Press Release

Lyna Beggah + Alessandro Ferrari
Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner
Art Prize 2026

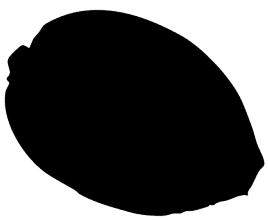
13 Dec, 2026–7 Feb, 2027

Kunsthalle Bern is pleased to present the first institutional exhibition by Lyna Beggah and Alessandro Ferrari, recipients of the special award of the Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Art Prize.

Lyna Beggah and Alessandro Ferrari are a Bern-based artist duo who have been working together since 2022. Both artists studied Contemporary Arts Practice at the Bern Academy of the Arts (HKB). Their practice centers on decolonial research, migration and memory, examining how colonial histories shape identities, landscapes and historical narratives. Drawing on writer Françoise Vergès's concept of 'living within the ruins', they explore how people navigate and find hope amid the intergenerational trauma left by colonialism.

For the exhibition, the duo will present new works that build on research first introduced earlier this summer, focusing on the Jijel region in northeastern Algeria, where Beggah's family originates. Through an exploration of colonial violence, land dispossession and cork extraction, the artists revisit the region's history, including the forest fires of 1881, which formed part of the Beni Foughal resistance against French colonial rule. Bringing historical accounts into conversation with local oral histories, traditions and songs, their new works consider these forms of cultural transmission as vital repositories of knowledge, memory and resistance.

Clay runs through every work: earth shaped with water, dried in air and transformed by fire. These elements also connect the three rooms, from aircraft and sky to forests, land and barriers, and finally to Aïn El Mchaki, a spring believed to be miraculous because it releases water intermittently. The exhibition provides a framework for rethinking how landscape and history reshape our lived experiences.



Kunsthalle Bern
Helvetiaplatz 1, CH-3005 Bern,
Switzerland
press@kunsthallebern.ch

PROGRAM

Sat, 12 December 2026, 13:00
Press Preview & Short Lunch
RSVP an: celine@kunsthallebern.ch

Sat, 12 December 2026, 17:00
Exhibition Opening
Opening of Cantonale Berne Jura 26/27 and
Lyna Beggah + Alessandro Ferrari, Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner
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Wed, 6 January 2027, 13:00–14:00
Walk & Talk
Exhibition Tour in Italian with Isabella Bevilacqua (Intern)

This exhibition is made possible with the support of the Kiefer Hablitzel Stiftung and the Ernst Göhner Stiftung.

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Switzerland
press@kunsthallebern.ch