

Open Call #8: Ephemerality

<https://www.ephemere.tokyo/open-calls/8>

Overview

At Ephemere, our core lies in the fascination with the fleeting—the transient nature of life, beauty, and memory. In our eighth Open Call, we invite you to interpret *Ephemerality* through the art of the photo essay. We are seeking compelling visual narratives, between 15 and 25 images, that explore this concept and capture life's temporary moments, the passage of time, and the enduring power of impermanence in our world.

Selected photo essays will have the unique opportunity to be featured in Ephemere's first printed Journal, to be launched at our special two-week event in Tokyo this October 2025. Additionally, selected works may also be part of a group exhibition held during the same October event, and be featured on Ephemere's Instagram and Online Journal.

Your photo essay can explore a wide range of interpretations of ephemerality. Consider themes such as:

- **Time and Memory:** The fading of moments, the unreliability of memory, the passage of years etched on landscapes or faces.
- **Nature's Cycles:** The delicate beauty of blooming flowers that wither, the ebb and flow of tides, the transient seasons, the life and decay in the natural world.
- **Human Experience:** The fleeting nature of emotions, the ephemeral quality of youth, the transient connections between people, the temporary nature of life itself.
- **Urban Landscapes:** The constant transformation of cities, the temporary installations, the fleeting interactions in public spaces, the decay and renewal of structures.
- **Social and Cultural Shifts:** The ephemeral nature of trends, the rise and fall of ideologies, the transient moments of celebration or protest.

We encourage you to think broadly and creatively about how you interpret *Ephemerality* through your photographic storytelling.

Open Call #8 – *Ephemerality*

Detailed Guidelines

Opportunities

This Open Call #8 offers a unique blend of online and offline exposure, making it distinct from our previous calls. We are excited to provide the following opportunities for selected works:

Connect & Share: Online Visibility

Ephemere has always been committed to supporting our community and sharing their work online. Many photographers we've collaborated with on solo publications first connected with us through our open calls. With over 7,000 followers and growing, our Instagram Highlights have been a key avenue for showcasing selected work. We are now expanding this online reach by offering selected photographers the opportunity to be featured in our Online Journal, a platform dedicated to visual narratives and storytelling.

Printed Exposure: The Ephemere Journal

While Ephemere maintains an active online journal featuring interviews and event coverage, the creation of a **printed journal** has been a long-term goal, over a year in the making. We are incredibly excited to announce its inaugural issue, with "Ephemerality" as its core theme—a concept central to Ephemere itself. This first issue will feature **3 selected photo essays** from this Open Call. The journal will be produced using **offset printing** (in a newsprint format), allowing for a minimum print run of **2,000 copies**. It will be distributed and available worldwide, providing substantial exposure through print. This journal will be officially launched during our special two-week event in Tokyo this October 2025, offering a direct connection to this major annual gathering. Opting for a paid submission (specifically Paid Option A or B) significantly increases your chance of gaining this valuable exposure.

An Immersive Showcase: A Group Show in Tokyo

As part of our special two-week October event in Tokyo, we will host a major **group exhibition** specifically highlighting the theme of ephemerality through photography. The photographs featured in this exhibition will come directly from this Open Call. This is a unique opportunity to celebrate and explore ephemerality in a physical space, allowing your work to be seen by a diverse audience. We encourage you to consider Paid Option B, as it not only provides a chance for inclusion in the printed journal but also a prime opportunity to exhibit your work. Our paid options are designed to deeply connect your work with this significant October event. If your work is selected for the exhibition, and you have the means to be present in Tokyo at the time, we warmly encourage you to attend the event to see your work on display and connect with the Ephemere community.

Open Call #8 – *Ephemerality*

Detailed Guidelines

Submission Tiers

This open call offers both free and paid submission options to ensure broad participation while supporting the production of our projects.

Free Submissions:

- **Accessibility:** We offer a free option for everyone to take part.
- **Benefits:** Qualified for **Online Visibility** consideration (Instagram Highlights and/or our Online Journal).
- **Limit:** Each photographer may submit **one photo essay only** under the free submission tier (one entry per individual/email address).

