



Presse release

Nyon, 24.09.2025

Under embargo until 24.09.2025 - 11:30 AM

Philippe Bischof appointed Chairman of Visions du Réel, International Film Festival Nyon

On Tuesday 23 September, the members of the Foundation Board (see list in appendix) elected Philippe Bischof to succeed Raymond Loretan as Chairman of the Foundation Board of Visions du Réel. Philippe Bischof will assume his responsibilities immediately.

Last January, at the end of his sixth year as Chairman of the Foundation Board, Raymond Loretan announced that he would be stepping down after the 56th edition in 2025, leaving his successor with a thriving festival that continues to grow. As a token of its deep gratitude, and to thank him for his outstanding commitment, the Foundation Board has today appointed him Honorary Chairman.

After working as a director and playwright in several Swiss and European theatres, Philippe Bischof managed the Südpol cultural centre in Lucerne between 2008 and 2011. He served as Head of the Department of Culture for the canton of Basel-Stadt between 2011 and 2017, before becoming Director of the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia from November 2017 to June 2025. Philippe Bischof takes up his position as Chairman of the Foundation Board today. This new appointment will aim to further consolidate Visions du Réel's position as one of the leading international non-fiction cinema festivals, while strengthening its role as a key player in the Swiss cultural landscape and the second largest festival at national level, particularly in terms of film launches.



"It is a great honour and a wonderful responsibility that the Visions du Réel festival in Nyon has entrusted me with, in appointing me Chairman of the Foundation Board. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with the directors, the entire team and my colleagues on the Foundation Board to develop this festival of national and global importance. With all its diversity and cinematographic excellence, more than ever documentary filmmaking now offers the opportunity to spark discussion about the realities of our lives. Visions du Réel is the ideal platform for this", stated Philippe Bischof

BIOGRAPHY

Philippe Bischof was born in Basel in 1967 and now lives with his family in Zurich. He spent part of his childhood in Paris, Florence and London, where his father was a journalist. Returning to Switzerland, he lived with his parents between the Jura and the Basel region, where he attended school and obtained his baccalaureate. After studying in Basel (law, Russian, French literature, history of the theatre), he began his professional career as an assistant director at the Theatre Basel. He then worked as a director and playwright in Switzerland and abroad, both in municipal theatres and in the independent scene, notably in Barcelona, Basel, Berlin, Geneva, Gothenburg, Göttingen, Hamburg, Lausanne, Paris, Reykjavik, Vienna and Zurich. He lived and worked in Germany for over 10 years, mainly in Berlin. Between 2004 and 2009, he was a member of the jury in the fields of dance and theatre for the Berlin Senate Chancellery. He also obtained a Master of Advanced Studies in Cultural Management from the University of Basel in 2007. From 2008 to 2011, he was the first managing director and artistic director of the Südpol cultural centre in Lucerne. From 2011 to 2017, Bischof was head of the Department of Culture for the canton of Basel-Stadt and, in 2016/17, president of the Conference of Cantonal Cultural Delegates (CDAC). He had been director of the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia since November 2017 and was due to remain in post until the end of June 2025. He regularly teaches cultural policy and cultural promotion (at the University of Basel, ZHDK, etc.), and is often called upon as a speaker and strategic advisor.

APPENDIX

HD Photo of Philippe Bischof
List of Members of the Foundation Board

More information: visionsdureel.ch
Visions du Réel: 17 – 26 April 2026
VdR–Industry: 19 – 22 April 2026

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