

images VEVEY

Biennial
of Visual Arts

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(Dis)connected: Between past and future, Andreas Gursky revisits the Aletsch Glacier 30 Years after his iconic photograph for the Biennale Images Vevey 2024

Vevey, Switzerland — From September 7 to 29, 2024, the Biennale Images Vevey will showcase a monumental installation of Andreas Gursky's renowned photograph Aletsch Glacier. This iconic 1993 work, depicting the largest glacier in the Alps, will be displayed in large format on a building in Place de la Gare. Exclusively for this edition, Gursky will also unveil Aletsch Glacier II, a previously unreleased photograph taken specifically for the Biennale Images Vevey on August 8, 2024—thirty-one years after the first. This new image highlights the significant effects of climate change on this emblematic Swiss landscape.



The Aletsch Glacier Photographed by Andreas Gursky in 1993: The Gateway to the Images Vevey Biennial 2024

A leading figure on the art scene, Andreas Gursky is renowned for his monumental digitally edited photos depicting the globalisation of society, and its geopolitical, technological, and ecological challenges. Thirty years ago, he focused his lens on Switzerland's Aletsch Glacier. With a length of 20 km from its watershed in the Jungfrau region (4,000 m) to the Massaschlucht, some 2,500 m below, this glacier is the largest in the Alps and a natural monument of national heritage. It is a focal point for scientific research and emblematic of the problem of glacial melting. The German photographer Andreas Gursky took the photo Aletsch Glacier with an analogue camera, on site in 1993. Andreas Gursky created a breathtaking picture that, thirty years on, remains as relevant as ever. It has become an icon of the global issue of climate change. In the early 1990s, Gursky captured the famous glacier using an analog camera, composing a dizzying image that remains as relevant three decades later. This work has become a global icon of climate change, leaving a lasting impression with its visual power and underlying message.

Presented by the Images Vevey Biennial in monumental format (500 m2), the image blends into the real landscape of the French Alps with Lake Geneva in the background.

For the Biennale Images Vevey, Andreas Gursky takes a new photograph of the Aletsch glacier, entitled Aletsch Glacier II.

As part of the Aletsch Glacier installation, presented at the Biennale Images Vevey, Andreas Gursky had the idea of returning to the Aletsch glacier. On 8 August 2024, he took another photo of this beautiful setting thirty-one years after his first photograph. The artist intentionally chose the same viewpoint and used a digital camera to create an image made up using his usual techniques. Entitled Aletsch Glacier II, 2024, this previously unseen work features the iconic photograph, revealing the evolution of this ancient glacier.

This headline installation of the 2024 edition of the Images Vevey Biennial lies at the heart of the (dis)connected theme. Bridging past and future, not only through the techniques used (analog and digital) or by the juxtaposition of two images facing each other in public space, but also through the connections we make and break with issues such as climate change, the use of social media to comment on the evolution of the real world, artificial intelligence developing models around this societal challenge, and many other paradoxes linked to our time.



Aletschgletscher II, Andreas Gursky / VG Bild-Kunst, 2024 Courtesy Sprüth Magers

ANDREAS GURSKY (1955, GERMANY)

Andreas Gursky is a pioneer of digital manipulation in photography in the early 1990s and one of the first artists to work in large format. Coming from a family of photographers, he studied at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen and later at the Staatliche Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf. Alongside artists such as Candida Höfer and Thomas Struth, he is part of the generation that studied under Bernd and Hilla Becher, known as the Düsseldorf School of Photography. His images are among the highest-valued in the art world and are exhibited in major institutions worldwide.



Andreas Gursky © Alexander Romey

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

"The invitation to participate in this year's Biennale Images Vevey inspired me to take a closer look at my older works from the Swiss mountains. These unique experiences of nature, which I tried to capture in my photos in the eighties and nineties, still fascinate me today. Therefore it was all the more exciting to visit the Aletsch Glacier again this year and take pictures at the same place and in the same month as 31 years ago. The new photo is brutally topical, as in direct comparison with the older work it impressively demonstrates the effects of climate change due to the sharp decline in ice masses. Yet this picture captivates me just as much as the older motif: the majesty of the mountain massifs and the theatrical cloud formations pull you in and immerse you deeper and deeper in the picture.

The dedicated team at Images Vevey, above all Stefano Stoll, have constantly motivated me, and I would like to thank them for the magnificent staging of the works in the heart of Vevey."

— Andreas Gursky, August 2024

A collaboration with "Regarder le glacier s'en aller"

The Aletsch Glacier and Aletsch Glacier II installations are part of the collaboration between Images Vevey and the collective exhibition "Regarder le glacier s'en aller", which takes place in Switzerland from June 29 to September 29, 2024. This nationwide initiative explores, through various artistic perspectives, the fragility and disappearance of glaciers — a poignant testimony to the current environmental upheavals.

© PHOTOS

Andreas Gursky, Aletschgletscher, 1993

Aletsch Glacier, 1993 © Andreas Gursky / VG Bild-Kunst. Courtesy Sprüth Magers

Andreas Gursky, Aletschgletscher II, 2024

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Download the visuals at www.images.ch/espace-presse

BIENNALE IMAGES VEVEY

DATES: 7 – 29 September 2024

THEME: (DIS)CONNECTED. Entre passé et futur

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4 WEEKENDS
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1 THEME**

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