

MAK Schindler Scholarships 2025/2026 Awarded

Record number of submissions—The jury reviewed 332 projects from art and architecture

1

MAK – Press and PR

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Press Release

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On 23 September 2024, the coveted MAK Schindler Scholarships were awarded already for the 29th time. Out of a record amount of 332 submissions from 51 countries, including 267 in the field of fine arts and 65 in the field of architecture, the jury unanimously selected six projects and three replacement projects. Awarded annually by the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport in collaboration with the MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, the internationally renowned MAK Center Artists and Architects-in-Residence Program allows the scholars to live in the Pearl M. Mackey Apartments designed by Rudolph M. Schindler, one of the locations of the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in Los Angeles, for six months in the academic year 2025/2026 and to realize their submitted works.

“The MAK’s Schindler Scholarships are a wonderful opportunity to honor the rich legacy of architect Rudolph M. Schindler and connect young talents with the dynamic art scene of Los Angeles. They not only provide space and time but also the chance to gain international experience and to artistically improve in one of the most exciting cultural metropolises in the world,” Andrea Mayer, State Secretary for Arts and Culture, stated.

“Not only did this year’s Schindler Scholarships receive a large number of submissions, but these submissions were also very international and consistently high-quality entries from art and architecture. The distinguished jury, which also included two former scholarship recipients, faced a selection that encompassed various media, topics, and socio-political agendas. Together with the team at the MAK Center L.A., I am looking forward to the future scholarship students and would like to thank all artists and architects for their participation and the individual, innovative works they submitted, and which were intensely discussed by the jury,” said Lilli Hollein, General Director and Artistic Director of the MAK.

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This year, the jury was composed of Chris Dercon (General Director, Fondation Cartier, Paris), Ann-Katrin Günzel (Editor in Chief, Kunstforum International, Cologne), Lilli Hollein (General Director and Artistic Director, MAK, Vienna), Anna Jermolaewa (Artist, Vienna), and Kristina Schinegger (Architect, soma architecture, Vienna).

The Schindler Scholarship addresses freelance artists, students of architecture (2nd part of the degree/master's degree), and graduates of diploma/master's degree in architecture directly after their graduation. The focus of the program is placed on an engagement with the place of residence for the duration of the scholarship, Los Angeles—a center of critical artistic, architectural, and urban-theoretical creation—as well as on a distinctly experimental approach in the broader fields of art and architecture.

2

The program thus directly connects to the founding idea of the MAK Center, established in 1994 by the MAK in cooperation with the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria/Arts Department and the “Friends of the Schindler House” as a branch of the MAK, to preserve the legacy of the Austro-American architect Rudolph M. Schindler and advance his vision of promoting and shaping art and architecture. Innovations in art and architecture, new trends, interdisciplinary developments, and conceptually experimental approaches are at the heart of the Schindler Initiative.

As a contemporary, experimental, interdisciplinary center for art and architecture, the MAK Center uses three of the most significant houses by Rudolph M. Schindler—the Schindler House (1922) in West Hollywood, the Fitzpatrick-Leland House (1936), and the Pearl M. Mackey Apartments (1939)—for exhibitions, MAK Talks, symposia, and lectures. The MAK Schindler Scholarship Program in Schindler's Mackey Apartments is a vital component of these activities.

Twice a year, in March and in September, the MAK Center presents the projects developed on site in the context of the *Final Projects* exhibition. The documentation of the works is catalogued and remains in the archive of the MAK Center, which can be accessed online at MAKcenterarchive.org.

The projects of the following architects and artists were chosen for the Scholarship Program 2025/2026:

Category Architecture:

1 April 2025 – 9 September 2025
Ella Marie Eßlinger (Germany)

7 October 2025 – 17 March 2026
Zara Pfeifer (Germany)



Category Fine Arts:

1 April 2025 – 9 September 2025

Paulina Nolte (Germany)

Valentina Triet (Switzerland, lives in Vienna)

7 October 2025 – 17 March 2026

Leni Hoffmann (Germany)

Veronika Spierenburg (Switzerland)

Replacement Category Architecture:

Cris Argüelles (Spain, lives in Vienna)

Replacement Category Fine Arts:

Anna Knöller (Germany)

Hiroshi Takizawa (Japan, lives in Vienna)

The Jury's Statement:

Out of 332 submitted projects from 51 countries, two projects from the field of architecture and four from the field of fine arts as well as a total of three replacement projects were chosen unanimously.

The jury was delighted by the large amount of Austrian and international submissions that showcase current thematic focuses and innovative positions. Visionary ideas by artists and architects with an emphasis on the development of new projects related to Los Angeles were selected. They address feminist issues and socio-political concerns at the intersection of art, architecture, and urban space. The recipients of the scholarship will work in the Mackey Apartments in an intergenerational and interdisciplinary manner. The team at the MAK Center L.A., headed by the newly appointed Director Beth Stryker as of 1 September 2024, looks forward to engaging with the future Scholarship Students.

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