



Press Release

18 April 2023, Nyon

Meetings and discussions at the 54th edition of Visions du Réel

In addition to screening the films in the official selection and presenting projects at VdR-Industry, Visions du Réel organises meetings, debates and master classes open to both the general public and professionals. The Morning Talks invite the filmmakers of the 2023 programme to discuss contemporary cinema, its opportunities and challenges based on topical issues from the films screened the day before (free admission). The Documentary and Audiovisual Forum is a think tank and a special forum for the Swiss national industry, where professionals from the different linguistic regions of Switzerland come together to discuss a theme that is making waves in the film industry. This year's Forum, which is open to all accredited professionals, takes stock of artistically ambitious works in production, with a specific focus on the development phase and joint production opportunities. The master classes, which are organised throughout the ten-day Festival, invite the general public to take a deep dive into the work of the guest filmmakers and interact with them, in a context conducive to understanding their cinematographic career. Finally, visitors will be able to explore the films in greater depth with the production team in a series of thematic walks, either in the town or by the lake.

Morning Talks (Sunday to Thursday, 10 – 11.30 am, in English)

Sunday 23.04 - The documentary portrait

In the history of art, the portrait has always been a preferred technique. It has also been used, either for individuals or groups, throughout the history of film documentaries, from Robert Flaherty to Gianfranco Rosi, from Shirley Clarke to Laura Poitras. Using a lens to draw portraits implies filming characters in motion and over time. How does the filmmaker's view change during this process? How do documentary portraits necessarily go beyond simply filming reality?

Guest directors: **Ekiem Barbier** - *Knit's Island*, **Guillaume Brac** - *Un Pincement au cœur*, **Justine Harbonnier** - *Caiti Blues*, **Khoa Lê** - *Má Sáí Gon*, **Alberto Martín Menacho** - *Antier Noche*.

Moderated by **Jordan Cronk**, journalist and programmer for Acropolis Cinema in Los Angeles.

Monday 24.04 - In search of the right distance

By its very nature, a camera is an intrusive instrument that distorts, if not provokes a situation, despite claiming to deliver an indisputable, albeit not objective record. How do contemporary filmmakers deal with this question today? This goes back to the sources of direct cinema: building into the dynamics of filming and then editing, the right distance with the protagonists who become the actors of a sometimes-intimate story, which they share with an anonymous audience.

Guest directors: **Clémence Davigo** - *Les Oubliés de la Belle Étoile*, **Daniel Kötter** - *Landshaft*, **Pinar Öğrenci** - *The Avalanche*, **Iván Andrés Simonovis Pertíñez** - *My Father's Prison*, **Yamina Zoutat** - *Chiienne de rouge*.

Moderated by **Aurélien Marsais and Alice Riva**, members of the selection committee.

Tuesday 25.04 - Family Affairs

One of the consequences of distributing mini-DVDs in the early 1990s was to transform our relationship to family archives. Rare in the days of analogue film, these have now become widespread as the act of filming (oneself) has become somewhat commonplace. At the same time, some filmmakers choose to approach their own, or someone else's family by using formal choices that enhance the base material. Does portraying one's own story allow us to move from particular (self)fictions to more universal narratives?

Guest directors: **Otilia Babara** - *Love is Not an Orange*, **Sara Dolatabadi** - *An Owl, a Garden & the Writer*, **Anna Dziapshipa** - *Self-Portrait Along the Borderline*, **Pablo Lago Dantas** - *O auto das ánimas*, **Catarina Mourão** - *Astrakan 79*.

Moderated by **Emmanuel Chicon and Madeline Robert**, members of the selection committee.

Wednesday 26.04 - Images of politicians and politics: the device as a critical staging technique

Non-fiction films tackle, albeit not exclusively, sensitive political contexts with greater responsibility as the characters struggle with oppressive systems or real conflicts, employing a diverse grammar (fixed shots, narrative construction resembling cinematic fiction, using or misusing archives, etc.). What is the role of cinematic devices in deconstructing propaganda and/or real-time information flows? What questions arise for those who want to film politics?

Guest directors: **Narges Kalhor** - *Sensitive Content*, **Kinga Michalska** - *Vampires, It's Nothing to Laugh at*, **Bill Morrison** - *Incident*, **Piotr Pawlus und Tomasz Wolski** - *In Ukraine*, **Tommaso Santambrogio** - *Taxibol*.

Moderated by **Violeta Bava and Emmanuel Chicon**, members of the selection committee.

Thursday 27.04 - Dealing with the unpredictable: a filming ethic?

While searching for funding paradoxically requires writing the film that one would like to make (location scouting, casting, dramaturgy, etc.), filming a documentary involves hazards, an element of unpredictability that can take it in a different direction, or even radically change the initial project. Under what conditions can the reality we are trying to capture sometimes 'dictate' its own rules and upend the opinion of the filmmakers' making it?

