



Press release

Nyon, 16 April 2022

Tizian Büchi's L'Îlot wins Visions du Réel's Grand Prix 2022

With *L'Îlot* by Lausanne director Tizian Büchi, the jury of the International Feature Film Competition has awarded a first feature that oscillates between magical realism and the portrait of a community. A Long Journey Home, Chinese filmmaker Wenqian Zhang's first feature, was awarded the Jury Prize of the Burning Lights competition. The Swiss-Japanese filmmaker Julie Sando wins the Jury Prize in the National Competition as well as the Zonta Prize for her school film Fuku Nashi. The Audience Award goes to Fire of Love by Sara Dosa. According to an early estimate, the Festival will close with approximately the same audience it attracted for its last physical edition held in Nyon in 2019, and will further expand its reach through its online offer. The Festival runs on site until Easter Sunday, 17 April, and online until Easter Monday, 18 April.



"We made the bet to reinvent the festival, and we won – thanks to a very strong return to face-to-face events and an increased virtual dimension acquired during the pandemic," said Festival president Raymond Loretan, for whom the Visions du Réel team "has transformed a crisis into an opportunity in an exemplary manner". He added: "This 53rd edition is already historic, as it demonstrates that Visions du Réel is both a festival of direct encounters and a strong digital platform at the service of a diversified and globalized film culture. I would like to thank all our partners, both institutional and private, all the filmmakers and our dear public for having placed their trust in us. My gratitude goes above all to the Visions du Réel team under the leadership of its two directors, who have shown admirable tenacity and agility."

A diversified artistic record

With Tizian Büchi's *L'Îlot*, it is the first time since 2013 that a Swiss film has won the Grand Prix of Visions du Réel. Set in Lausanne, this first feature film seduced the jury with its "brilliant observation that rewrites the coordinates of geographical spaces in universal terms". Emilie Bujès, artistic director of Visions du Réel, is pleased with the artistic results: "This year's list of winners includes seven first features. New voices rub shoulders with the films of established filmmakers and engage in a dialogue with the works of our guests Marco Bellocchio, Kirsten Johnson and Hassen Ferhani. We are particularly pleased that the diversity of film genres, generations, approaches and geographies that guide us have been rewarded and welcomed by the public and the juries."

Admission numbers are comparable to 2019

The Festival runs in cinemas until Sunday evening and online until Monday. According to a first estimate, the attendance is comparable to that of 2019, i.e. around 45,000 admissions. These are divided between the general public, the 2,100 accredited professionals, the 2,600 children and teenagers at the school screenings and the participants of the cultural mediation activities, in particular the new offers for blind and visually impaired people.

An enhanced national and international impact through the online platform

Thanks to the livestreams of the public master classes and online talks that are accessible worldwide, the digital film market catalogue that is also accessible worldwide for professionals, and the online subscription that is open to the whole of Switzerland and offers some sixty films from the current programme, Visions du Réel has been able to continue to extend its national and international reach. Subscriptions for the online offer at the price of CHF 25 are still valid until Monday 18 April. The final data will be communicated as soon as all the festival's digital platforms, specific to professionals and the public, will have closed their doors.

The 54th edition of Visions du Réel will take place from 21 to 30 April 2023.

Prize list of Visions du Réel 2022

International Feature Film Competition

Jury:

Jessica Beshir, Filmmaker (Mexico, Ethiopia, USA)

Beatrice Fiorentino, General Delegate Venice Settimana Internazionale della Critica (Italy)

Jovan Marjanović, Director of the Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Grand Jury Prize offered by la Mobilière


CHF 20 000

***L'Îlot* by Tizian Büchi**

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ROMANDE**

A small urban island becomes the metaphor of contemporary Europe and lends itself to a deep, and still full of humor, reflection about the absurdity of borders, rules, fences and barriers. A brilliant observation, a surprising wondering, that rewrites the coordinates of geographical spaces in universal terms. The Grand Jury Prize goes to L'Ilot.

