a full head; a few shadows here and there, volumes, not even skin tones. All that remains is barely there: what we only just recognise as a face.”

Rose VIDAL supporting curator for Julien HEINTZ

Julien HEINTZ – Mini Bio

Born in Paris in 1997, he lives and works in Paris.

Julien HEINTZ graduated from the Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2024, and has taken part in numerous international group exhibitions including *Six Painters* (2020) at the Koppel Project, London; *Degré zéro* (2022) and *Crush* (2022, 2024) at the Beaux-Arts de Paris and done solo shows at Monti 8 (Italy), pal project (France), Hatch (France), Exo Exo (France) and JO-HS (Mexico). His first solo show at Mennour in Paris was in 2025 entitled Residual Moments.



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2026 EDITION

PRESS VISITS - INDIVIDUAL PREVIEWS

On request, until end of August 2026

with Frédéric Brière, Executive Director of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art
At 53 quai d'Orsay 75007 Paris

SUPPORTING CURATORS PRESENTING THE ARTISTS

- Rose VIDAL, artist, author, art critic and literary critic, for Julien HEINTZ
- Guitemie MALDONADO, professor of art history, for HYPOLITE HENTGEN
- Alexandra McINTOSH, director of the Centre International d'Art et du Paysage de Vassivière, for Sojourner Truth PARSONS

SELECTION COMMITTEE 2026

- Frédéric BONNET, art critic, independent curator, gallerist
- Frédéric BRIÈRE, executive director of the Bredin Prat Foundation
- Anaël PIGEAT, art critic and editor at large of *The Art Newspaper* France
- Matthieu POIRIER, art historian and independent curator
- Marie-Aline PRAT, art historian and art collector

THE JEAN-FRANCOIS PRAT PRIZE

To celebrate the memory of Jean-François Prat, who died on 26 March 2011, and who was a contemporary art enthusiast, the partners of the law firm Bredin Prat, which he co-founded, and his family, decided to pay tribute to his name by creating in 2012 a new contemporary art prize.

Each year, in the autumn, a committee of experts, made up of key figures from the world of art, selects eight artists and shortlists the three finalists from among whom the winning artist will be selected. Then, at the start of the summer, following the vote by the partners of the law firm Bredin Prat, the person chairing the Prize that year presents the award to the winning artist at an evening event bringing together guests from the art world, business and the press.

The Prize consists of an award of €20,000 for the winner and €2,000 for each of the other two shortlisted artists, as well as the publication of a catalogue presenting the work of the three selected artists and a two-month exhibition of a selection of their works at the premises in Paris of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art, which organises the Prize.

The winning artists of the previous editions of the Jean-François Prat Prize are Toby Ziegler in 2025, Christine Safa in 2024, Jem Perucchini in 2023, Florian Krewer and Marine Vallon in 2022, Alexandre Lenoir in 2021, Toyin Ojih Odutola in 2020, Myriam Haddad in 2019, Nicolas Roggy in 2018, Avery Singer in 2017, Janis Avotins in 2016, Raphaëlle Ricol in 2015, Zander Blom in 2014, Matt Saunders in 2013 and Farah Atassi in 2012.

In the past, the Prize has been chaired by Chris Dercon, executive director of the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain (2025), by Jean-Paul Agon, president of the Society of Friends of the MAM Paris (2024), Manuel Borja-Villel, curator of São Paulo Biennale (2023), by private collectors Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudango (2022) and Charles-Henri Filippi (2021), by Marie-Claude Beaud, MNM museum director (2020), by Bernard Blistène, Centre Pompidou – MNAM museum director (2019), by Marc Simoncini, collector and entrepreneur (2018), by Florence Derieux, former Centre Pompidou curator-at-large (2017), by Bertrand Lavier, artist



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(2016), by Caroline Bourgeois, curator of the Pinault Collection (2015), by Christian Langlois-Meurrine, President of the Society of Friends of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2014), by Jennifer Flay, director of the FIAC contemporary art fair (2013) and by Jean-Jacques Aillagon, former Culture Minister (2012).

THE BREDIN PRAT FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Created in 2017, the purpose of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art is to support and promote contemporary artistic creation by establishing a contemporary art collection focusing on “what makes a *tableau*”: paintings and photographic works, and by organising the Jean-François Prat Prize each year, which is awarded to a French or foreign artist and seeks to give visibility to emerging artists in painting.

The Foundation gives free tours open to the public of the collection and to annual exhibitions of the Jean-François Prat Prize shortlisted artists at its premises on the Quai d'Orsay in Paris (originally the premises of the formerly French State-owned tobacco company Seita), as well as permanent access through its website.

The Bredin Prat Foundation, a French non-profit entity serving a general public interest, is fully in line with the culture and the values of the law firm Bredin Prat characterised by innovation and creativity.

THE LAW FIRM BREDIN PRAT

Founded in 1966, Bredin Prat's practice areas include Corporate Law (Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity, Capital Markets, Governance), Litigation and White-Collar Crime, Competition and EU Law, International Arbitration, Tax, Employment, Financing, Restructuring and Insolvency, Public Law, Digital Law, and Financial Services Regulation.

With offices in Paris and Brussels, the firm now has some 220 lawyers committed to the highest standards of excellence, to advise the firm's French and international clients in complex or sensitive transactions or contentious matters. Cross-border matters today represent more than two-thirds of the firm's work.

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For more detailed information about the Jean-Francois Prat Prize, please visit:

www.prixjeanfrancoisprat.com/en or www.bredinpratfoundation.org/en



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