



Press Release
3 November 2020, Nyon

Visions du Réel introduces the new members of the 2021 team

For its 52nd edition, from 15 to 25 April 2021, the International Film Festival Nyon welcomes new members to the Selection Committee, restructures the international network and reshapes its Industry section.

"Behind us lies the equally successful and innovative online edition 2020, and ahead of us a festival edition in 2021 full of new challenges. We are preparing for this with new additions to our artistic team and the industry section. I am happy and proud to introduce new staff members who are as experienced as they are cosmopolitan. They complement an already very strong team and enable us to continue to develop the Festival," explains Emilie Bujès, Artistic Director of Visions du Réel.

In the Selection Committee, producer and programmer **Violeta Bava** (Argentina), programmer **Javier Martín** (Spain/France) and Swiss programmer **Alice Riva** join **Emmanuel Chicon** (France), who has been working in the film Selection Committee since 2010, and **Rebecca De Pas** (Italy/France/Czech Republic), who has been a member of the committee since 2019. The Selection Committee is in charge of choosing short, medium-length and feature-length films for the competitions and for the other festival sections. It is chaired by Emilie Bujès, who notes that film and project submissions are currently in full swing: "Despite the pandemic, we are currently seeing more film submissions than last year. This is very good news".

To further enhance the festival network, Visions du Réel has hired new international correspondents. **Bruni Burres** (USA) will become programme consultant for North America, **Ellie JO** (South Korea) for Asia and **Hicham Falah** (Morocco) for the African continent. Together with **Marina Drozdova** (Russia), who has already been representing Visions du Réel in the Russian-speaking regions for many years, they will further anchor the festival in their respective world regions.

After many years of ground-breaking and highly successful management of the Industry department of Visions du Réel, **Gudula Meinzolt** has decided to hand over these tasks and dedicate more time to her work as a producer. **Madeline Robert**, who was a member of the festival's Selection Committee from 2015 to 2020, succeeds her as Head of Industry, while Gudula Meinzolt will continue to accompany the festival as a Special Advisor.

The new Selection Committee



The Selection Committee of Visions du Réel's 52nd edition: Violeta Bava, Emmanuel Chicon, Rebecca De Pas, Javier Martín, Alice Riva

Violeta Bava has worked at Visions du Réel's Industry division since 2018 and continues her collaboration with the festival as a new member of the Selection Committee. The Argentinian producer worked at the Buenos Aires International Film Festival (BAFICI) for 20 years, both as a programmer and as Co-Director of the Buenos Aires Lab (BAL). She is founder of Ruda Cine, which has produced films by Milagros Mumenthaler, Martín Rejtman, Dominga Sotomayor, and Eduardo Williams. Violeta Bava is the Latin American Consultant for the Venice International Film Festival and the Venice Market; currently she is also Head of Studies at the Torino FeatureLab, International Guest Curator at the New Zealand International Film Festival, Programmer of International Film Festival & Awards Macao and programme advisor at New York Film Festival.

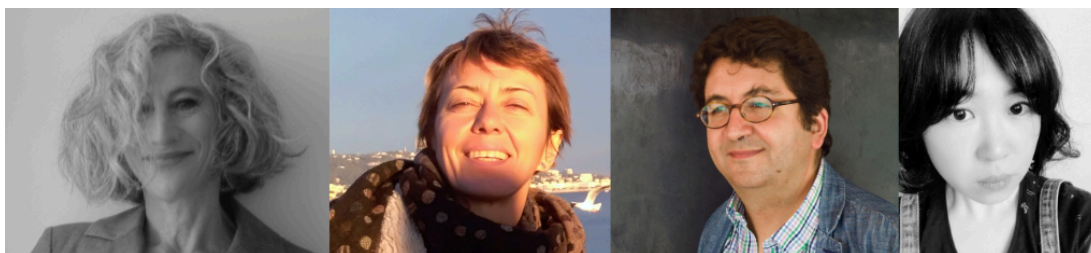
A member of Visions du Réel's Selection Committee since 2009, **Emmanuel Chicon** has been a journalist, a documentary film critic at L'Humanité and has produced around twenty radio documentaries for France Culture, RFI and RTBF. A regular contributor to the Cinéma/Cinéma du réel department at HEAD-Genève in the field of sound composition, he is also actively part of the Tours-based filmmakers' collective Sans Canal Fixe and La Fabrique documentaire in Paris.

After graduating with a dissertation on "Eurimages and the New European Cinema" and her initiation to the festival circuit at the Cineteca di Bologna, **Rebecca De Pas** joined FID Marseille, where she served for 11 years as programmer as well as co-head of the FID Lab, the international co-production platform. Currently serving as programme advisor for the Viennale and as a member of the Selection Committee of Berlinale Talents, she has been mentor for the Feature Expanded Training Program, artistic director of the Journées Cinématographiques Dionysiennes, manager of the training programme Ex Oriente Film, she collaborated in the programming of La Roche sur Yon International Film Festival, and has been a matchmaker for the Orizzonti section of the Venice International Film Festival, the Riviera Maya Film Festival in Mexico and the Environmental Film Festival of Paris.

Javier Martín (Spain/France) worked as a programmer with the Forum des Images in Paris from 2002 to 2019. He has combined this role with his work for a number of festivals, including Cannes (Directors' Fortnight), the Berlinale and Cinéma du Réel. He is currently a member of the San Sebastián Festival Selection Committee and is the Festival's delegate for Latin America. He is also a project assessor for the Co-production Forum and the Ikusmira Berriak residency programme, co-organised by the Festival and Tabakalera, the International Centre for Contemporary Culture in San Sebastián.