Paid Submissions:

- **Contribution:** Your fee directly supports our open calls, covering printing, management, and event costs.
- **Online Visibility:** These submissions will also have an opportunity for **Online Visibility** through Instagram Highlights and/or our Online Journal.
- **Elevated Opportunities:** Importantly, paid submissions gain **additional chances of being selected** for inclusion in the upcoming printed publication and/or group exhibition. You may submit multiple photo essays under the paid tier, with each requiring a separate fee.

Paid Option A: \$30 (Printed Exposure Consideration)

- **Focus:** This option provides consideration for **Printed Exposure: The Ephemere Journal only**. Beyond the Online Visibility opportunities, this is your chance for print.
- **Selection:** **Only 3 photo essays** will be selected for the journal from across all paid submissions. If selected, approximately **10 images per photo essay** will be included.
- **Complimentary Copy:** Selected photographers will receive **1 complimentary journal copy** if selected.

Paid Option B: \$60 (Printed Exposure & Immersive Showcase Consideration)

- **Focus:** This option provides consideration for **both Printed Exposure: The Ephemere Journal and An Immersive Showcase: A Group Show in Tokyo**. Beyond the Online Visibility opportunities, this

Open Call #8 – Ephemerality

Detailed Guidelines

is your chance for both print and exhibition. All benefits for journal consideration from Paid Option A are included.

- **Exhibition Print:** For **An Immersive Showcase: A Group Show in Tokyo**, this fee includes **(1) A2 or A1 sized photo print** for display, should your work be selected.
 - **Exhibition Scope:** A total of **50 photo essays** will be selected for the group exhibition. From each selected photo essay, your best representative image will be chosen for printing and display, forming a cohesive exhibition of 50 individual prints.
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Submission Tier Benefits Comparison

Feature / Tier	Free Submission	Paid Option A (\$30)	Paid Option B (\$60)
Cost	\$0	\$30	\$60
Online Visibility	Yes	Yes	Yes
Printed Journal Consideration	No	Yes (high chance)	Yes (high chance)
Complimentary Journal Copies	N/A	1 copy (if selected)	3 copies (if selected)
Group Exhibition Consideration	No	No	Yes (high chance, includes 1 print)
Exhibition Print Included	N/A	N/A	Yes (1 A2/A1 print, if selected)

Open Call #8 – Ephemerality

Detailed Guidelines

Submission Limit	1 photo essay per photographer	Multiple photo essays allowed (each requires separate fee)	Multiple photo essays allowed (each requires separate fee)
Special %15 Discount (only for previous paid submitters)	N/A	Approx. \$25 per photo essay (if eligible)	Approx. \$50 per photo essay (if eligible)

Payment Link: <https://www.ephemere.tokyo/miscellaneous/p/open-call-8>

Technical Guidelines

Photo Essays Only:

This open call only accepts photo essays, which are visual narratives consisting of **15 to 25 images** that convey a meaningful story related to *Ephemerality*. Images should be submitted in their proper sequence, in the order they are intended to be viewed. Additionally, we highly recommend maximizing the 25-image allotment to provide the curator with more selection options.

Accepted Submissions:

- **Photography Formats:** Black and white or color images, encompassing both digital and traditional film photography.
- **Creative Processes:** Collages, instant film, and alternative photography (e.g., cyanotypes, platinum prints, mixed media) are welcome. For these, submissions must be **high-resolution scans, not photographs of the work.**
- **Collaborative Projects:** Submissions from **collectives are welcome.** Please ensure all collaborators are properly credited in the submission form and accompanying texts.
- **Work Status:** We accept both previously published and new work.

Prohibited Submissions:

Open Call #8 – *Ephemerality*

Detailed Guidelines

- **Digital Alterations:** Images with borders, watermarks, or excessive digital manipulation that alters the photographic integrity beyond standard enhancements (basic adjustments such as exposure, contrast, color correction, and cropping are allowed).
- **AI-Generated Content:** Images created solely through artificial intelligence.
- **Content Restrictions:** Inappropriate or offensive content will not be accepted. While **tasteful nudes are permitted**, final discretion remains with the curator based on the overall context and appropriateness for the publication/exhibition.