Guest directors: **Vinicius Girnys** - *Samuel and the Light*, **Nicolas Humbert** - *Floating Islands*, **Hyun kyung Kim** - *Defectors*, **Komtouch Napattaloong** - *Hours of Ours*, **Pedro Speroni** - *The Bilbaos*.

Moderated by **Aurélien Marsais and Madeline Robert**, members of the selection committee.

Masterclasses

Saturday 22.04, 2 pm - 5 pm - Alice Rohrwacher Masterclass

In French, with simultaneous interpretation into English
In partnership with **HEAD - Geneva**

Moderated by **Rebecca de Pas**, a member of the Festival's VdR-Industry project selection committee and a member of the selection committee of the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR).


Tuesday 25.04, 2 pm - 5 pm - Lucrecia Martel Masterclass

In Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation into French and English
In partnership with the **Cinémathèque suisse** and **ECAL**

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Moderated by **Violeta Bava**, member of the selection committee, **Paolo Moretti**, Head of the Cinema Department at ECAL and **Emilie Bujès**, Artistic Director of Visions du Réel.

Thursday 27.04, 10 am - 1 pm - Jean-Stéphane Bron Masterclass

In French, with simultaneous interpretation into English, and French sign language (LSF)

Moderated by **Emmanuel Chicon**, a member of the selection committee.

Documentary and Audiovisual Forum (Sunday 23 April, 10 am – 12.45 pm, in French and German)

In partnership with the **SRG SSR** and **ARF/FDS**

The Documentary and Audiovisual Forum, which will be held on Sunday 23 April at the opening of VdR-Industry, is specifically designed to respond to the current needs and issues of Swiss industry professionals. As a think tank and discussion platform for the Swiss national industry, the Forum invites professionals from the different linguistic regions of the country to come together to discuss and reflect on new emerging ideas.

For 2023, the Forum has chosen to go back to basics: by taking stock of the state of productions, the financing of ambitious artistic works, and looking more specifically at the crucial development phase as well as joint production opportunities. In a context where artistic freedom is often threatened, especially for films that aim to explore different formats, languages and processes, is there a way of funding and producing projects that do not fit into predefined boxes? At a time when the Internet is growing unchecked, is there still room for inventiveness, diversity of scripts and formal documentary film proposals to still emerge, and if so, how? Are public funds and TV stations still our first 'go to'? We will also see how joint production can offer strategic alternatives, both in terms of financing films that are struggling to find funding from public entities in Switzerland, and supporting foreign productions as minority co-producers.

Guests: **Fabrice Aragno** (Casa Azul Films), **Joëlle Bertossa** (Close Up Films), **Susa Katz** (Zürcher Filmstiftung), **Peter Mettler** (réalisateur), **Patrizia Pesko** (Office Fédéral de la culture OFC, Section Cinéma), **Elena Tatti** (Box Productions) and **Sven Wälti** (SRG SSR).

Moderated by **Michela Pini** (CinédoKKé).

Thematic walks

The thematic walks, in the town centre or by the lake, give participants an opportunity to discuss films directly with the production team or go into more depth on the topic with researchers from the University of Lausanne. Equipped with an audio-guide set, participants can let their minds wander during a leisurely stroll. Discussions take completely different paths than they would in the cinema and each meeting is unique for both walk leaders and participants.

Monday 24.04, 12.35 - 1.20 pm - Walk with **Loeva La Ragione**, collaborator at the GameLab UNIL-EPFL, inspired by the film *Knit's Island*

Monday 24.04, 3.30 - 4.30 pm - Walk with **Sonia Ben Slama**, director of *Machtat*

Tuesday 25.04, 3.40 - 4.40 pm - Walk with **Floriane Devigne**, director of *Allo la France*

Wednesday 26.04, 12 - 1 pm - Walk with **Julia Bünter** and **Benjamin Bucher**, directors of *Full Tank*

Thursday 27.04, 12.30 - 1.30 pm - Walk with **Andreas Müller** and **Simon Guy Fässler**, directors of *Ruäch - A Journey into Yeshiva Europe*

Saturday 29.04, 12.00 - 12.45 - Walk with **Olivier Glassey**, sociologist (UNIL), inspired by the film *And the King Said, What a FANTASTIC MACHINE*


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Contact

Bastien Bento
Press Office Manager
bbento@visionsdureel.ch
+41 22 365 44 55
+41 79 934 34 63

Gloria Zerbinati
International Press Officer
gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com
+33 7 86 80 02 82

More information at: visionsdureel.ch
54th Visions du Réel: 21 – 30 April 2023


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