



Press release
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Visions du Réel's 2021 Talks

The 52nd edition of Visions du Réel invites various personalities from the film world to meet and exchange ideas on contemporary issues. Discussions will take place on themes such as the practice of non-fiction, the different artistic approaches to it and the role of film festivals in the changing market strategies of the film industry. Always revolving around the latest burning questions in the field, the talks represent a crucial moment of confrontation and interaction, an opportunity to lay everything on the table and unfold the most urgent topics. All talks will be broadcast on the [Festival's online forum](#) and will be free to access.

This year's talks will host a wide range of guests, including Tabitha Jackson (Artistic Director of the Sundance Film Festival), Carlo Chatrian (Artistic Director of the Berlinale), Hédi Zardi (CEO of the production and sales company Luxbox), Jason Ishikawa (Senior Executive at Cinetic Media), filmmakers Sébastien Lifshitz, Vitaly Mansky, Avi Mograbi and Gaston Solnicki, producers Myriam Sassine (About Productions), Eugenia Mumenthaler and David Epiney (Alina Films) or Orwa Nyrabia (Artistic Director of IDFA and producer). In order to strengthen the ties between the Swiss and international filmmakers and the public, the Festival is also offering a new series of online discussions. Conceived to reflect the eclectic 2021 line-up and moderated by international critics, the meetings invite the audience to delve into the heart of the forms and writings that the films in the Official Selection have to offer.

Festival Talk 1: Rites and Beliefs

Saturday 17 April, 2pm

After being mainly confined to ethnographic cinema for a long time, the recording of rituals and their survival continues to challenge people's ability to give meaning to traditions that seem to be acts of low-level resistance to the augmented reality of the contemporary world.

Moderated by Kaleem Aftab

With the filmmakers of the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition:

Krystsina Savutsina, for *Khan's Flesh*

Brandán Cerviño, for *The Communion of My Cousin Andrea*

Moona Pennanen, for *Land That Rises and Descends*

Ico Costa, for *Timkat*

Maria Semenova, for *The City of the Sun*

Prantik Basu, for *Bela*

Felice D'Agostino, Gaetano Crivaro and Margherita Pisano, for *Rondò Final*

Festival Talk 2: From Real Places to Imaginary Spaces*Sunday 18 April, 1.30pm*

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes" (Marcel Proust). There are many philosophies that determine how to appreciate space and film a landscape. And the camera is just a way to load it with meanings, symbols and desires.

Moderated by Jordan Cronk

With the filmmakers of the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition:

Hee Yung Pyun and Oscar Zhang, for *If You See Her, Say Hello*

Amélie Bargetzi, for *Là où nous sommes*

Kyle Davis, for *Dry Winter*

Monica Martins Nunes, for *Sortes*

Hirofumi Nakamoto and Nao Yoshigai, for *Night Snorkeling*

Industry Talk 1: Filmmaking and Resistance*Sunday 18 April, 7pm*

Two masters of non-fiction filmmaking meet and discuss in this panel session. One of them is working and living in the very country he questions, the other one is forced to live in exile because of his positions and films. A conversation with two filmmakers in resistance.

Moderated by Orwa Nyrabia, Artistic Director IDFA (The Netherlands) and Producer

Speakers:

Vitaly Mansky, Film Director

Avi Mograbi, Film Director

Festival Talk 3: Body-to-body*Monday 19 April, 2pm*

How can we represent bodies that are subject to violence, diminished, attacked, constrained, domesticated or erased? What can a body tell us about the personal being and their story?

Moderated by a member of Visions du Réel's selection committee

With the filmmakers of the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition:

Adrian Paci, for *Vedo Rosso*

Allison Chhorn, for *Blind Body*

Suyu Lee, for *Trees in Summer*

Jessie Zinn, for *Wavelengths*

Toby Bull, for *Some Kind of Intimacy*

Pierre Schlessler, for *L'Huile et le Fer*

Teboho Edkins, for *The Orphanage*

Industry Talk 2: Film Festivals, Distribution and Strategy – One Year Later*Monday 19 April, 5.30pm*

In light of the reflections we initiated last year on the different alternatives that festivals have chosen to undertake under corona-times (namely festivals going online, cancellations, and postponements), we aim this year to gather some prestigious festival representatives alongside further industry players to consider what happened in the past 12 months, what kind of decisions were made, and which effects they had. The Festival Directors of major festivals of the beginning of 2021 – i.e. Sundance Film Festival and the Berlinale – will meet with important sales and distribution representatives in order to understand the role of festivals in today's market strategies.

