

# THE FUTURE OF OPTICS : WHAT VISION?

**For over fifty years, SILMO Paris has brought together the creative and forward-thinking minds of the optics and eyewear industry.**

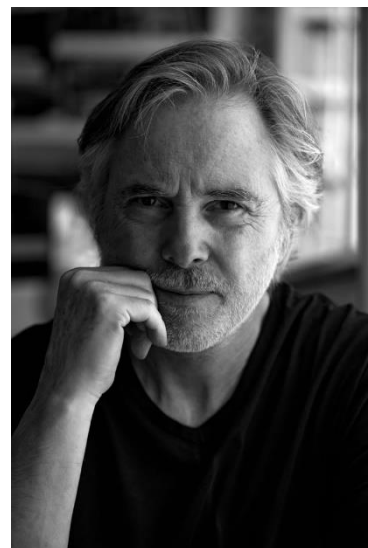
**With the Optical Design Contest, the show continues its mission: to inspire, reveal, and support the talents of tomorrow.**

Design students are invited to explore the endless possibilities of vision, to push the boundaries of creation, and to imagine what it means to see tomorrow.

More than just a style exercise, this contest is an invitation to view design as a medium of emotion, meaning, and future.

**Olivier Lapidus**, a renowned French designer known for his forward-thinking vision, chairs the jury of the **SILMO 2026 Optical Design Contest**.

Trained at Balmain, he first made his mark in the world of fashion before expanding his creative universe to encompass global design. Beyond his personal work — from designing uniforms for Air China to creating a photobiomodulation mask for Dior — he tirelessly explores the dialogue between aesthetics and technology.



A collaborator of the CEA and CNRS, Olivier Lapidus designs innovative textiles, optical-fiber dresses, and creations inspired by music. Winner of the Golden Thimble Award, he also designed the Hôtel Félicien in Paris and the Lounge Bar collection, where he combines design, innovation, and sensory experience.

As President of the 2025 SILMO d'Or Awards, Olivier Lapidus naturally extends this journey by taking the helm of the Optical Design Contest jury. A natural choice, as his career — at the crossroads of fashion, technology, and design — perfectly embodies the spirit of openness, creativity, and transmission that SILMO seeks to inspire in young talents.

## THEME OF THE 2026 OPTICAL DESIGN CONTEST

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# The Future of Optics : What Vision?



The 2026 Optical Design Contest invites design students to reflect on the place of vision in tomorrow's world. What if glasses were no longer just a tool for sight, but a language of the future — a space for expression between technology and humanity?

Through this theme, participants are encouraged to imagine creations where innovation meets poetry: eyewear that expands perception, translates emotions, and reinvents our relationship with the visible and the invisible.

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### AREAS OF EXPLORATION

- Sensitive Innovation – Materials, shapes, or technologies that express a more human vision, connected to our emotions.
- Responsible Design – A conscious, sustainable, and life-respecting future for optics.
- Poetic Technology – When progress becomes art, light, and sensation.
- Vision of the World – Eyewear as a mirror of our values and the societies of tomorrow.

## PARTICIPATION RULES

Open to students of legal age enrolled in the 3rd, 4th, or 5th year of a design program.

Collaboration with students from other programs (meeting the same age and level criteria) is allowed to enrich the diversity and creativity of the projects.

Projects must be submitted by June 16, 2026, via the [dedicated platform](#).

## SPECIFICATIONS

Submitted projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Innovation & Design } Originality, creativity, and quality of the project
- Use & Function } Relevance and practicality of the proposed product
- Responsible Commitment } Consideration of social and environmental issues
- Technical Feasibility } Practicality and implementability of the project

The submitted portfolio must include a presentation of the concept, accompanied by a drawing and a technical brief.

## EVALUATION & SELECTION

A jury of design and optics professionals will review and select up to 10 projects.

Preselected candidates will be announced in July 2026 and will develop prototypes, which will be showcased at SILMO Paris 2026.

## AWARDS

€10,000 prize, to be split equally between the student and their school.

Official recognition at SILMO Paris 2026, with exposure to industry professionals and the media.

## KEY DATES

16 JUNE

Registration closes

JULY

Nominees Announcement

SEPTEMBER 25

Award Ceremony at the Show

For more information: [concoursdesign@silmo.fr](mailto:concoursdesign@silmo.fr)

SILMO

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2026

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