Important Note: Curator's Discretion

Ephemere reserves the right to disqualify any submission that does not align with the spirit or overall vision of the open call, even if it appears to meet all stated guidelines. This discretion applies to all submission tiers (free or paid) and ensures the cohesive curatorial integrity of the final publication and exhibition.

Image Format:

- **File Type:** Submit images as **PNG, TIFF, or high-quality JPEG files (exported with minimum compression/highest quality setting)**. While JPEGs are widely used, lossless formats like PNG and TIFF are highly preferred to ensure the best possible quality for both printed journal and large exhibition prints.
- **Image Size & Resolution:** Resize each individual image to a **minimum of 3000 pixels on the long side** and set the resolution to **300 dpi**. This is crucial for ensuring high quality when printed for both the journal (newsprint format) and large exhibition prints (A2 or A1 size). There is **no file size limit** for individual images.
- **Color Space:** **sRGB for all color images (this includes toned images like sepia). Pure black and white images must be converted to Grayscale** to ensure optimal printing results.
- **Important Note on Print Quality:** Images that do not meet the specified size and resolution requirements or are not suitable for high-quality printing may be subject to disqualification. We will not be able to contact individual photographers for replacement files.

Written Content:

You are required to provide a **title for your photo essay** and a **brief project description** (100 to 150 words) outlining your concept and how it relates to the theme of ephemerality within the submission form. A separate **Artist Statement** (100 to 150 words), providing further context about your photographic practice and vision, is also required.

Open Call #8 – *Ephemerality*

Detailed Guidelines

We understand that not all photographers are comfortable with writing, so we welcome the use of AI tools to assist in creating your description and artist statement. The goal is clarity and insight into your work.

- The **title, project description, and artist statement** may be used across all project platforms, including our online features, Instagram highlights, the Ephemere printed journal, and the group exhibition.

File Naming:

The first and last names you use in the "Name" field of the submission form must exactly match the name you use in your file names. Strictly observe the following file naming convention:

FirstName_LastName_01.jpeg, FirstName_LastName_02.jpeg,
FirstName_LastName_03.jpeg, and so on.

Please note: In previous open calls, despite warnings, some submissions did not follow this convention. While we attempted to contact photographers for corrections, this significantly impacted our project timeline and management. To ensure a smooth and efficient process for Open Call #8, **we will be strictly adhering to these guidelines.** Failure to follow this convention may result in your submission being disqualified without further contact.

Selection Criteria

All photo essays will be reviewed by Anne Murayama, Curator & Publisher of Ephemere, based on the following criteria, with a particular focus on how they illuminate the theme of ephemerality:

- **Narrative Arc:** How effectively the sequence of images unfolds a compelling story or journey.
 - **Thematic Depth:** The clarity and originality of the conceptual understanding of "Everything is Ephemeral" conveyed through both visuals and accompanying text.
 - **Evocative Power:** The capacity of the work to stir emotions, create lasting impressions, and resonate beyond the immediate viewing.
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Copyright and Permissions

Open Call #8 – Ephemerality

Detailed Guidelines

By submitting your images to Open Call #8, you confirm that **you are the original creator and sole copyright holder of the work**, and you **retain full copyright and ownership of your work**. You grant Ephemere non-exclusive permission to use your images (with proper credit) across all media platforms, including our website, social media, printed publications, and for exhibition purposes. You understand that your images may be cropped or adjusted to fit our online templates, publication layouts, or exhibition setup.

Timeline

- **Submission Period:** June 15th – July 15th, 2025
Deadline extended to July 31st!
- **Announcement of Selected Photographers:** August 2025
- **Publication Release & Group Exhibition:** October 1st – 12th, 2025

Please note: These dates are tentative and may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances in the publishing and exhibition planning processes.