

The Balzan Prizewinners Interdisciplinary Forum

Thursday, 13. November 2025 from 10am
Town Hall (Rathaus) Bern

 **swiss academies
of arts and sciences**

 **International
Balzan
Foundation**

Programme

09:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee

10:00 **Welcome Address**
Ursina Anderegg

Opening Address

Yves Flückiger, President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Introductory Speech

Maria Cristina Messa, President of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize"

10:30 PART I

Chair: Part I
Maria Cristina Messa

10:35 **Subject: Gene and Gene-Modified Cell Therapy**
Introduction by **Alberto Mantovani** of the 2025 Prizewinner **Carl June**

Presentation

by **Carl June**, 2025 Prizewinner for Gene and Gene-Modified Cell Therapy

11:05 **Subject: Atoms and Ultraprecise Measurement of Time**

Introduction by **Massimo Inguscio** of the 2025 Prizewinner **Christophe Salomon**

Presentation

by **Christophe Salomon**, 2025 Prizewinner for Atoms and Ultraprecise Measurement of Time

11:35 **Q&A**

12:00 Lunch Break

13:30 PART II

Chair: Part II
Marta Cartabia

13:35 **Subject: History of Contemporary Art**

Introduction by **Tristan Weddigen** of the
2025 Prizewinner **Rosalind Krauss**

Presentation

by **Rosalind Krauss**, 2025 Prizewinner for History of
Contemporary Art

14:05 **Subject: Classics: Athenian Democracy Revisited**

Introduction by **Christoph Riedweg** of the 2025
Prizewinner **Josiah Ober**

Presentation

by **Josiah Ober**, 2025 Prizewinner for Classics:
Athenian Democracy Revisited

14:35 **Q&A**

15:00 **Discussion among the 4 Prizewinners**

15:20 **Closing Remarks**

Yves Flückiger, President of the Swiss Academies
of Arts and Sciences, and **Maria Cristina Messa**,
President of the Balzan Foundation "Prize"

2025 Prizewinners

Josiah Ober, USA

2025 Balzan Prize for Classics: Athenian Democracy Revisited

For his groundbreaking research on the origins and functioning of Athenian democracy in classical times, which has had an influence far beyond the academic world. Ober has identified the factors behind its success using a refreshing, interdisciplinary approach that constantly draws comparisons with the present day, thus bringing these findings into contemporary socio-political debate.

→ Stanford University

Rosalind E. Krauss, USA

2025 Balzan Prize for History of Contemporary Art

For her outstanding scholarly achievements and her foundational role in the establishment of contemporary art as a field of research.

→ Columbia University

Christophe Salomon, France

2025 Balzan Prize for Atoms and Ultra-Precise Measurement of Time

For his pioneering contribution in paving the way for the application of ultra-cold atoms to the creation of atomic clocks which have revolutionised the measurement of time.

→ Laboratoire Kastler Brossel Paris

Carl H. June, USA

2025 Balzan Prize for Gene and Gene-Modified Cell Therapy

Carl June has invented and developed a genetically engineered cellular therapy (CAR-T cells) which has cured fatal haematological cancers and holds promise for treatment of autoimmune diseases and solid tumours. His work has paved the way to the new realm of cellular therapy and synthetic biology with a broad impact in Medicine.

→ Perelman School of Medicine – University of Pennsylvania

Presenters

Yves Flückiger

President of the Swiss Academies of arts and sciences, former Rector of the University of Geneva, former president of swissuniversities, former Chair of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), former professor in labor economics, industrial organization, and public finance.

Maria Cristina Messa

President of the Board of the International Balzan Foundation "Prize", Full Professor of Diagnostic Imaging and Radiotherapy, University of Milano-Bicocca, of which she served as Rector; former Minister of University and Research of the Italian Republic

Alberto Mantovani

Member of the Balzan General Prize Committee, Professor Emeritus of Pathology at the Humanitas University in Milan, Scientific Director of the Istituto Clinico Humanitas; Chair of Inflammation and Therapeutic Innovation, William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University, London; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, of the Accademia Europæa, and of the US Academy of Sciences

Massimo Inguscio

Member of the Balzan General Prize Committee, Professor Emeritus of Matter Physics at the Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome; President Emeritus of the National Research Council (CNR), Rome; former President of the National Institute of Metrological Research (INRIM), Turin; co-founder, fellow and former Director of the European Laboratory of Nonlinear Spectroscopy (LENS), Florence; Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, and of the Accademia Europæa

Marta Cartabia

Chair of the Balzan General Prize Committee, Full Professor of Constitutional Law at Bocconi University, Milan; President Emeritus of the Italian Constitutional Court; former Minister of Justice of Italy

Tristan Weddigen

Director at the Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History in Rome; Professor of Modern Art History at the Institute of Art History at the University of Zurich

Christoph Riedweg

Member of the Balzan General Prize Committee, Professor Emeritus of Classics / Greek at the University of Zurich; former Chairman of the ZAZH – Center for the Study of the Ancient World, UZH; former Director of the Istituto Svizzero di Roma

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