Special Jury Award offered by Région de Nyon

CHF 10 000

Bitterbrush, by Emelie Mahdavian

For its cinematically triumphant, raw yet tender portrayal of women nomadic existence in this rewrite of the classic western genre, the Jury has decided to award the Special Jury Prize to Bitterbrush.

Special Mention

How to Save a Dead Friend by Marusya Syroechkovskaya

For the punk rock attitude it took on when skilfully piecing together a story of another lost generation in Russia the Jury Special Mention goes to How to Save a Dead Friend.

Burning Lights Competition

Jury:

Gema Juárez Allen, Producer (Argentina)

Chiara Marañón, Senior Director of Programming at MUBI (Spain)

Cyril Schäublin, Filmmaker (Switzerland)

Jury Prize in the Burning Lights Competition offered by Canton de Vaud

CHF 10 000

A Long Journey Home by Wenqian Zhang

With an equally tender and formally bare approach, the film humbly draws our attention to the intimacy of a household. With precise cinematic decisions, domestic situations unfold before the camera weaving together a family portrait of strong emotional resonance, that raises important questions about the ties that bind us, as it bridges an intergenerational gap in contemporary China, and beyond.

Special Jury Award offered by la Société des Hôteliers de la Côte

CHF 5 000

Herbaria by Leandro Listorti

A film of extraordinary lucidity, that brings together two universes—plants and cinema—in a revelatory game of analogies. Taking the time to explore the multi-layered nature of preservation, the film finds unsuspected warmth in scientific and methodical processes, rendered visible in an act of poetic justice. An enlightening invitation to reflect on permanence and transformation, and ultimately a film that feels like a gift.

Special Mention

Europe by Philip Scheffner

For dealing with the subject of immigration in a novel way and with a great sense of humanity while showing that silence and the out of frame are remarkable tools to discuss the fiction of borders.

National Competition

Jury:

Katy Léna Ndiaye, Filmmaker (Senegal)

Martin Horyna, Programmer at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (Czech Republic)
Olivier Zobrist, Producer (Switzerland)

Jury Prize in the National Competition offered by SRG SSR

CHF 15 000*

*of which CHF 2 500 for the acquisition of online rights to the film

Fuku Nashi by Julie Sando

A mysterious visit, a fleeting encounter of two lonesome human beings. A search for the right question, to which the desired answer may never come. A film in which you must get lost, only to later find yourself in its deeper levels. For its strongest cinematic proposal, we would like to give our Jury Prize in the National Competition to Fuku Nashi by Julie Sando.

Special Jury Award in the National Competition for a feature film directed by a filmmaker of Swiss nationality or resident in Switzerland offered by SSA/Suissimage

CHF 10 000

Le Film de mon père by Jules Guarneri

The jury awards an intimate portrait of a family whose members live close to each other and yet seem far apart. The filmmaker succeeds in making an honest and entertaining film that tells of house spirits and control freaks, of searching for and cutting one's roots, and at the same time asks the question: What does family mean? The Special Jury Award offered by SSA/Suissimage goes to "Le Film de mon père" by Jules Guarneri.

International Medium Length and Short Film Competition

Jury:

Ivana Kvesić, Director of Fantoche (Switzerland)
Nelson Makengo, Filmmaker (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Justin Pechberty, Producer (France)

Jury Prize for the best Medium Length Film offered by Clinique de Genolier

CHF 6 000

Without by Luka Papić

When a simple search for a missing dog gives rise to a jewel of minimalist formal mastery. Thanks to Luka Papić's imagination and mild madness, a fascinating and detestable character becomes the hero of a modern absurd comedy. A wildly audacious film that wonderfully captures a political and social reality in the Balkan region.

Jury Prize for the best Short Film offered by la Fondation Goblet

CHF 5 000

Aralkum by Daniel Asadi Faezi & Mila Zhluktenko

The short film prize goes to a film that opens a door on a landscape swept by human excess. A poetic, political and aesthetic work where words and archives give birth to a sensorial experience on disappearance, loss, memory, oblivion, absence. An unexpected and masterful cinematographic gesture that questions our humanity.

