



Press release

9 March 2023, Nyon

VdR-Industry unveils a 2023 selection that showcases newcomers and reunites with filmmakers close to the Festival

Visions du Réel is delighted to unveil the projects selected as part of the three leading activities of VdR-Industry, the festival's interface for professionals: VdR-Pitching, VdR-Work in Progress and VdR-Rough Cut Lab. Aimed at filmmakers and producers, this platform is a springboard for audiovisual creation, offering support at every stage of production, concrete financing and distribution opportunities, as well as an inspiring and productive networking hub for the industry. VdR-Industry is now under the direction of Sophie Bourdon and will take place from 23 to 27 April, nestled at the heart of the Festival.

"I am delighted to reveal VdR-Industry's class of 2023. This edition clearly builds on the achievements of my predecessor, who expanded the Festival's professional services significantly, as well as its reputation," says Sophie Bourdon, new Head of VdR-Industry's. "My main objective is to consolidate the programme's cross-cutting approach, its hybrid format – which was initially a result of the pandemic – while enhancing our services with new proposals, such as the recently extended VdR-Development Lab."

With more than 400 submissions for all the programmes, "it is clear that Visions du Réel is the first choice for filmmakers looking for financing, collaboration and distribution opportunities, and that independent production is in strong creative vibrations" says Sophie Bourdon. "We are particularly pleased to notice two positive shifts in the profiles that make up the 2023 selection. One is the return of many filmmakers selected as part of a previous Festival edition, making up around 25% of selected projects (including Francesca Mazzoleni, Ezequiel Yanco and Laila Pakalnina). The other is that, excitingly, we're seeing plenty of debut films, which make up nearly 30% of the titles. This underlines the enduring relationship between the Festival and filmmakers such as Swiss-Canadian master Peter Mettler, as well as our positioning among the next generation. We will end the VdR-Industry days by focusing on meeting the young talent."

32 countries are represented in a selection of 31 projects, divided across VdR-Industry's four core activities (details below). "This selection presents an exciting panorama of the latest documentary-making practices. It is also a unique space for young talent to develop and talk to experienced filmmakers." The Festival's professional services offer long-term support, providing guidance from the development phase to post-production. One example is the journey of Burmese filmmaker Sein Lyan Tun, who took part in the VdR-Development Lab last year, and who will participate in the VdR-Pitching this year. Visions du Réel supports filmmakers throughout the genesis of their film, giving us an incredible and humbling show of trust."

VdR-Industry 2023 in figures

- Projects submitted across all programmes: +400
- Projects selected: 31
- Countries represented in the selection: 32
- Number of debut films: 11

VdR-Pitching 2023

VdR-Pitching is an international co-production and financing forum that highlights a selection of feature films to a series of decision-makers. These projects, which are ready to go into production, combine artistic ambition with international potential. A total of 15 projects take part in VdR-Pitching.

Arctic Link by **Ian Purnell**

Production: Franziska Sonder (Ensemble Film GmbH)
Switzerland

Cat on my Mind by **Laila Pakalniņa**

Production: Laila Pakalniņa (Hargla Company)
Latvia

FAITH by **Mo Scarpelli**

Production: Mo Scarpelli (Rake Films), Lilian Koskei
United States, Italy, Kenya

Flying Cows by **Vahagn Khachatryan, Aren Malakyan**

Production: Jia Zhao (Muyi Film), Vahagn Khachatryan (Oolik production)
Netherlands, Armenia

Florence from Ohio by **Stephanie Wang-Breal**

Production: Mynette Louie (The Population), Carrie Weprin (Once in a Blue)
United States, Taiwan

Gabin, a Youth in the Backland by **Maxence Voiseux**

Production: Elise Hug, Cécile Lestrade (Alter Ego Production), Ulla Lehmann (AMA Film)
France, Germany

Lonan Tché by **Joël Akafou**

Production: Laurent Bitty (Les Films du Continent), Florent Coulon (VraiVrai Film), Gianluca De Angelis (Tekla Films)
Côte d'Ivoire, France, Italy

Memories of an Oblivion by **Carmen Castillo**

Production: Camille Laemlé, Serge Lalou (Les Films d'Ici), Macarena Aguilo (El Espino Film), Isabelle Truc (Iota Production)
France, Chile, Belgium

Rebibbia 310 by **Francesca Mazzoleni**

Production: Alessandro Greco (Morel Film), Roberto De Paolis, Carla Altieri, Rachel Greenwood (Young Films)
Italy

Simon the Absurd by **Felipe Monroy**

Production: Palmyre Badinier (Rita Productions), Diana Bustamente (Burning), Alexandre Perrier (Kidam), Kyzza Terrazas (La Corriente Del Golfo)
Switzerland, Colombia, France, Mexico


