



Press release

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## ***Fire of Love* will open the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of Visions du Réel**

***Fire of Love*, filmmaker Sara Dosa's epic and spectacular portrait of the volcanologists Katia and Maurice Krafft, will kick off this year's edition on Thursday 7 April. The American-Canadian feature will be presented in Swiss premiere. Following two respectively digital and hybrid editions, the Festival team is thrilled to return to cinemas, while also providing an online selection of the official program and the masterclasses. The President of the Swiss Confederation, Ignazio Cassis, Member of the Cantonal Council of Vaud, Cesla Amarelle, and Mayor of Nyon, Daniel Rosselat, will be among the speakers of the opening ceremony.**



### **A film of adventure and love**

*Fire of Love* tells the extraordinary love story of Katia and Maurice Krafft, the two intrepid French scientists who died in a volcanic explosion doing the very thing that brought them together: seeking to understand the mystery of volcanoes by capturing the most spectacular imagery ever recorded. Director Sara Dosa affectionately and playfully interprets the Kraffts' story and images they left behind. Associating them with animations, book excerpts, media appearances and the narrating voice of artist-filmmaker Miranda July, she embarks on a collaged archival exploration. Visions du Réel thus opens with an astounding film of adventure and love, revolving around the themes of time, the implacable unknown and the meaning of human existence amid the vastness of our planet's most awesome force.

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## A shimmering festival

While the film made a splash at the Sundance Festival's online edition this year, Visions du Réel will present this epic work on the big screen. "It is a pleasure to open the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of Visions du Réel with a film that sends out such a strong signal. Indeed, we are working on a shimmering and sparkling festival, with a line-up that encompasses human existences and forms that are in tune with our audience's expectations," declares Emilie Bujès, Artistic Director of Visions du Réel, before adding: "Following two online and hybrid editions, we wish to reassert the Festival as a space of cinematographic discovery, encounters and discussions, where the films are introduced in theatres and in the presence of the filmmakers. However, after two pioneering digital years, we will also uphold the hard-won positive aspects and will provide an online selection of films from the programming, as well as the masterclasses, while offering professionals the possibility to participate in certain activities remotely."

## Sara Dosa, independent director and producer

*Fire of Love* will be presented in the presence of the director. Sara Dosa is an Independent Spirit Award-nominated doc director and Peabody award-winning producer whose interests lay in telling unexpected character-driven stories about ecology, economy and community. Her first feature as director *The Last Season* won a Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival in 2014, and was nominated for the Truer than Fiction Award at the Independent Spirit Awards. Dosa co-directed an Emmy Award-nominated episode, about Johnny Cash's concert for Richard Nixon in 1970, for the Netflix musical documentary series *Remastered*. Her third feature-length film as a director, *The Seer & The Unseen* (2019), picked up awards at many festivals. She produced *Audrie & Daisy* (2016 Sundance/Netflix Originals), which won a Peabody Award, and *Survivors* (2018 IDFA/POV), which was nominated for the Peabody and Emmy Awards. The director also co-produced the Oscar-nominated film *The Edge of Democracy* (2019 Sundance/Netflix Originals) by Petra Costa (to whom an Atelier was dedicated at Visions du Réel in 2020), as well as *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power* (2017 Sundance / Paramount) by Al Gore. In 2018, DOC NYC named Sara Dosa to the inaugural class of "40 under 40" documentary directors, and she joined the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University and holds a Master's degree in Anthropology and International Development Economics from the London School of Economics. Today, Sara Dosa lives and works in San Francisco.

The full programme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of Visions du Réel will be announced during the press conference on 15 March 2022.

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