

Press release

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Zooming in on world events

In the exhibitions 'World Press Photo 2026' and 'Swiss Press Photo 26', the National Museum Zurich is showcasing some of the world's and Switzerland's best photojournalism and taking a look at the events behind the headlines.

Every spring for some years now, the National Museum Zurich has presented a selection of the best photojournalism from Switzerland and around the world. Once again in 2026, the exhibitions 'Swiss Press Photo 26' and 'World Press Photo 2026' take a compelling look back over the last year. As well as showing current events from new and fresh perspectives, the photos take visitors on a journey, for example to Soweto in South Africa, where young dancers from the Joburg Ballet School wait backstage during their year-end performance. While ballet was the preserve of white communities during apartheid, Ihsaan Haffejee's winning shot in the 'World Press Photo' contest shows how subsidised classes for historically disadvantaged groups are contributing to change – and what that means for the girls themselves.

One photo in the 'Swiss Press Photo 26' exhibition takes the viewer to Valais, where a devastating landslide buried the village of Blatten in May 2025. The mass of debris subsequently blocked the River Lonza, causing previously undamaged houses to be flooded. In September 2025, photographer Laurent Gilliéron captured the surreal scene of two chalets whose roofs jut out above the water. At first glance, the picture has an almost idyllic quality; only when we take a closer look does the full extent of the destruction become apparent.

In the 'Swiss Press Photo' exhibition, some 130 pictures are being exhibited in the categories News, Daily Life, Swiss Stories, People, Sports and World. The impressive winning shots in all categories will be showcased at the National Museum Zurich. Meanwhile, the 'World Press Photo' exhibition comprises some 150 photos, covering all continents, and will subsequently tour to over 60 other locations worldwide. Both exhibitions will also be shown at the Château de Prangins from mid-November 2026.

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