

staring at the sun

exhibition of graduates 2026

10.07.26 - 27.09.26

Press release
29 june 2026

The 2026 Villa Arson Graduate Exhibition, entitled Staring at the Sun, invites us to “look the sun in the face.” It brings together a generation of artists who have chosen a form of lucidity that is both sharp and sensitive. Observing the tensions, flows, and paradoxes of the contemporary world, they translate their inquiries into aesthetic forms where materiality and language converge to imagine poetic and lived alternatives.

Anouk Abiven
Laura Alvergnat
Nour Asran Mahmoud
Garance B.
Mathilde Bapst
Arto Bornes
Vitor Carvalho Rezende feat YANGILANGO ® + CIAmigos e
Jérémie Catol
Evan Comte
Juliette Djahyef Moran
Junes Dreyfus
Julianne Dumont
è
Eole & Lili

staring at the sun

Exposition des
diplômé-es 2026

Liomée Filtz
Magdalena Galus
Lou Girerd-Chambaz
Clément Hémerly
Feishan Hsieh 謝斐珊
Minah Jeon
Jongmo Kang
Tatiana Lardy
Zeonghyeon Leekim
Elina Martemyanova
Kenz* Medjnoun
Emma Neame
Camille Nguyen
Alexis Ruault
Jiaqi Shen
Kyoungbae Son
Yuhan Sun
Daniel Zeeland
Mengxi Zeng

Commissariat
Martha Kirszenbaum

10.07.26 -
27.09.26

**villa
arson**

20 avenue Stephen Liégeard
06100 Nice

villa-arson.fr

MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE
VILLE DE NICE
MAIRIE DE NICE
COTE D'AZUR
COTE D'AZUR

nice

Design : Christophe Gaudin

Artists : Anouk Abiven, Laura Alvergnat, Nour Asran Mahmoud, Garance B., Mathilde Bapst, Arto Bornes, Vitor Carvalho Rezende feat YANGILANGO ® + CIAmigos e, Jérémie Catol, Evan Comte, Juliette Djahyef Moran, Junes Dreyfus, Julianne Dumont, è, Eole & Lili, Liomée Filtz, Magdalena Galus, Lou Girerd-Chambaz, Clément Hémerly, Feishan Hsieh 謝斐珊, Minah Jeon, Jongmo Kang, Tatiana Lardy, Zeonghyeon Leekim, Elina Martemyanova, Kenz* Medjnoun, Emma Neame, Camille Nguyen, Alexis Ruault, Jiaqi Shen, Kyoungbae Son, Yuhan Sun, Daniel Zeeland, Mengxi Zeng.

Curator

Martha Kirszenbaum

Vernissage

9 July 2026 from 6pm to 9pm.

- Free admission to the exhibitions
- Performances
- DJ set
- Social gathering with a food truck

Admission is free and no reservation is required.

We are moving through this century with our eyes fixed on pocket-sized mirrors, convinced we are capturing time even as it suffocates between our fingers. We are told that speed will set us free, yet it robs us instead: it confiscates our momentum, fragments our attention, and turns our lives into a utilitarian race. It is this contemporary vertigo that the 2026 graduating class of Villa Arson has chosen to confront in the exhibition *Staring at the Sun*. To stare directly at the sun is to embrace a sharp yet sensitive lucidity with which to observe the tensions that shape our world. This approach resonates deeply with Laura Vasquez's novel *Les Forces* [éditions sous-sol, 2025], a Bildungsroman tale that begins in a world of false pretences, where individuals are driven by forces beyond their control. Across the exhibition which has been designed to unfold in three movements, a shared imperative emerges: to sabotage the machinery of emergency and to release our vital energy.

The exhibition's first sequence places us directly before the structures, norms and mechanical repetitions that govern our lives. This formal tension reflects the offensive described by Laura Vasquez: a world in which systems of control saturate our minds, privatize our attention and constrain our identities until they become little more than data. By eliminating downtime and waiting, the system erases those breathing spaces in which dreams can take shape. The artists' rigorous forms and images render visible the invisible framework that strives to discipline our bodies and parcel out every minute of our lives.

From this constraint emerges a space of margins and secrecy. The works gathered here become more intimate, privileging modest materials, fragile gestures and personal narratives to dwell within the overlooked interstices of everyday life. This is precisely the trajectory traced by *Les Forces*, whose coming-of-age narrative explores the depths of our era by venturing into its blind spots. To choose withdrawal and the margins is not an act of timid retreat; it is an act of resistance, a way of catching one's breath. By celebrating the minute and the fragmentary, the exhibition's works seek to mend what speed has worn away. Language and matter converge in these spaces of shadow, restoring value to ordinary details and to the silences that the system deems useless.

Faced with the uncertainties of our time, the thirty-four voices of the graduating class of the Villa Arson propose not dogmas but rather a vibrant polyphony. Like the waves of language that animate Vasquez's writing, they remind us that time is not something to be optimized, but the very fabric of our human experience. It is through this gesture of sidestepping—both poetic and political—that we can free ourselves: by restoring the body, matter and the wild forces that surround us to their full power.

Presented at the Villa Arson, the exhibition will be open to the public every day except Tuesday, from 2pm to 7pm in July and August, and then until 6pm in September.

Admission is free and no reservation is required.

Address

Villa Arson, 20 avenue Stephen Liégeard, 06100 Nice

Access

Tramway ligne n°1 - Station Le Ray

Bus n°8, direction Las Planas / Sappia – station Deux avenues

Outside areas (gardens and terraces) and exhibition rooms are largely accessible to people with reduced mobility.

villa-arson.fr

Press contact

Elodie Mariani

elodie.mariani@villa-arson.fr

+ (33) 6 77 08 61 21

Social media

Instagram : @villa.arson

Linkedin : Villa Arson Nice

Facebook : Villa Arson Nice

Villa Arson is a public institution under the French Ministry of Culture and a constituent institution with legal personality of Université Côte d'Azur.

It receives support from the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, the Alpes-Maritimes Department, and the City of Nice.

Villa Arson is a member of the L'École(s) du Sud, BOTOX[S], DCA, ANdEA, BLA!, and the European ELIA networks.



**MINISTÈRE
DE LA CULTURE**
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



**DÉPARTEMENT
DES ALPES-MARITIMES**



VILLE DE NICE

CÔTE d'AZUR
FRANCE