

## Musée

Press release

### **Suspension of the Lacoste Elysée Prize 2011**

*Lausanne, 21 December 2011* - The Musée de l'Elysée has decided to suspend the organisation of the Lacoste Elysée Prize 2011. Introduced in 2010 to sustain young photographers, the prize is worth 25 000 euros.

In the context of the 2011 edition of the prize, eight nominees were selected to take part in the contest. They were asked to produce three photographs on the theme *la joie de vivre*. With the help of a individual grant of 4 000 euros, each nominee had *carte blanche* to interpret the theme in which ever way they favoured, in a direct or indirect manner, with authenticity or irony, based upon their existing or as an entirely new creation. An expert jury should have met at the end of January 2012 to select the winner of the Lacoste Elysée Prize 2011.

The Musée de l'Elysée has based its decision on the private partner's wish to exclude Larissa Sansour, one of the prize nominees. We reaffirm our support to Larissa Sansour for the artistic quality of her work and her dedication. The Musée de l'Elysée has already proposed to her to present at the museum the series of photographs "Nation Estate", which she submitted in the framework of the contest.

For 25 years, the Musée de l'Elysée has defended with strength artists, their work, freedom of the arts and of speech. With the decision it has taken today, the Musée de l'Elysée repeats its commitment to its fundamental values.

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