

PRESS RELEASE

Visions du Réel: The events of the 15th edition (April 23-29)

Visions du Réel 2009 is more than 150 films from 44 countries, but it's also many discussions, meetings and festive evenings.

40 years of the Nyon Festival - 15 years of Visions du Réel – A double anniversary on Saturday, April 25

Saturday evening 25th, some exceptional films and a surprise gift for all the film-goers in all the movie theatres. Then some delightful experiences at the Usine à Gaz with inventive culinary creations by Gilles Wannaz and Caillou Farci followed at night by an exceptional VJ show devised by **Mimetic** (Geneva) and filmmaker **Lech Kowalski**. The whole week artist **Sophie Guyot** will be proposing a light creation, a trail of enchanting visible beacons between the Salle Communale and the Usine à Gaz – a salute from the town of Nyon to the Festival and its audience.

With the support of the Festivals of the Town of Nyon: Paleo, Caribana and the far°.

Saturday April 25th, 08.00 p.m., Salle Communale, then from 10.00 p.m., Usine à Gaz

Some special... very special projections

The **Berlin Wall** came down in November 1989. Visions du Réel is looking ahead to this anniversary by offering a selection of 8 films about the topic and hosting a great debate with excerpts from past and present-day films, in the presence of, notably, filmmakers from the ex-GDR **Thomas Heise** and **Volker Koepp**. Also with **Thomas Kufus** (Zero One Film), **Michael Althen** and **Hans Helmut Prinzler**, **Nina Toussait** and **Lech Kowalski**. Some unstoppable documentaries. Plus a surprise documentary: The many different faces of Berlin...

Debate devised by the History Department of the University of Geneva in co-operation with Payot Bookstore, L'Hebdo and Visions du Réel.

Co-moderated by Sébastien Farré, University of Geneva

Tuesday 28th, 08.00 p.m., Salle de la Colombière

What are the specific characteristics and the different modes of documentary creation on the Internet? What challenges does it raise for writing documentaries? In what way is it renewing the traditional production models? Can it open up alternative dissemination channels? The festival is hosting a seminar with, notably, **Lech Kowalski**, **Thierry Lounas**, **Alexandre Brachet** and **Bruno Nahon**. As a real laboratory for writing documentaries the Web gives rise to some bold projects, on the fringe of traditional forms and narratives. **Camerawar**, by Lech Kowalski, will be shown at the Festival on Saturday, April 25.

The 2009 Workshops

From Beirut to Paris the Lebanese couple of filmmakers **Joana Hadjithomas** and **Khalil Joreige** are developing a unique *oeuvre* consisting of films, video films, photography and installations. It's the story of a bruised country, a population looking for peace. This year their path passes through Nyon for a Workshop on Monday, April 27. It's an opportunity to discover their latest film, *Je veux voir*, in which Catherine Deneuve sets out to discover war-torn South Lebanon. The Kazakh Sergey Dvortsevo, for his part, began his international career at Visions du Réel when *Paradise (Chastie)* won a prize there in 1995. He's back again this year for the Workshop on Tuesday 28th. His latest film, *Tulpan*, will also be projected during the closing evening on Wednesday 29th.

Closing evening

The winning films of the 15th edition of the Festival will be revealed this evening, before giving pride of place to **Tulpan** by **Sergey Dvortsevov**. The Kazakh filmmaker narrates the life of a young shepherd looking for a wife in his depopulated steppe. A film that mingles fiction and documentary with rare poetry! The evening will continue at Usine à Gaz with the performance **Dry fish** by **Youngeun Cho Jaquet**, an artist associated with the far° - festival of living arts. She covers her body with a hundred or so dried squid, making herself a garment that evokes the encounter between her South Korean culture with its diet of dried fish and western-style haute couture creations.

Haikus – three planes for a story that is only just beginning...

When Visions du Réel asked several filmmakers for a small birthday gift, a meditation in 3 planes, the Festival received nearly **65 visual haikus**. **Alain Cavalier, Susan Mogul, Francis Reusser, Peter Entell, Volker Koepp, Nino Kirtadzé, Frederic Wiseman, Nicolas Philibert** – their visual inspirations can be discovered before each projection during the Festival week.

The Swiss Cultural Centre in Paris with Christian Robert-Tissot

In collaboration with the **Swiss Cultural Centre in Paris**, the artist will intrude onto the screens of the Festival and in the town of Nyon by engaging us with unexpected statements that will examine the notion of “reality”. Projections, mini-posters and stickers will act as media for his remarkable work on language and the way it fits into public space.

April 23-29, 2009

www.ccsparis.com

**Interactive programme grid and detailed description of the Festival's major events
on our web site :
www.visionsdureel.ch**

Press service / PYW / April 22, 2009

**Press officer: Pierre-Yves Walder
+41 22 365 44 52 / pywalder@visionsdureel.ch**

Press kit on <http://www.visionsdureel.ch>

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