

# Trees of Life

A photographic exhibition by  
Nicolas Henry in partnership with  
Nexira & SOS SAHEL



PHOTOCLIMAT 2025 PARIS  
EOP ROUEN





## A photographic project by Nicolas Henry

Nicolas Henry is a French photographer, artist, and set designer, a graduate of the Beaux-Arts de Paris and trained in cinema in Vancouver. After contributing to Yann Arthus-Bertrand's 6 Billion Others exhibition, he created *Trees of Life*, a series of portrait-tableaux designed in collaboration with residents, farmers, and artisans, producing scenes that are both intimate and collective.

His commitment stems from a longstanding interest in the Great Green Wall, a pan-African project designed to halt desertification through tree planting across the continent. Within this context, Nexira invited him on a residency in Chad and Senegal, organized with SOS SAHEL: one month of encounters and immersion that proved foundational for his work.



This new exhibition explores the silent beauty of Mediterranean trees, alongside the challenges and cultural imagination they inspire.



# For 130 years,

Nexira, the world leader in natural plant-based ingredients, has safeguarded the trees from which it harvests, while committing to sustainable production methods.

*Trees of Life* tells this story through the artistic eye of photographer Nicolas Henry, whose poetic and emotionally charged tableaux bring these commitments to life. After an initial photographic journey to Chad and Senegal, *Trees of Life* returns in 2025 for a second edition, dedicated to the trees of the Mediterranean basin—symbols of beauty, resilience, and their deep-rooted connection to local communities.

Through the poetic staging of Nicolas Henry, this exhibition reveals the stories of those who live in Tunisia in harmony with olive trees, carob trees, and prickly pear cacti.

Supported by SOS SAHEL and Nexira, this artistic project—driven by a committed vision—unfolds through two major highlights. First presented at the very heart of Paris, on Place de la Concorde, as part of the PhotoClimat Biennale, it will then move to the quays of Rouen (home to Nexira's headquarters), as part of the Espaces d'Œuvres Photographiques organized by the Maison de l'Architecture Normande. Entirely eco-responsible, this artistic and cultural event offers a sensitive exploration of the ties between biodiversity, agricultural know-how, intergenerational transmission, and climate action.



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*The Trees of Life* project illustrates how communities weave connections with wild trees and harvest their treasures for the benefit of all. In Tunisia, these life-giving trees have structured existence for millennia. What you will discover here is the profound connection between Humanity and Nature.

Nicolas Henry, photographer and co-founder of PhotoClimat



## An Ancient Olive Tree

Between 1,000 and 3,000 years old, the olive trees of Kesra Valley stand as guardians of an unchanging world. For centuries, human hands have nurtured them, pruning their branches with harmony and respect to aid the harvest of their fruit, forever yielding the gift of an exceptional oil.

## Harvesting Carob Seeds

By a spring, during the hottest hours, a group of harvesters seek shelter from the sun. Here grows the wild carob tree, whose wood-hard pods are gathered in season, crushed to extract the small seeds within. Their flour is a staple for festive village dishes. The harvest nets and dried grasses assembled here recall a Bedouin tent, echoing the innocence of Orientalist frescoes.



## An artistic commitment supported by Nexira

Founded in 1895, Nexira is a French family-owned company and a global leader in natural plant-based ingredients. For 130 years, the Group has produced and supplied innovative natural compounds sourced from sustainable, environmentally respectful farming practices, serving the food, health, and nutrition industries. This longstanding connection to communities across the world anchors its support for Nicolas Henry's unique artistic endeavor.

The *Trees of Life* project was initiated at the suggestion of ByArt Agency, with the intention of embodying the link between ingredients, the trees that produce them, and the communities who depend on them—through a powerful artistic approach.



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After the first series in Africa, we open a new chapter in Tunisia: cacti, ancient olive trees, and carob trees are central to our historic supply chains. Supporting this artistic work in these regions is an obvious choice, as it reflects our commitments on the ground.

Mathieu Dondain, Vice President & General Manager, Nexira





## With the support of SOS SAHEL

SOS SAHEL is an international NGO dedicated to food security and climate resilience in Africa's arid regions. A long-standing partner of Nexira, the organization also supports this exhibition as a tool for awareness and global mobilization.

A key partner in Nexira's reforestation projects through the ACACIA program, SOS SAHEL welcomed Nicolas Henry during his residency, granting him direct access to the human stories that now unfold in the *Trees of Life* exhibition.



## A two-stage exhibition for the public



SEPT. 12 - OCT. 12, 2025

### Paris – PhotoClimat Biennale

**PhotoClimat** is Europe's only social and environmental biennale, showcasing the work of NGOs, foundations, and committed artists. Free, open-air, and eco-designed, its exhibitions make art accessible to all. The previous edition drew over 5 million visitors to Paris. Nicolas Henry is among its co-founders.

*Trees of Life* will be on public display at Place de la Concorde, following its launch on September 11. An exchange event will be held by invitation on Monday, September 22, with Nicolas Henry, Nexira, and project partners in attendance.

SEPT. 27 - NOV. 27, 2025

### Rouen – EOP, Espaces d'Œuvres Photographiques

As part of the EOP initiative led by the Maison de l'Architecture Normande, *Trees of Life* will be exhibited in Rouen from September 27 to November 27, 2025. The aim: to make photography accessible to all, at the heart of the city and close to its residents, while raising ecological and social awareness.

For this 2025 edition, EOP is partnering with PhotoClimat, Nexira, and Rouen Métropole, strengthening its programming through artistic and logistical collaboration. Nicolas Henry's *Trees of Life* project is presented as one of the centerpiece works of this season, even incorporating several photographs from the previous series in Chad and Senegal.



## Trees of the Mediterranean Basin

This new edition invites visitors to journey among Mediterranean trees—particularly in Tunisia—such as the olive, cactus, prickly pear, and carob: vital resources for humankind. These trees slow desert encroachment, prevent soil erosion, and foster biodiversity.

Their cultivation creates new ecosystems, saving endangered species and offering fresh agroforestry solutions. They are life-giving trees in countless ways, and this exhibition is a tribute to the millennia-old ties that bind us to them.



## Press Contact

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