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Press release

## **GOBELINS PARIS AND ESCUELA ESCENA ANNOUNCE ANIMATION SHORT FILM INCUBATOR PROGRAM AT ANNECY 2025**

Paris, France & Mexico City, Mexico – June 4, 2025

On the occasion of the 2025 Annecy International Animation Film Festival, where both institutions are participating, GOBELINS Paris - celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary - and Escuela ESCENA - celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary - are proud to announce the launch of a groundbreaking initiative: the Animation Short Film Incubator Program, set to begin in early 2026 in Mexico.

### **A Strategic Collaboration to Empower Mexican Animation**

GOBELINS Paris, ranked World's Best Animation School since 2021 by Animation Career Review, and Escuela ESCENA, Latin America's top animation school and ranked #5 worldwide for Production Excellence in 2D Animation by The Rookies, are joining forces to support and elevate a new generation of Mexican animation creators.

With a shared commitment to creative excellence, this partnership will deliver a high-impact training program blending technical mastery with artistic vision.

*"Talent and passion have long defined Mexican artists and animators. We're proud and deeply grateful to collaborate with Escuela ESCENA in supporting the next generation of creators and storytellers as they discover and share their unique voices."* says Cécile Blondel, Director of International Development at GOBELINS Paris.

*“At ESCENA, we’ve spent years striving to meet the highest standards of production quality, with the goal of positioning ourselves among the top schools worldwide. We’re thrilled to launch a joint program with a school we regard as a benchmark of excellence and creativity in our industry. I’m excited to see the remarkable achievements our Mexican students will reach through this partnership.” says Andres Buzo, General Director and Co-Founder of ESCENA.*

### **Program Highlights**

Fifteen selected students will work in teams to produce an original short 2D animated film, under professional studio conditions. Participants will go through all stages of the animation pipeline, from scriptwriting and storyboarding to final sound and picture.

The program includes workshops led by expert teachers from Gobelins and Escuela ESCENA, combining international excellence with local industry relevance.

### **Goals & Impact**

This initiative aims to foster the creation of original IPs, enhance professional skills, promote entrepreneurship, and showcase the emerging talent of Mexican animators on the international stage.

### **Program Leads**

Key representatives attending Annecy 2025:

- Cécile Blondel – Gobelins Paris, Director of International Development
- Andres Buzo – Escuela ESCENA, General Director and Co-Founder
- Andres Palma – Director of ESCENA Animation Studio / Escuela ESCENA, Project-Based Learning Director
- Fraser MacLean – Escuela ESCENA, Industry Liaison and Academic Mentor

### **About the Schools**

Gobelins Paris is a leading institution in the cultural and creative industries, specializing in digital creation and visual arts. For six decades, it has trained professionals in all image-related disciplines, from concept to production — across still, animated, interactive, and immersive formats.

Each year, Gobelins welcomes nearly 1,200 students (including 40% apprentices) and 1,500 adult learners, offering programs in animation, motion design, photography/video, interactive design, game design, and audiovisual production.

Deeply committed to creative freedom, equal opportunity (with 13% of students receiving scholarships), diversity, and inclusion, the school hosts over 275 international students annually. The school is a non-profit private institution affiliated with the Paris Île-de-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

This year, ESCENA celebrates fifteen years of shaping Mexican artists committed to their craft and the world around them. From the start, we've offered solid, professional training in animation, illustration, comics, screenwriting, and visual storytelling. That vision still guides everything we do.

At ESCENA, students learn by creating. They develop animated shorts, comics, and video games in class, guided by faculty and real-world workflows. Their work has reached festivals like Chilemonos, Morelia Film Festival, and Premios Quirino. Over time, ESCENA has become a reference in Latin America for artistic education rooted in technical excellence, collaboration, and global reach. Our alumni work in studios and media companies across Mexico, Canada, the U.S., and Europe. Fifteen years in, our mission is the same: to help artists find their voice, sharpen their skills, and build a sustainable path in the creative industry.

## **Media Contacts**

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