



**visions
du réel**

50° FESTIVAL
INTERNATIONAL
DE CINÉMA NYON

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

www.visionsdureel.ch

PRESS RELEASE

12 April 2019, Nyon (Switzerland)

[EMBARGO 12 APRIL 20:45](#)

**An all-time attendance record for 50 years of
Visions du Réel
Sesterce d'or goes to *Heimat Is a Space in Time*
Audience Award goes to *Midnight Traveler***

The public flocked to Visions du Réel this year, with more than 45.000 admissions over the Festival's 9 days, which represent an augmentation of 12.5% compared to last year. "A figure that has never been achieved before" rejoiced Claude Ruey, outgoing President of the Festival. For her second year as Artistic Director, Emilie Bujès was right on target in inviting Werner Herzog as the Maître du Réel: his Masterclass was a highlight of this 50th edition and drew a crowd of professionals and inquisitive spectators to the Théâtre de Marenns. So did many sold out screenings during the week. The 50th edition of Visions du Réel drew to a close with a Sesterce d'or for the film *Heimat Is a Space in Time* by Thomas Heise, while the film *Midnight Traveler* by Hassan Fazili and Emelie Mahdavian won the Audience Award. At the end of the Closing Ceremony, the Festival paid tribute once again to President Claude Ruey who is standing down after 10 years at the head of the Festival.

Attendance and quality

"With record attendance by the public and professionals from all over the world, Visions du Réel has more than exceeded its objectives. This success is all the more gratifying as the quality of the films and the selection presented by Emilie Bujès was unanimously lauded," announced Claude Ruey, President of the Festival for his 10th and final year.

A resolutely joyful edition

For Emilie Bujès, Artistic Director of Visions du Réel, the 50th edition of Visions du Réel marked "a very special year, imbued with memories and embellished by the gracious presence of the former directors." Half a century of the Festival celebrated with dignity by the public and professionals, as noted by the Artistic Director who painted a portrait of a "resolutely joyful edition, focused on the present and the future of documentary filmmaking—and filmmaking itself—in very full theatres and in the Village du Réel." As for Executive President Claude Ruey, he was delighted with this success and insisted on the "essential role of sharing knowledge about the world, thoughts and emotions played by filmmaking. The vocation of filmmaking is to be a social and identity-based link in a world in upheaval." And he quoted Catherine Ann Berger, Director of Swiss Films: "a film only really exists when it has found an audience." The films selected for this 50th edition of Visions du Réel have undoubtedly found theirs.

Sesterce d'or to *Heimat Is a Space in Time*

A film that is both intimate and a portrait of a divided Germany, now gone, *Heimat Is a Space in Time* by Thomas Heise reflects on the notions of homeland and identity, as well as the transmission of a painful past to future generations. Through his own family history, Thomas Heise explores the intimate essence of 20th-century Germany. The film thus offers up a formidable manifesto against oblivion and occultation, supported by precise framing, a powerful voice-over and striking black-and-white imagery. The International Feature Film Competition Jury has decided to give the Sesterce d'or la Mobilière to *Heimat Is a Space in Time*.

www.visionsdureel.ch/en/2019/film/heimat-is-a-space-in-time

***Midnight Traveler* receives Audience Award**

An Afghan family is forced to flee from the Talibans after opening a cafe offering cultural activities. *Midnight Traveler* by Hassan Fazili and Emelie Mahdavian show their terrible Odyssey and the daily struggle that has become their existence. The film receives the Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon (Audience Award). www.visionsdureel.ch/en/2019/film/midnight-traveler

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Screening of the award winning films and highlights Saturday 13 April 2019 at the Grande Salle and La Colombière

10:30 – Film primé – Grande Salle

International Medium Length and Short Film Competition

Sesterce d'argent George Reinhart to the best medium length film

COMPANÍA by Miguel Hilari (61')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/compania

&

Sesterce d'argent Fondation Goblet to the best short film

AKABOUM by Manon Vila (30')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/akaboum

10:45 – Highlight 1 – Colombière

International Feature Film Competition

NORIE by Yuki Kawamura (80')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/norie

14:00 – Film primé – Grande Salle

Burning Lights International Competition

Sesterce d'or Canton de Vaud to the best medium length or feature film

THE HOUSE by Mali Arun (72')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/the-house

14:15 – Highlight 2 – Colombière

Grand Angle

WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE WORLD'S ON FIRE ? by Roberto Minervini (123')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/what-you-gonna-do-when-the-worlds-on-fire

16:00 – Film primé – Grande Salle

National Competition

Sesterce d'or SRG SSR to the best medium length or feature film

LOOKING FOR THE MAN WITH THE CAMERA by Boutheyna Bouslama (76')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/looking-for-the-man-with-the-camera

16:15 – Highlight 3 – Colombière

Latitudes

TRANSNISTRA by Anna Eborn (93')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/transnistra

18:00 – Film primé – Grande Salle

Grand Angle – Audience Award

Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon for the best feature film

MIDNIGHT TRAVELER by Hassan Fazili et Emelie Mahdavian (87')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/midnight-traveler

20:00 – Film primé – Grande Salle

International Feature Film Competition

Sesterce d'or la Mobilière to the best feature film

HEIMAT IS A SPACE IN TIME by Thomas Heise (218')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/heimat-is-a-space-in-time

20:30 – Film primé – Colombière

International Feature Film Competition

Prix du Jury Région de Nyon to the most innovative feature film

THAT WHICH DOES NOT KILL by Alexe Poukine (83')

www.visionsdureel.ch/2019/film/that-which-does-not-kill

PARTENAIRE PRINCIPAL

la Mobilière

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ROMANDE**