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The Arctic Circle of Lust by **Markku Heikkinen**
Production: Hannu-Pekka Vitikainen (Zone2 Pictures oy)
Finland

The Bamboo Family by **Sein Lyan Tun**
Production: Sein Lyan Tun (PS Films), Dwi Sujanti Nugraheni (DS Nugraheni/Jawa Dwipa Films)
Myanmar, Indonesia

The Days I Would Like to Forget by **Alina Gorlova, Maksym Nakonechnyi, Simon Mozgovyi, Yelizaveta Smith**
Production: Eugene Rachkovsky, Maksym Nakonechnyi and Karina Kostyna (Tabor), Nabil Bellahsene (Les Valseurs), Ralph Wieser (Mischief Films)
Ukraine, France, Austria

The Guest by **Zuzanna Solakiewicz, Zvika Gregory Portnoy, Michal Bielawski**
Production: Maria Krauss (Plesnar & Krauss Films)
Poland

The Reserve by **Ezequiel Yanco**
Production: Elena Fortes (No Ficción), Ezequiel Yanco (Isoi Cine), Juan Martín Hsu
Argentina, Mexico

VdR–Work in Progress 2023

7 projects participate in VdR–Work in Progress, which aims to help filmmakers find suitable partners to collaborate with, in order to finalise post-production and optimise the distribution prospects for their films.

Can't Feel Nothing by **David Borenstein**
Production: Jesper Jack (House of Real)
Denmark

Friday at the Window by **Atiye Zare Arandi**
Production: Bram Crols, Nina Payrhuber (Associate Directors)
Belgium, Iran, Qatar

Immortals by **Maja Tschumi**
Production: Nadine Lüchinger (Filmgerberei), Mohammed Alghadhban (Rola Production)
Switzerland, Iraq

Night has Come by **Paolo Tizon**
Production: Diana Castro (Sans Soleil Films)
Peru

Piropolis by **Nicolás Molina**
Production: Joséphine Schroeder (Pequén Producciones), Francisca Barraza (Funky Films)
Chile

Rising Up at Night by **Nelson Makengo**
Production: Rosa Spaliviero (Twenty Nine Studio & Production), Dada Kahindo (Mutotu)
Democratic Republic of Congo, Belgium, Germany, Burkina Faso

While The Green Grass Grows by **Peter Mettler**
Production: Cornelia Seitler (maximage), Peter Mettler (Grimthorpe Film)
Switzerland, Canada


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VdR–Rough Cut Lab 2023

VdR–Rough Cut Lab is a workshop that presents a selection of 4 feature films in an advanced stage of post-production. Filmmakers receive personalised feedback on the presented rough cut version from both individual tutors and editors, as well as advice on how to finalise the film.

Our Daughters by **Chithra Jeyaram**

Production: Chithra Jeyaram (Real Talkies LLC)

United States

The Silence of the Mountain by **Inti Jacanamijoy**

Production: Jorge Forero (Marginal Cine), Inti Jacanamijoy (La Cueva Films)

Colombia

Untitled Project by **Min Min Hein**

Production: Min Min Hein (BurmaCat Films)

Myanmar

XiXi by **Fan Wu**

Production: Fan Wu and Venice Atienza (Svemirko Film Productions), Sona Jo and Yoonsoo Her (Sona Films)

Taiwan, Philippines, Republic of Korea (South Korea)

VdR–Development Lab 2023

The VdR–Development Lab is a hybrid nine-month programme aiming to support 5 filmmakers and their creative producers during the development phase of their new feature films, and preparing them for the international market.

Few Monuments More, Few People Less by **Aneta Lesnikovska**

Production : Kornelija Ristovska, Aneta Lesnikovska (AKA Film)

North Macedonia, Netherlands

Just Like a Dream by **Corine Shawi**

Production : Nancy Sabbagh

Lebanon, Germany

Olympic Rifle by **Manuel Muñoz**

Production : Mauricio S. Burckhardt (Haus Kino)

Honduras, Argentina, Colombia

The Birdwatcher by **Sai Kong Kham**

Production : Lin Sun Oo (Tagu Films)

Myanmar

The Road Ahead by **Carla Valdés León**

Production: Rosa María Rodríguez (GatoRosa Films), Carla Valdés León

Cuba

The full programme of Visions du Réel will be revealed on 28 March 2023. Accreditation for professionals will open on 13 March.

Questions from professionals relating to VdR–Industry can be sent to: industry@visionsdureel.ch

The VdR-Industry programme is supported by the **Federal Office of Culture (FOC) / MEDIA Desk Switzerland** and the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**.


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