



Press release

21 April 2023, Nyon

## Visions du Réel opens the doors to its 54th edition

The 54th edition of Visions du Réel (21 to 30 April) opens its doors tonight. To begin the festivities, the opening ceremony will play host to Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, State Councillor Nuria Gorrite and Daniel Rossellat, Mayor of Nyon, alongside director Juliette de Marcillac. The latter will be presenting the world premiere of *Nightwatchers*, a nocturnal account of the daily life of the volunteers who help migrants at the tension-filled French-Italian border. The 54th edition will present 163 films – including 82 world premieres – and welcome more than 300 guests. The first prestigious events will take place during the early hours of the edition, including the Masterclass with Italian director Alice Rohrwacher. The opening weekend will also focus heavily on Swiss production, with the launch of the National Competition and the retrospective dedicated to filmmaker Jean-Stéphane Bron.

### Alice Rohrwacher, Special Guest

Visions du Réel will welcome Italian director **Alice Rohrwacher** as a special guest, whose next film – *La Chimera* – will compete for the Palme d'Or at the next edition of the Cannes Film Festival. In addition to the ten-day retrospective, Alice Rohrwacher will give a Masterclass on Saturday 22 April (2pm), discussing her hybrid, dreamlike and graceful work with her audience (translated simultaneously in English). As a leading voice in contemporary cinema and the figurehead of a new generation of Italian filmmakers, she offers a daring body of work steeped in both the heritage of neo-realism and non-fiction cinema. Argentinian filmmaker Lucrecia Martel, 2023 Guest of Honour, and Swiss director Jean-Stéphane Bron – who the 2023 Atelier is dedicated to – will also be holding masterclasses, on Tuesday 25 and Thursday 27 April respectively.

### The National Competition takes centre stage at the opening weekend

The festival's ten-day run will be punctuated by the **National Competition** and its diverse range of films, with several Swiss-German films featured this year. Festival-goers will get the chance to experience the lulling effects of **Simone Fürbringer** and **Nicolas Humbert's** *Floating Islands*, an assembly of hypnotic sound and visual fragments that form a delicate cine-poem. In a seamless transition, *Follow the Water* by **Pauline Julier** and **Clément Postec** will present an apocalyptic future that combines the ravages of lithium mining in the Atacama desert with the local population's demands for their right to water, against the backdrop of humanity's quest to conquer Mars. Far from these universes that oscillate between utopias and dystopias, in *Hawar, Our Banished Children*, **Pascale Bourgaux** reveals the immediate and dramatic consequences of ISIS's regime. Filmmaker **Yamina Zoutat's** *Chiienne de rouge*, a film that focuses on the so-called 'contaminated blood' trial, will also feature.

The National Competition will feature two intimate stories. Immersing us in the hazards that go with renovating a family home, **Sophie Ballmer's** *La Maison* offers a playful and delicate deconstruction of capitalism and the patriarchy. In *The Wonder Way*, **Emmanuelle Antille** invites the audience on a journey to discover unusual places, both real and imaginary. This invitation to explore continues through **Floriane Devigne's** wanderings in *Allo la France* – a road movie that criss-crosses

'peripheral' France in search of the last remaining telephone booths – and alongside the Yenish, a nomadic, freedom-loving community scarred by the wounds of the past, who **Andreas Müller** and **Simon Guy Fässler** follow with their camera for six years in *Rüach – A Journey Into Yenish Europe*.

Finally, both **Juliette Riccaboni's** *Le Fils du Chasseur* and **Benjamin Bucher** and **Julia Bünter's** *Full Tank* focus on masculinity, with the former focusing on a father-son relationship during a hunting trip in the Valais mountains, and the latter showing one man's immersion in the testosterone-fuelled world of motor racing. Screened during the Festival's opening weekend, these Swiss productions will be joined later in the week by **Laura Gabay's** *Para no olvidar*, which attempts to solve the mystery surrounding her father – exiled from the Uruguayan dictatorship – and **Nathalie Berger's** *Chagrin Valley*, which follows the confused and evanescent daily life of residents at a retirement home.

### Spotlight on the work of Jean-Stéphane Bron: the 2023 Atelier

The opening weekend will be Swiss production heavy, and film lovers will get the chance to (re)watch the films of multi-award-winning filmmaker **Jean-Stéphane Bron**, thanks to an initial retrospective dedicated to his work. Between Friday and Sunday, audience members will also be able to watch *12, chemin des Bruyères* (1995), *Connu de nos services* (1997), *L'Opéra de Paris* (2017), *La Bonne Conduite (Cinq histoires d'auto-école)* (1999) and *Le Génie helvétique* (2003). The festival will have the privilege of hosting **Jean-Stéphane Bron** for several days to introduce screenings, and the director will give a Masterclass (Thursday 27 April, simultaneously translated into English and interpreted into French sign language), a great opportunity to share his approach to cinema and his working methods with the general public.

### Great names of the opening weekend

On the eve of its theatrical release on Wednesday 26 April, the **Special Screenings** section will offer a preview of event film *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed* by Oscar-winning filmmaker **Laura Poitras**, winner of the Golden Lion at the 2022 Venice Film Festival. The director will participate in a remote Q&A after the screening. This section also sees the return of **Werner Herzog** (2019 Guest of Honour) to the Festival with *Theater of Thought* (2022), and **Claire Simon** with *Our Body* (2018 Guest of Honour). **Guillaume Brac's** new film, *Un pincement au cœur*, will see its world premiere in the **International Medium and Short Film Competition**.

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54th edition of Visions du Réel: 21-30 April 2023


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