

visions du réel

INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
NYON

Press Release
15 April 2018, Nyon (Switzerland)

MONDAY 16 APRIL: PRIX RAIFFEISEN MAÎTRE DU RÉEL CLAIRE SIMON, EXPLORER OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY, CONSECRATED MAÎTRE DU RÉEL

VISIONS DU RÉEL
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SUISSE

www.visionsdureel.ch

Tomorrow evening, on Monday 16 April, Visions du Réel, International Film Festival Nyon, will award the Sesterce d'or Prix Raiffeisen Maître du Réel to the French director Claire Simon. "Every year, we invite an important figure of documentary filmmaking and pay tribute to their career with an honorary award", recalls Claude Ruey, Executive President of the Festival. In this way, Visions du Réel offers festivalgoers an exceptional one-on-one with a master of film. "We are delighted to award this prize to Claire Simon, a filmmaker who has spent her entire career exploring the boundaries of human geography, between the documentary and fiction," emphasises Emilie Bujès, Artistic Director. During the Festival (13-21 April), some of Claire Simon's films will be presented and, in parallel, she will be giving a Masterclass open to the public on Tuesday 17 April at 10:00 in the Grande Salle (Salle Communale).

Claire Simon: the great novel of ordinary life

Claire Simon taught herself filmmaking via editing. She moved towards documentary film, even if her aesthetics never ceases to blur the boundaries separating documentary from fiction. "Film is the artistic form that explains to which point space is a concrete theory of reality and a reverie. In all my films, I try to take places and their fictional reality into account," she explains. It is perhaps here that we will find the singularity of this filmmaker, who trained in editing at the Cinémathèque in Algiers. Moving to directing enabled her to discover that film can be envisaged as a light, free and improvised gesture. Claire Simon is committed to filming the women and men who struggle discreetly against a norm that would like to silence them. She offers them counter-spaces in which they can effectively become "events", in other words, actors as much as subjects. She has just completed a new feature-length film about adolescence, *Young Solitude* (2018, Berlinale), which will be screened as a Swiss premiere at Visions du Réel on 17 April, in the presence of the director.

Maître du Réel Evening, Monday 16 April, 20:30, Théâtre de Marens



The Prix Raiffeisen Maître du Réel will be presented to Claire Simon, during a ceremony at which Frédéric Maire, Director of the Cinémathèque suisse, will give her laudation. This will be followed by the screening of her film *Les Bureaux de Dieu* (2008, Quinzaine des Réalisateurs), in which Nathalie Baye, Nicole Garcia, Isabelle Carré and Béatrice Dalle portray Family Planning advisors to amateur actresses. Inspired by real events, this fiction was produced using the transcripts of sound recordings made in several family planning offices between 2000 and 2007. In this huis-clos, the filmmaker captures the effect that words have on someone who is listening. And as none of the protagonists knew in advance who their counterpart would be, Claire Simon transgresses the border between documentary and fiction.

Claire Simon at Visions du Réel and at the Cinémathèque suisse

During the Festival, in addition to the Claire Simon's Masterclass presented in collaboration with ECAL Tuesday 17 April, six of her films will be presented. The documentary series *The Village* (2018, in the process of being finalised), evokes over ten 30-minute episodes the human and cinematographical adventure taking place in the village of Lussas, in the south of France. This singular work will be presented in two blocks of five episodes on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 April. Claire Simon will also be present in Lausanne on 18 April for the screenings of *Géographie humaine* and *Gare du Nord* (2013), as part of the retrospective devoted to her by the Cinémathèque suisse from 3 to 30 April, in collaboration with Visions du Réel.

- All of her films presented at the Festival: <https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/film-by-section/section/maitre-du-reel-claire-simon>
- Retrospective at the Cinémathèque suisse: <http://live.cinematheque.ch/editorial/1429-retrospective-claire-simon>
- Filmography and more information: <https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/festival/maitre-du-reel-2018>

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