Alice Riva was the co-programmer and co-exhibitor of Cinéma Spoutnik in Geneva from 2015 to 2019. In 2018 she worked in the Locarno Pro department (Industry Office) of the Locarno Film Festival. In 2019, she took up a teaching post in the Cinema Department of her alma mater, the University of Art and Design (HEAD) in Geneva. Alice has also worked on several films, including *Cemetery of Splendour* by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, where she was a behind-the-scenes assistant.

A strengthened international network



Bruni Burres, Marina Drozdova, Hicham Falah, Ellie JO will serve as international correspondants 2021

Bruni Burres (USA) will become programme consultant for North America, Ellie JO (South Korea) for Asia and Hicham Falah (Morocco) for the African continent. Together with Marina Drozdova (Russia), who has already been representing Visions du Réel in the Russian-speaking regions for many years, they will further anchor the festival in their respective world regions.

For over 25 years, **Bruni Burres** has been developing and executing innovative projects at the intersection of arts, culture and human rights/social justice. She is a Senior Consultant for Sundance Institute's Documentary Film Program, a mentor and partner with the Close-Up Documentary Training programme for emerging Middle Eastern and North African filmmakers, and an advisor with Doc Society's Good Pitch. From 1991 to 2008, Bruni was the director of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, which she also co-founded. Bruni is the co-writer and associate producer of *Beyond My Grandfather Allende*, which won best documentary at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, and co-writer and producer of *Whose Country?* by Mohamed Siam. In 2018, she was consultant producer on 5 cinematic short films that produced by Netflix.

A graduate from Moscow University, **Marina Drozdova** is a film critic, film archive researcher, and the author, director and producer of historical documentaries. Her artistic activity includes contributions to more than fifty documentaries about human events and cinema innovations of the past century. She is also the author of a literature series of five experimental novels, in which the history of cinema constitutes the main plot. She is a member of the Selection Committee at Flahertiana International Film Festival (Perm, Russia) and a FIPRESCI (international federation of film critics) member.

Hicham Falah is a director and cinematographer who graduated from the Louis Lumière school in Paris. After two short fiction films, *L'Attention* (France) and *Balcon Atlantico* (Morocco), he co-wrote the feature film *Le Temps des camarades* (Morocco) and about thirty documentaries for various thematic channels. In addition to his writing, training and production activities, he collaborates with various cultural and cinematographic events in France and Morocco. Since 2008, he is the artistic director of the International Women's Film Festival of Salé and since 2012, the director of the International Documentary Film Festival of Agadir and its training programmes and artistic support for emerging Moroccan and African filmmakers: the Documentary Beehive of FIDADOC, its pan-African writing residency, and the workshop Produire au sud Agadir, organized in partnership with the Festival des 3 continents (Nantes). In 2018/2019, he designed and implemented Sisters in Film – MENA, an empowerment programme dedicated to women filmmakers in the MENA region within the framework of MedFilm (a UNESCO regional programme co-financed by the European Union). Since 2019, he has been the artistic coordinator of SENTOO, a pan-African programme that supports film creation and South-South co-productions, initiated and piloted by the Film Centres of several North and West African countries.

Ellie JO is the Executive Producer at the DMZ International Documentary Film Festival (aka. DMZ Docs). Over the past 15 years, her career has focused on independent and documentary films in various fields such as production, international sales, distribution, film events, publications and the practice of translation. She has worked for the Busan International Film Festival, and as a project manager for both the Asian Cinema Fund and Asian Project Market, where she fostered and supported up-and-coming filmmakers in Asia. She also served as executive producer, co-curating and managing the whole production of KBS Busan's special documentary series *Power of Asian Cinema* (10 episodes). In 2019, she joined the DMZ Docs as one of the programme committee members and created the all-round industry hub for documentary filmmakers – DMZ INDUSTRY. Jo is currently working on another leap forward in DMZ Docs with the official launch of Good Pitch Korea.

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Industry 2021



Madeline Robert, Gudula Meinzolt

After many years of ground-breaking and highly successful management of the Industry division of Visions du Réel, Gudula Meinzolt has decided to hand over these tasks and dedicate more time to her work as a producer. Madeline Robert, who was a member of the festival's Selection Committee from 2015 to 2020, succeeds her as Head of Industry, while Gudula Meinzolt will continue to accompany the festival as a Special Advisor.

Madeline Robert has been working for the Festival since 2015, as a member of the Selection Committee and special advisor to the Artistic Director. In 2012, she takes part in founding the Doc Corner, a space dedicated to documentary films within the Cannes Festival Film Market. She has also been Head of Africadoc for several years, a programme enhancing the development of creative documentaries on the African continent. In parallel, she has been an active producer with her company Les Films de la Caravane, recently co-producing Claire Simon's documentary series *The Village* (20 episodes) and her latest feature-length film *The Grocer's Son, the Mayor, the Village and the World* (IDFA 2020).

She is involved in the France-based SVOD platform Tënk since its creation, is consultant for the Venice Critic's Week and is a member of the CNC (French cinema institute) commission for the audiovisual support fund.

Alongside Madeline Robert and Gudula Meinzolt, **Violeta Bava** returns to her role as a Consultant to the Industry and **Jasmin Basic**, coordinator of the HEAD/ECAL Master's in Cinema and producer, continues her work as Consultant and Member of the project Selection Committee.

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52nd edition of Visions du Réel: 15 to 25 April 2021

The organisers are preparing a festival that will celebrate non fiction film in all its forms, while ensuring the safety of the audience, guests and the Visions du Réel team.