



Press release

Nyon, April 24

Under embargo until 20:40

Awards of the 57th edition of Visions du Réel

The competitions of Visions du Réel's 57th edition concluded this Friday, April 24, with the awards ceremony. Director Xisi Sofia Ye Chen won the Grand Prize of the International Feature Film Competition with *From Dawn to Dawn*, her first feature-length film. A rare and deeply intimate immersion into a world often reduced to clichés—and more frequently explored through fiction than documentary—the film follows the daily life of the director's brother, A Wen, a Chinese gangster living in Spain. Without judgment or fascination, she observes a complex man, torn between a criminal legacy, loyalty, family responsibilities, and the search for new moral bearings. Filmmaker Hassen Ferhani received the Burning Lights Competition Award for *Alea Jacarandas*. Deeply personal, the film takes the form of a rich and grief-laden quest in which jacaranda blossoms emerge as fragments of love and memory. The National Competition Jury awarded *Nicole Nicole*, Lauren Dällenbach's feature debut, which approaches with great tenderness, humour, and complexity the codependent relationship between her aunt Nicole and her grandmother Alberte, while imagining possible paths toward emancipation to ease their fear of living alone. The Audience Award went to *Birds of War* by Janay Boulos and Abd Alkader Habak. Shot over thirteen years, *Birds of War* delves into the personal archives of a London-based Lebanese journalist and a Syrian cameraman to tell the story of the liberation of Aleppo and the uprising of the population in Beirut, while a love story unfolds in parallel. Visions du Réel continues until Sunday, with a selection of the award-winning films screened throughout the day. The online programme will remain available until May 4, 2026. A first report of the Festival's edition will be released on Sunday, April 26.

"I am particularly delighted to see that this year's list of winners embodies what makes Visions du Réel so unique: its ability to present films that break down the barriers of conventional documentary cinema, offering audiences the chance to shift their perspective, whether by discovering new voices or exploring specific realities, contexts of joy and terror, darkness and beauty, confinement and freedom. This edition has demonstrated that the festival has retained a loyal audience over many years, whilst broadening its reach, particularly among younger generations" comments Emilie Bujès, Artistic Director of the Festival.

International Feature Film Competition Prize

From Dawn to Dawn by **Xisi Sofia Ye Chen** has won the Grand Jury Prize, offered by La Mobilière, in the International Feature Film Competition. Deeply moved, the Jury justified its decision as follows: "The Grand Jury Prize goes to an astonishing self assured debut. A moving, intimate and complex portrait of the impacts of exile and the struggle to reclaim one's life. Using poetic personal narration and evocative, at times dream-like cinematography, the film unfolds in layers at once revealing and deepening the question of how migration, economic survival and trauma impact family relations." The Jury also awarded the Special Jury Award, offered by Région de Nyon, to **Marlene Edoyan** for *A Fire There*, her second feature film, adding a few heartfelt words: "The special jury award goes to an intimate film about friendship and destiny, that beautifully brings back poetry in a place marked by regional volatility and political challenges. Through its precise and strong mise en scène, the film gives us access to the hopes and dreams of young men trying to decide on their future." Finally, **Boubacar Sangaré** received a Special Mention for *Djeliya, mémoire du Mandé*.

Burning Lights Competition Prize

Hassen Ferhani won the Jury Prize in the Burning Lights Competition, offered by the Canton of Vaud, with *Alea Jacarandas*. The Jury commented: "A film that, on the surface, explores transmission, but beneath opens onto deeper currents. It teaches us how to look—toward beauty, and toward the dream of beauty hovering over the violence of history and the distances between beings. Between father and son, it reflects on what is passed on: a love of storytelling, and a realism at the foundation of art."

The Special Jury Award was awarded to *Baby Jackfruit Baby Guava*, the first feature film by **Nông Nhật Quang**, "a film of individuals striving to affirm themselves within the constraints of family, carried by endearing, complex characters." The Jury also gave two special mentions: *The Case Against Space* by **Graeme Arnfield** and *Illusion of Quiet Night* by **Olga Chernyk**.

National Competition Prize

With *Nicole Nicole*, her debut film, **Lauren Dällenbach** wins over the Jury Prize in the National Competition offered by SRG SSR. Delighted, the Jury stated: "This film is deeply human, reflecting the challenges that life can place before us, and the ways in which we face and overcome them—individually and together, as families and as a society. With a delicate balance of humor and tenderness, it offers a perspective that is both grounded and luminous." The Jury also praised the work of **Sophie Schrago** in *What Comes From Sitting in Silence?*, awarding it the Special Jury Award in the National Competition. The political dimension of the work particularly impressed the jury: "The film addresses a difficult reality with extraordinary empathy for its courageous female protagonists, who strive to preserve their personal integrity." *Der Runde Tisch*—a mid-length film co-directed by **Juliette Menthonnex** and **Benjamin Bucher**—also leaves Nyon with a special mention.