Special Mention

Jaime by Francisco Javier Rodriguez

By embodying a schizophrenic character's voice, he offers a precise, awkward, fascinating, capturing and outstanding performance that fulfills the director's vision. The special mention goes to the actor Guy Dessent from the film Jaime by Francisco Javier Rodriguez.

Youth Jury Prize

Youth Jury:

Rebecca Haldimann

Quentin Caillet

Nolan Grando

Zoé Eschmann

Luca Panchard

Natalia Vonlanthen

Special Youth Jury Award for a Medium Length Film

CHF 4 000

Churchill, Polar Bear Town by Annabelle Amoros

We decided to award the medium-length film prize to a "chilling" film. It is a film that highlights - even in a blizzard - in an ambivalent, subtle and self-critical way current issues, telling with formal power, playing on absence, some absurd and sometimes heartbreaking inconsistencies and contradictions of our world. The Youth Jury Prize for the medium-length film is awarded to Churchill, Polar Bear Town by Annabelle Amoros.

Special Youth Jury Award for the best Short Film offered by Mémoire Vive

CHF 2 500

Marianne by Rebecca Ressler & Lara Porzak

For this film that took us from laughter to tears, that surprised us at every point, that tried to make us "see beyond appearances", that deeply moved us in an authentic and daring proximity to its subject, oscillating between violence and love without ever making a decision, we have chosen to award the short film prize to Marianne by Lara Porzak and Rebecca Ressler.

Audience Award

Audience Award in the Grand Angle Competition offered by Ville de Nyon

CHF 10 000

Fire of Love by Sara Dosa

Interreligious Award

Jury:

André Joly, (Switzerland)

Noëmi Gradwohl, (Switzerland)

Ali Biçer, (Switzerland)

Blanca Steinmann, (Switzerland)

CHF 5000

Ma vie en papier by Vida Dena

Vida Dena's Ma vie de papier offers glimpses of her director's benevolence away from her characters, whom she loves dearly. Based on drawings made by each member of the family, the scenes reveal those parts of dreams confronted with the realities that the protagonists must face. Vida Dena unfolds with attention and tenderness the problems specific to the refugee: shaken identities, sometimes difficult integrations, but also

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those energies that make one dream and that designate life stronger than anything else. Tense between past and future, life and dreams, roots and identity, this original film gives pride of place to the drawings that each of them makes and which are integrated into an original and poetic animation.

Zonta Award

Prize for a female filmmaker whose work reveals mastery and talent and calls for support for future creations.

Jury:

Marion Blöchliger, (Switzerland)

Palmyre Badinier, Producer (Switzerland)

Loïc Valceschini, Programmer at NIFF (Switzerland)

CHF 5000

Fuku Nashi by Julie Sando

In the course of the film, the quest for identity, conducted with finesse and determination, forms the framework of a burgeoning cinema. Between modesty and perseverance, the director has managed to stand up to a certain cultural heritage in order to unfold her territory as a filmmaker. Our choice for the Zonta Prize was therefore Julie Sando's film Fuku Nashi.

International Critics' Award – FIPRESCI Award

First feature film presented in the International Feature Film Competition or the Burning Lights Competition.

Jury:

Massimo Lechi film and theatre critic (Italy)

Cristina Trezzini, film critic and producer (Switzerland)

Inge Coolsaet translator and film critic (Belgium)

Steel Life by Manuel Bauer

For the original and masterfully crafted cinematic depiction of contemporary Peru within a subtle and thought-provoking critique of the social injustices of the capitalist system.

Perception Change Award

Prize awarded to a film that sheds light on the current issues that will define the world of tomorrow. Offered by the Director General of the Geneva UN with the support of the Diplomatic Club

Jury:

Aziyadé Poltier-Mutal

Francois Vioud

Rhéal Leblanc

CHF 5 000


Children of the Mist, by Hà Lê Diễm

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