



Swiss Camera Museum - Vevey  
Glaciers under cover  
A history of preservation

## Glaciers under cover

### A history of preservation

Exhibition from 24 June to 17 August 2025

Press kit

Downloadable from [www.cameramuseum.ch](http://www.cameramuseum.ch)



Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor (1875-1966), Three climbers crossing a crevasse on Mont Blanc, ca. 1891-1904, magic lantern slide, © Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey



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Thomas Wrede, Rhonegletscher outside #2, 2019, © Thomas Wrede, Courtesy Beck & Eggeling International, Düsseldorf.



## Glaciers under cover

### A story of preservation

24 June - 17 August 2025

As part of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation proclaimed by UNESCO for 2025, the Swiss Camera Museum is staging a double temporary exhibition dedicated to the preservation of these giants of ice, in the museum and on the Quai Perdonnet in Vevey.

#### First part at the museum

The first part of the exhibition presents a selection of iconographic documents on glaciers from the museum's collections. It highlights the essential role played by the museum in preserving this unique visual, technical, historical and documentary heritage.

Comparing the conservation of a photographic collection with that of a glacier reveals the same challenge: slowing down the inevitable in order to pass on a heritage to future generations. Over time, photographs deteriorate, fade and oxidise. The techniques used, the name of the photographer and the circumstances in which the images were taken are often forgotten. Similarly, in the mountains, climate change is transforming the glaciers: cracks are forming, the ice is melting and centuries of frost are disappearing in just a few decades. Faced with these irreversible changes, conservation becomes an act of resistance.

Glaciologists are seeking to slow the melting of glaciers by exploring methods of limiting their disappearance. The museum's mission is manifold: to extend the life and legibility of the photographs, in order to preserve their scientific and historical value, and to document specific photographic processes and practices. As a result, by protecting, documenting and sharing images of these icy landscapes from here and elsewhere, the museum is in a way working to preserve glaciers, making a commitment to the future and alerting us to the fragility of our world.

#### Second part outside the walls

The second part of the exhibition takes place outside the walls, along the Quai Perdonnet in Vevey. It features contemporary photographs of Alpine glaciers covered in insulating sheeting, a measure designed to slow their melting. This unique body of work, brought together by Nathalie Dietschy (Prof., University of Lausanne), offers an artistic and scientific perspective on these changing landscapes, prompting deep reflection on the issues involved in protecting them.

UNESCO has designated 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation. Time is running out : global warming is melting the glaciers of the Alps. Scenarios for the future are alarming: it is estimated that 70% of Switzerland's glacier mass will have disappeared by the end of the century.

Since 2004, white geotextile sheets have been laid over limited areas of several Alpine glaciers in France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Italy in summer to slow glacial melt. This measure, which studies



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have shown to be effective, is changing the landscape and the environment, as shreds of tarpaulin are sometimes found on the spot.

Numerous photographers have witnessed these transformations and invited us to pay particular attention to these canvases: they conceal icy areas in order to protect them, but they also reveal the need for action to preserve the Alpine glaciers. There is much debate about this protection measure. One thing is for sure: only a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions can provide a sustainable, large-scale solution.

The selection of photographs presented on the lakeside of Vevey, taken by 16 international photographers, invites us to reflect on these ephemeral landscapes. They mark a stage in the life of glaciers and reflect our relationship with the world, between the desire to prolong winter tourism and the need to think about sustainable solutions to the effects of climate change. Through the different ways in which we look at these glaciers under cover, between a direct approach and a visual approach, this exhibition highlights a landscape in transition to which we can no longer close our eyes.

For more information: Nathalie Dietschy, *Glaciers alpins sous toiles. Une histoire photographique*, Infolio, 2025. Available from the museum shop.



Stefan Daniel, *Hidden Landscape IX*, 2015, from the series *Hidden Landscape*, © Stefan Daniel, Courtesy of the artist.





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**Short text, approx. 800 characters**

As part of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, proclaimed by UNESCO for 2025, the Swiss Camera Museum is presenting a double exhibition dedicated to the preservation of these giants of ice. The first part brings together phototypes from the museum's rich collections, highlighting its role in preserving this unique visual heritage. Outside the walls, on the Quai Perdonnet, the second part brings together contemporary photographs of Alpine glaciers covered in insulating tarpaulins, a measure designed to slow their melting. Assembled by Nathalie Dietschy (UNIL), this unprecedented body of work reveals the diversity of artistic and scientific perspectives on these changing landscapes, offering a striking reflection on the issues involved in protecting them.