Moderated by Finn Halligan, Screendaily

Speakers:

Carlo Chatrian, Artistic Director, Berlinale, Germany

Tabitha Jackson, Artistic Director, Sundance Film Festival, USA

Jason Ishikawa, Senior Executive, Cinetic Media, USA
Hédi Zardi, CEO, Luxbox, France

Festival Talk 4: The Filmmaker and his/her Model(s)

Wednesday 21 April, 1.30pm

As a ceaselessly ploughed furrow, documentary portraits look for faces and bodies, captured in interaction with an environment. The filmmakers who practice this art want to record the truth they perceive behind appearances of the Other within the precise, temporary and always precarious framework of the relationship between the filmmaker and the filmed one.

Moderated by Bert Rebhandl

With the filmmakers of the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition:

Andrés Guerberoff, for *Borom Taxi*

Helga Rakel Rafnsdóttir, for *Spare Parts*

Anton Bialas, for *Groupe Merle Noir*

Alejandro Alonso, for *Abyssal*

Isabel Vaca, for *Becoming*

Industry Talk 3: Filmmakers and Producers at Work

Wednesday 21 April, 6pm

A panel focused on the situation that filmmakers are facing now and might have to deal with in the near future. The discussion will be specifically focused on the working and shooting conditions, the changes and adjustments needed. How can filmmakers adapt (or not) to new realities? Filmmakers, directors and producers are exchanging on these topics.

Moderated by Francesco Giai Via, Programme Advisor Venice International Film Festival, Italy

Speakers:

David Epiney & Eugenia Mumenthaler, Producers, Alina Films, Switzerland

Sébastien Lifshitz Film Director, France

Myriam Sassine, Producer, About Productions, Lebanon

Gaston Solnicki, Film Director, Argentina

Panel: What role for film festivals in Switzerland

Thursday 22 April, 10am

The tenth anniversary of the Conférence des Festivals, an association that brings together 16 film festivals in Switzerland, provides the opportunity to reaffirm the role(s) of film festivals: creators of new audiences, drivers of the local economy, or even guarantors of the diversity of the Swiss and international film landscape.

Moderated by Pascaline Sordet, Co-editor-in-chief, Cinébulletin

Speakers:

Emilie Bujès, Artistic Director, Visions du Réel

Philippe Clivaz, Operations Director, FIFF

Giona A. Nazzaro, Artistic Director, Locarno Film Festival

Britta Rindelaub, Producer, Alvafilm

Festival Talk 5: Assumptions, Surveys and Speculation

Friday 23 April, 2pm

The documentary gesture sometimes moves away from the codes, takes freedoms with the sacrosanct reality, or on the contrary, brings it back into play, if it has only been glimpsed in the perpetual flow of information. How do we speculate with the real, whether we are filming the invisible, distorting archives, making a futuristic fable or going back in time?

Moderated by a member of Visions du Réel's selection committee

With the filmmakers of the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition:

Isabelle Prim, for *Condition d'élévation*
Jan Ijäs, for *Belgrade Forest Incident...and What Happened to Mr. K?*
Gerard Ortín Castellvi, for *Future Foods*
León Siminiani, for *Stillness Syndrome*
Martin Putz, for *Wind*

Festival Talk 6: The Urgency of Constraint

Friday 23 April, 5.45pm

The act of filming is an exercise of freedom. What happens when it encounters a political or social order maintained by force? How do filmmakers confront constraints that might impede the development of their cinematic language?

Moderated by a member of Visions du Réel's selection committee

With the filmmakers of the International Medium Length & Short Film Competition:

Yeon Park, for *Homegoing*
Andrea Schramm, for *27 Steps*
Fabrice Aragno, for *Parenthèse*
Agustina Wetzel, for *Outside the Coverage Area*
Nikita Yefimov, for *Strict Regime*
Weijia Ma, for *My Quarantine Bear*

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