

# visions du réel

INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
NYON

PRESS RELEASE

13 April 2018, Nyon (Switzerland)

**EMBARGO 19:30**

VISIONS DU RÉEL  
PLACE DU MARCHÉ 2  
CH-1260 NYON  
SUISSE

**49<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF VISIONS DU RÉEL, 13–21 APRIL 2018**

**FULL HOUSE AND EXPLORING NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY**

[www.visionsdureel.ch](http://www.visionsdureel.ch)

Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillor, and Cesla Amarelle, Member of the Cantonal Council of Vaud, opened the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of Visions du Réel, International Film Festival Nyon, this Friday 13 April to a packed house at the Théâtre de Maren. “The courage of documentary filmmakers is to give a voice to those who don’t have one, by addressing highly complex subjects,” declared Simonetta Sommaruga solemnly. “One of the strengths of documentary film is that it involves us, without making a simple judgement, opposing heroes and villains,” she added. Moreover, the Federal Councillor praised a festival “which hones and expands our perspective.” Expanding one’s perspective and opening up to the world is precisely the vocation of this 2018 edition. When officially kicking off the festivities in the company of the new Artistic Director Emilie Bujès, the Executive President of Visions du Réel, Claude Ruey, enthused “Once again, the world is coming to Nyon, where Visions du Réel has every intention of continuing its role as an explorer and trailblazer.”

#### A sold-out Opening Ceremony

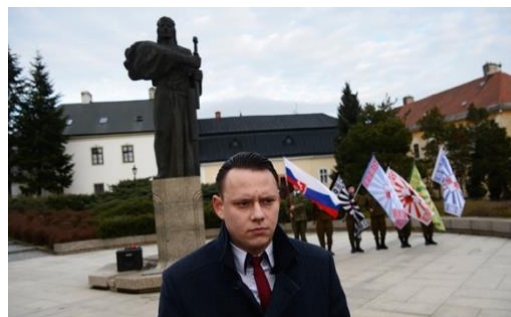
On Friday evening, the Théâtre de Maren welcomed prestigious guests to launch the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of Visions du Réel. Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillor, Cesla Amarelle, Member of the Cantonal Council of Vaud, and Fabienne Freymond Cantone, Member of the Municipal Council of the City of Nyon praised the event. “Visions du Réel is first and foremost an encounter with our society, with our world. It is an encounter with our real universe, living, the here and now. It is an encounter to discover the others, their culture, their way of life, their ideas” declared Cesla Amarelle. In addition to the aforementioned speakers, the gathering included representatives of the Swiss Federal Parliament; Sylvie Podio, President of the Grand Council of Vaud, accompanied by many parliamentary representatives; Béatrice Metraux, Member of the Cantonal Council of Vaud; Daniel Rossellat, Mayor of Nyon, in the company of his municipal colleagues; SRG SSR Chairman Jean-Michel Cina accompanied by Sven Wälti (a senior manager at SRG SSR); representatives of the Federal Office of Culture; sponsors; representatives of various foundations and numerous audiovisual professionals.

The sold-out screening, a Swiss premiere, of Talal Derki’s *Of Fathers and Sons*, a co-production between Germany, Syria, Lebanon and Qatar, offered a dizzying plunge into the day-to-day life of an important member of a branch of Al-Qaida in Syria. The film, which was sold out, and had an additional screening at the Grande Salle (Salle Communale), will be shown one last time on Sunday 15 April at 13:30 at the Théâtre de Grand-Champ in Gland.

<https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film/of-fathers-and-sons>

#### The sections of the Festival remodelled

This opening was a first for new Artistic Director, Emilie Bujès, who has remodelled the sections of the Festival this year. She has in particular added the Burning Lights Competition, dedicated to new vocabularies and forms of writing, and the non-competitive Latitudes Section. This new section presents nine feature-length films as world, international or Swiss premieres and offers a panorama of



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current documentary practices. *When the War Comes*, the superb first film by Jan Gebert, observes how an extreme-right paramilitary group enables a young man to attain power, in a chilling and detailed analysis of the spread of xenophobic speech. *Amal* by Mohamed Siam, reveals today's post-revolutionary Egypt through the portrait of a spirited young woman, filmed over six years. And more: the subject of agriculture is at the heart of the graceful *Lorello and Brunello* by Jacopo Quadri, which follows Tuscan twin brothers on the verge of bankruptcy, whereas the very different approach of Dominique Marchais, in *No Man Is an Island*, reaches out to members of co-operatives, farmers and architects, from Sicily to the Austrian Alps via the Swiss Grisons.

<https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film-by-section/section/latitudes>



#### Video mashups

International Feature Film Competition: <https://youtu.be/k32LPhmJMF4>

Burning Lights Competition: <https://youtu.be/43jB5mzjqJE>

Grand Angle: <https://youtu.be/prHXLq5uBhY>

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