Anonymous, Rhône Glacier and Gerstenhorn, date unknown, magic lantern slide, © Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey.



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## Agenda

### Round-table discussion Alpine glaciers: what landscape for tomorrow?

Tuesday 24 June at 6 pm, followed by an aperitif

With Katia Bonjour (Swiss Museum of Photography), Nathalie Dietschy (Art History Section, UNIL), Claude Reichler (Centre for Cultural History, UNIL), Emmanuel Reynard (Institute of Geography and Sustainability, UNIL) and Anna Katharina Scheidegger, artist and photographer.

Moderator: Pauline Martin (Swiss Camera Museum).

Alpine glaciers are under threat from rising global temperatures. They have been melting faster since the 1980s, to the point where it is estimated that 70% of the mass of Swiss glaciers will have disappeared by the end of the century. This round table will discuss the technical, heritage and cultural means of preserving the glaciers of the Alps. What options are available? What are the impacts on the landscape and the environment? What role does a heritage collection have to play in this story? How does artistic creation approach these ecological issues?

For this occasion, Nathalie Dietschy will be signing her book *Glaciers sous toiles. Une histoire photographique* (Infolio, 2025).

With the support of the Atelier des histoires, UNIL.

Open to all / no reservation required / free of charge

### Guided tours of the permanent and temporary exhibitions

Sundays 6 July / 3 August 2025 at 2pm

Come and find out about the history of photography and the Glaciers under cover exhibition from a museum guide!

*Open to the general public / free / no reservation required*

Guided tours for groups are available from Tuesday to Friday by prior arrangement only.

### Photogram workshop

Develop your own photograph into a photogram to take home as a souvenir of the workshop.

*Open to all aged 7 and over, individually or in groups of no more than 5 people*

Booking required / CHF 7 + admission

### Black and white print workshop

Bring your developed black and white negatives (NB 135 or 120) and learn how to make your own prints.

*Open to everyone aged 10 and over, individually or in groups of no more than 5 people*

Booking required / CHF 12 + admission

### Birthdays

The museum offers a choice of two activities to celebrate birthdays: the 'Photogram Workshop' or 'Laterna magica'.

Information: [www.cameramuseum.ch/visiter/](http://www.cameramuseum.ch/visiter/)



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#### Next exhibition

##### *Flash! A brief history of artificial lighting for photography*

18 September 2025 - 22 February 2026

This unique exhibition explores the importance of flash and artificial lighting in the history of photography from the 19th to the 21st century. These innovations have shed light on what is not seen, or not seen enough, playing a major role in the visual construction of new, hitherto unknown worlds. From Nadar's exploration of the catacombs of Paris to the glare of the paparazzi, Flash! highlights the central role of light in photography, whether immortalising scenes of nightlife, political realities or sublimating film stars. The exhibition features original and unique works on loan from leading institutions, including the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Société Française de Photographie, La Fotostiftung Schweiz and Photo Élysée in Lausanne.

Produced and designed by the Swiss Camera Museum, the exhibition is being staged in collaboration with the French magazine Photographica, which is devoting an issue to flash in autumn 2025.



© Raymond Meier, *Pedestrians #70*, of the *Portfolio Twelve Photographs*, 1975-1992, photography.



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Press images

Downloadable from [www.cameramuseum.ch](http://www.cameramuseum.ch)

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Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor (1875-1966), Three mountaineers crossing a crevasse on Mont Blanc, ca. 1891-1904, magic lantern slide, © Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey.



Anonymous, Glacier du Rhône and Gerstenhorn, date unknown, magic lantern slide, © Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey.



Swissair-Photo A.G. (publisher), Zurich, Aletschgletscher, Jungfrau, Finsteraarhorn, ca. 1931-1940, magic lantern slide, © Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey.



Société graphique (éditeur), Neuchâtel, Glacier du Rhône: entrance to the ice cave, ca. 1924-1946, postcard, © Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey.



[First name unknown] Baud, Glacier d'Orny, photograph from the album by William Demole Photos no. 1, p. 1, 03.08.1921, © Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey.



Thomas Wrede, Rhonegletscher outside #2, 2019, photograph, © Thomas Wrede, Courtesy Beck & Eggeling International, Düsseldorf.



Stefan Daniel, Hidden Landscape IX, 2015, from the series Hidden Landscape, photograph, © Stefan Daniel, Courtesy of the artist.



Francesco Merlini, Untitled, September 2019, from the series Cloth, photograph, © Francesco Merlini, Courtesy of the artist.





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#### **Press contact**

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#### **Practical information**

The museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 11am to 5.30pm and on bank holiday Mondays.

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