



Press release  
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For immediate release

## VdR-Industry: bridging the national and the international



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In addition to the strong Swiss selection in the official festival programme, including 31 (co)productions in various competitions and sections, Visions du Réel's industry programme, VdR-Industry announces 15 new Swiss projects participating across the different pitching activities as part of long-standing and successful partnerships with RTS and SWISS FILMS as well as in the official VdR-Pitching showcase. From early development to finishing stages, Visions du Réel will introduce a host of exciting new Swiss talent as well as welcoming to the stage award-winning directors and production companies from across the country. In addition, VdR-Industry announces a new partnership with Unifrance to welcome France as the Country of Focus, while also offering up a showcase of diverse new documentaries from Norway with the Norwegian Film Institute.

### 15 new Swiss projects highlighted at VdR-Industry

Two projects have been selected to compete in Visions du Réel's prestigious VdR-Pitching showcase, including *The Big Boom* (Mira Productions), directed by filmmaker **Gabriel Tejedor** (*Kombinat* VdR2020, *Rue Mayskaya* VdR2017) and *Call Me When the Wind Blows* also welcoming back **Arami Ullón** (*Cloudy Times* VdR2014) and returning producer Aline Schmid (Beauvoir Films) whose 2024 feature film, *The Landscape & The Fury*, took away the top award In Competition at Visions du Réel in 2024. Both projects will be eligible for over CHF 80'000 of prizes.

An ongoing partnership with RTS will see seven “romand” projects (from the French speaking part of Switzerland) pitch for up to CHF 10'000 in development funds during the festival, as part of the *Prix RTS de soutien à la création documentaire* competition. This includes the new feature documentary from **Yann Bétant** (*Cici*, VdR2015) with his project *Radio Separation* (produced by Le Laboratoire Central) as well as **Callisto Mc Nulty**, whose most recent documentary, *La Muraille (The Other World)* will have its world premiere in this year's Burning Lights competition at Visions du Réel. In addition, we welcome filmmaker **Claude Baechtold** whose film *Riverboom* has screened in over 25 film festivals around the world, with his newest film, *My Wife Is an Architect*, produced by Intermezzo Films, as well as *Inland* by **Blaise Harrison**, produced by Lionel Baier (Bande à Part Films) and Estelle Fialon (Les Films du Poisson).

SWISS FILMS also returns with its strong selection of six documentaries at finishing stage, ready for festivals, sales agents and distribution with the SWISS FILMS Previews. Showcasing talent from around the country, this selection includes the latest project from **Tobias Nölle**, whose films *Preparations for a Miracle* had its World Premiere in the Burning Lights competition at VdR2024, who comes as co-director with **Loran Bonnardot** on the latest project, *Tristan Forever* (hugofilm features). **Benjamin Bucher** (co-director *Full Tank*, VdR2023), presents *Sweet Belonging* (Langfilm), following Joyce, a 22-year-old African-Chinese dancer in Switzerland who is torn between artistic and identity-related self-discovery and the financial dependence on her mother's TikTok business. **Dea Gjinovci**, whose award-winning first-feature *Wake Up on Mars* premiered in the VdR2020 National Competition after a start at Tribeca, will present *The Beauty of the Donkey* (co-produced by Astrae Productions, Unseen Films and Haut et Court Doc), who uncovers, with her father, the mysterious disappearance of her grandmother.

### VdR–Industry welcomes France as country of Focus with Switzerland Meets France

Visions du Réel continues its international co-production programme, *Switzerland Meets*, this time with France, creating a programme designed to shine a light on the relationship and possibilities between the two countries. Working in partnership with Unifrance, the programme includes a co-production lab that welcomes ten producers across Switzerland and France to explore opportunities for international collaborations for their current and future projects. Producers participating have been selected from across the Romand industry (French-speaking part of Switzerland) including **Aurélie Oliveira Pernet** (Intermezzo Films), **Annick Bouissou** (Akka Films), **Yan Decoppet** (Golden Egg Productions), **Irene Munoz** (Independent producer), **Gaspar Vignon** (Marmotte Productions). French producers include **Violeta Kreimar** (Misia Films), **Thibaut Amiri** (Avant La Nuit), **Astrig Chandèze-Avakian** (Pazma Films), **Elliott Baillon** (Darjeeling) and **Victor Thomas** (Les Quarante-Huitièmes Rugissants Productions). In addition to the lab, Visions du Réel Industry-accredited guests are welcome to participate in numerous activities focusing on our francophone neighbour, including two talks, **Co-producing with France**, presented by the CNC, and a **Focus on French theatrical distribution** with Arizona Distribution and Jour 2 Fete, as well as the **French Docs Drinks soirée**, presented in partnership with Unifrance.