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Audience Award

The Audience Award went to *Birds of War* by **Janay Boulos** and **Abd Alkader Habak**. Over thirteen years, *Birds of War* delves into the personal archives of a Lebanese journalist living in London and a Syrian cameraman to tell the story of the liberation of Aleppo and the uprising of the population in Beirut, while a love story unfolds in parallel.

Visions du Réel 2026 Awards

International Feature Film Competition

Jury:

Rémi Bonhomme, Artistic Director, Festival International du film de Marrakech
(France/Morocco)

Lina Soualem, Filmmaker (Algeria/France /Palestine)

Brett Story, Filmmaker and writer (Canada)

Grand Jury Award presented by la Mobilière

20 000 CHF

From Dawn to Dawn by **Xisi Sofia Ye Chen**

Special Jury Award presented by the Région de Nyon

10 000 CHF

A Fire There of **Marlene Edoyan**

Special mention

Djeliya, mémoire du Mandé by **Boubacar Sangaré**

Burning Lights Competition

Jury:

Ali Asgari, Filmmaker (Iran)

Liyo Gong, Editor (Belgium,China)

Antoine Thirion, Programmer and Critic, Cinéma du Réel and New York Film Festival (France)

Jury Prize in the Burning Lights Competition presented by the Canton de Vaud

10 000 CHF

Alea Jacarandas by **Hassen Ferhani**

Special Jury Award presentend by la Société des Hôteliers de la Côte

5 000 CHF

Baby Jackfruit Baby Guava by **Nông Nhật Quang**

Special mention

The Case Against Space by **Graeme Arnfield**

Illusion of Quiet Night by **Olga Chernyk**.

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National Competition

Jury:

Cecilia Barrionuevo, Festival Director (Spain)

Nicole Reinhard, Director of Filmpodium Zürich (Switzerland)

Sofia Tocar, Distributor (Austria / Czech Republic)

Jury Prize in the National Competition offered by SRG SSR

15 000 CHF

Nicole Nicole by **Lauren Dällenbach**

Special Jury Award in the National Competition offered by SSA/Suissimage

10 000 CHF

What Comes From Sitting in Silence by **Sophie Schrago**

Special mention

Der Runde Tisch by **Juliette Menthonnex & Benjamin Bucher**

International Medium Length and Short Film Competition

Jury:

Róisín Burns, Filmmaker (Ireland / England)

Stavros Markoulakis, Filmmaker and Artistic Director, Leiden Shorts (Greece/Netherlands)

Franziska Sonder, Producer, Ensemble Film (Switzerland)

Youth Jury:

Kami Samson

Andrea Carrer

Louise de Buck

Maurine Fournier

Marie Dutruy

Jury Prize for the Best Medium Length Film offered by the Clinique de Genolier

6 000 CHF

Ici, ailleurs by **Comes Chahbazian**

Jury Prize for the Best Short Film offered by Vector Gestion

5 000 CHF

Visite guidée by **Alba Jaramillo**

Special Youth Jury Award for a medium length film offered by the École Moser

4 000 CHF

The Building Site by **Tiziano Locci & Tito Puglielli**

Special mention from the Jury of the International Medium and Short Film Competition

2 000 CHF

Memories of a Window by **Amin Pakparvar & Mehraneh Salimian**

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Special mention from the Jury of the International Medium and Short Film Competition
Sawyer Avenue, Sunday Afternoon by **Bill Morrison**

Wide Angle

Audience Award in the Wide Angle Competition offered by the Ville de Nyon
10 000 CHF
Birds of War by **Janay Boulos & Abd Alkader Habak**

International Critics' Award – FIPRESCI Award

First feature film presented in the International Feature Film Competition or the Burning Lights Competition

Jury:

Jerry Chiemeke, Film critic (Nigeria, United Kingdom)

Nil Kural, Film Critic (Turkey)

Sabrina Schwob, Film critic (Switzerland)

Saudades Eternas by **Emma Bofancuso**

Prix Interreligieux

Feature Film of the International Competition that highlights questions of meaning and human solidarity

Jury:

Emmanuel Deonna, Journalist and Film critic

Christian Georges, Journalist et Film critic

David Rossé, Pastor

Bahareh Zareeipolgardani, Environmental science researcher

Dentro by **Elsa Amiel**

Perception Change Award

Prize awarded to a film that sheds light on the current issues that will define the world of tomorrow. Presented by the Director General of the Geneva UN with the support of Diplomatic Club

Jury:

Aziyadé Poltier-Mutal, Head of the the Un Perception Change Project (Switzerland)

François Vioud, Programme Management Specialist, Un Perception Change (Switzerland)

Good Valley Stories by **José Luis Guérin**

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57th edition of Visions du Réel: 17 – 26 April 2026

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