



Press release
10 March 2020, Nyon

Visions du Réel unveils the outlines of its programme

Visions du Réel, International Film Festival Nyon, which will take place from 24 April to 2 May 2020, is unveiling the outlines of its programme. This year, 167 films have been selected from 58 countries, including 90 world premieres. Half of these works have been directed by women. Visions du Réel will be paying tribute to Claire Denis, who will receive the Prix Raiffeisen Maître du Réel. The Ateliers will be dedicated to Brazilian director Petra Costa and Swiss-Canadian filmmaker Peter Mettler (full retrospectives and public masterclasses).



Amor Fati, Cláudia Varejão, International Feature Film Competition

Going beyond certain cinematographical features which appear year in year out, some editions are also marked by the predominance of countries which have not necessarily been represented as much in the past. In 2020, this mainly means China (with seven productions and co-productions of feature-length and short films), Iran (with six feature-length, medium-length and short films) and Mexico (with four productions or co-productions).

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A new era

2020 is a landmark year for the Festival, which celebrated its 50th year during its previous edition. The Visions du Réel team is continuing and reinventing its mission with the aim of bringing the Festival towards a permanent renewal, which also makes it able to reach even more a young audience.

Concerning the programme, Visions du Réel aims to offer the largest possible spectrum of forms and subjects, while maintaining artistic coherence: "Drawing threads in all directions and as far as possible to offer a state of contemporary non fiction filmmaking, as well as, inevitably, a state of the world" summarizes Émilie Bujès, Artistic Director of the event. Finally, outside its screening rooms, "Visions du Réel has always been a forum for debating ideas, for political debate, for discussion, agreement, disagreement. Once again this year, by welcoming the Brazilian filmmaker Petra Costa and dedicating the first retrospective to her work, we wish to reinforce how Visions du Réel is also a platform for freedom of expression," concludes its new President, Raymond Loretan.



Intimate Distances, Phillip Warnell, Burning Lights International Competition

International Feature Film Competition and Burning Lights International Competition

Fifteen and sixteen films are respectively presented in the two international feature length film competitions, which are the Festival's key sections. Out of 31 films, 28 will be screened as world premieres and three as international premieres. Moreover, over a third of these films are first features: an element that confirms the work and willingness of Visions du Réel in exploring the 3,000 or so submissions in search of new talents.

Strong Swiss presence within the Official Selection

With three films in the International Feature Film Competition, Swiss productions play an important part in the 2020 edition. Thomas Imbach, multi-award winning German-speaking Swiss director and producer (whose previous documentary had been presented at the Forum of the Berlinale), intertwines personal stories, the mutation of the city and accounts of prisoners awaiting deportation from Switzerland into his new opus, *Nemesis*. In *Il mio corpo*, Michele Pennetta (whose previous film had been launched at the Locarno Festival) reports on the meeting of two migrants in Sicily, like prisoners on an island. And in *Kombinat*, the French-speaking Swiss director Gabriel Tejedor produces a fresco that depicts the uncertain day-to-day of workers in one of the largest iron and steel factory in Russia. Each of these directors represents a specific linguistic region of Switzerland, thus offering up a panorama of the riches of national audio-visual creation. Finally, the Swiss, Portuguese and French co-production *Amor Fati* marks the return to Visions du Réel of Cláudia Varejão (*Ama-San*, VdR 2016) and questions the relationships between doubles, couples or even masters and animals in an emancipated and contemporary world.

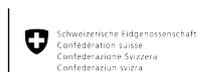
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In the Burning Lights International Competition, Daniel Kemény explores his memories of youth in *sòne*; by wandering around the Calabrian village of his childhood. In the Grand Angle competition Susanne Regina Meures will present her film, *Saudi Runaway*, already acclaimed by the public and critic, produced by Christian Frei. In this same competition, *Sing Me a Song*, directed by Thomas Balmès and produced by Close Up Films, captures the effects of new technologies on the young pupils of a Buddhist monastery in Bhutan.

In all, 33 Swiss productions or co-productions are presented in the different sections, confirming the fertility and creativity of Swiss documentary filmmaking, as well as the loyalty and attachment of the latter to Visions du Réel.

Grand Angle

Political conflicts, ecology, sexuality, identity and individuality are all among the contemporary themes evoked in the 13 films showing in the Grand Angle competition. A best-of-festivals of past and coming months, it includes four films spotted at the Sundance Festival, two films at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), two at the Berlinale, one at the Venice Film Festival, one at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), as well as one at the Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival (CPH:DOX). Finally, two of the films are presented as world premieres.



Wake Up on Mars, Dea Gjinovci, Compétition Nationale

Solidarity with cancelled festivals

In an uncertain situation, Visions du Réel has chosen to move forward towards the next edition with conviction, expressing strong solidarity with the festivals planned in the month of March that have been forced to cancel or reinvent their event.

With this in mind, an evening will be organized to welcome the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), with the presence of members of their team as well as the screening of one of the films from the Creative Documentary Competition which has been cancelled.

We are also in close contact with the competent authorities, and are unfortunately aware of the risk of cancellation of the Festival.

Press conference and full programme on 30 March 2020 at 10.00 am at the Cinémas Capitole in Nyon.

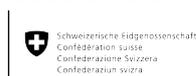
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Festival Trailer: <https://youtu.be/cW24CTht2vw>

Programme Preview: <https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en/festival/programme-preview>

More info: <https://www.visionsdureel.ch/festival/medias>

Contact

Caroline Stevens, Attachée de presse

cstevens@visionsdureel.ch

+41 79 759 95 11

+41 22 365 44 55

Beat Glur, Pressesprecher Deutschschweiz

bglur@visionsdureel.ch

+41 79 333 65 10

Gloria Zerbinati, International Press Officer

gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com

+33 7 86 80 02 82

51st edition of Visions du Réel: 24 April—2 May 2020

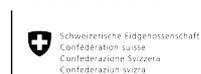
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