### Five New Projects Previewed in New Partnership with Norway

Following up on the successful reception of the SWISS FILMS Previews, Visions du Réel is also presenting a new special showcase of Previews, this year featuring a selection of five Norwegian projects presented in partnership with the Norwegian Film Institute. This special showcase offers the VdR–Industry guests a glimpse into the diversity of Norwegian storytelling, and is targeted at sales agents, festivals and distributors seeking the newest Nordic content of tomorrow. Projects include **Maja Holand's Hex** (Herstory), exploring the exciting world of feminist Norwegian heavy metal, an attempt to bridge divides on a US island in the face of environmental and ideological challenges in *Strangers & Stayers* (co-directed by **Julia Dahr**, **Julie Lunde Lillesæter** and **Hannah Jayanti** with Differ Media Gusto Moving Pictures) and a filmmaker's defiant meditation on identity and war in **Amir Ajdinovic's The Universe is my Selfie** (Aldeles). *Hope Is a Word* by **Maria Galliani Dyrvik** follows Nnimmo Bassey, a poet and activist who refuses to give up hope and is raising a new generation of voices in the fight against oil extraction. *The Golden Swan* by **Anette Ostrø** tells the story of kidnapping of a young Norwegian artist in the Kashmir Mountains in the 1990s.

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## VdR-Pitching

*Call Me When the Wind Blows* by **Arami Ullón** (Switzerland, Paraguay, Japan)  
Production: Aline Schmid (Beauvoir Films)  
Switzerland, Paraguay

*The Big Boom* by **Gabriel Tejedor** (Switzerland)  
Production : Susanne Guggenberger (Mira Film Basel)  
Switzerland

## Prix RTS de Soutien à la création documentaire

*Chinatown* by **Callisto Mc Nulty** (Switzerland, France)  
Production: Britta Rindelaub (Alva Film), Violeta Kreimer (Misia Films)  
Switzerland, France

*Inland* by **Blaise Harrison** (Switzerland, France)  
Production: Lionel Baier (Bande à Part Films), Estelle Fialon (Les Films du Poisson)  
Switzerland, France

*My Wife Is an Architect* by **Claude Baechtold** (Switzerland)  
Production: Luc Peter, Katia Monla (Intermezzo Films)  
Switzerland

*Radio Separation* by **Yann Bétant** (Switzerland)  
Production: Nadejda Magnenat (Le Laboratoire Central)  
Switzerland

*Sand Merchants* by **Fabiano D'Amato** (Switzerland)  
Production: Emmanuel Gétaz (Dreampixies)  
Switzerland

*The Monster of Lake Léman* by **Alex Iwanoff** (Colombia), **Jonathan Barrera** (Colombia)  
Production: Charles Brepant (In-somnia Studios)  
Switzerland

*Tighaline* by **Juliette Riccaboni** (Switzerland, Italy)  
Production: Emilie Moor (Adok Films)  
Switzerland

## SWISS FILMS Previews

*Heat* by **Jacqueline Zünd** (Switzerland)  
Production: Louis Mataré (Lomotion AG)  
Switzerland

*Shewit* by **Anne-Frédérique Widmann** (Switzerland)  
Production: Luc Peter, Katia Monla (Intermezzo Films)  
Switzerland

*Sweet Belonging* by **Benjamin Bucher** (Switzerland)  
Production: Olivier Zobrist (Langfilm)  
Switzerland


*The Beauty of the Donkey* by **Dea Gjinovci** (Switzerland, Albania)  
Production: Dea Gjinovci, Palmyre Badinier (Astrae Productions),  
Ilir Hasanaj (Unseen Films), Emmanuelle Lepers (Haut et Court Doc)  
Switzerland, Kosovo, France

*The Huntresses* by **Amélie Bargetzi** (Switzerland), **Christelle Jornod** (Germany)  
Production: Elena Tatti, Nicolas Wittwer (Box Productions)  
Switzerland

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*Tristan Forever* by **Tobias Nölle** (Switzerland), **Loran Bonnardot** (France),  
Production: Christof Neracher (hugofilm features)  
Switzerland

## Norwegian Previews

*HEX* directed by **Maja Holand** (Norway)  
Production: Mari Nilsen Neira (Herstory AS)  
Norway

*Hope Is a Word* directed by **Maria Galliani Dyrvik** (Norway, Italy)  
Production: Anita Vedå (Smau Media), Chiara Andrich (Ginko Film), Femi Odugbemi (Zuri24 Media)  
Norway, Italy, Nigeria

*Strangers & Stayers* by **Julia Dahr** (Norway), **Julie Lunde Lillesæter** (Norway), **Hannah Jayanti** (United States)  
Production: Natalya Sarch (Differ Media), Darcy McKinnon (Gusto Moving Pictures)  
Norway, United States

*The Golden Swan* directed by **Anette Ostrø** (Norway)  
Production: Beathe Hofseth (Fri Film)  
Norway

*The Universe Is My Selfie* directed by **Amir Ajdinovic** (Norway, Bosnia, Herzegovina)  
Production: Elin Sander (Aldeles AS)  
Norway

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