

Pressbook 2020

**Visions
du Réel**
Festival international
de cinéma Nyon
17.4
-2.5.2020



Index

- 3 Editorial
- 4 The team of the 51st edition
- 6 Online edition
- 8 Sections
- 9 Juries
- 10 Special guests and homages
- 12 Jean-Luc Godard Exhibition
- 13 Industry
- 14 A resolute commitment
to our audiences
- 15 Partners
- 16 Contacts
- 16 Attachments

Editorial

**Émilie Bujès,
Artistic Director**

"You know, my mother taught me two things: how to read and how to knit. I have continued both all my life. I read. And with film, I continue to knit." Jean-Luc Godard

Every year in the month of March, the moment comes to write the editorial—it is both a joy and an ordeal; how to summarise so many things and so many emotions, personal or collective difficulties and successes, discoveries; how not to give in to banality or cheap sentimentalism...

Then came this unimaginable edition— an edition that was moreover fated not to be—which has not only been cancelled in its physical form, but must also attempt to exist in a world which, like a grade-Z science-fiction film, seems on the verge of disappearing. A disappearance in the worse sense—in respect of the disappeared—and the best—in respect of the hope that humanity may perhaps re-contemplate its nature.

Visions du Réel 2020 will thus not take place in its usual form, which is an undeniable source of great sadness, as much for the team for whom the Festival is a culmination of so much effort, as for the public who supported us with much enthusiasm in 2019, and finally for the filmmakers and producers who, after years of toiling on a film, will not be able to experience the first fertile, touching, joyous or controversial discussions following the screenings.

On 16 March, the entire Visions du Réel team began the preparation of a profoundly re-contemplated edition, working remotely, making great use of Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp, Google Docs and Google Sheets, with frustration, with enthusiasm, without answers in the face of so many questions and incertitude. It is here, in the heart of the crisis, that the beauty of the collective is revealed, the energies that complement each other when some weaken or despair, and the profound commitment of those who

are behind events such as festivals.

So, of course, Visions du Réel 2020 will not take place at the Place du Réel, in the cinemas, in the tent and in the bar, in Nyon. But it will resolutely be held on the internet, in almost all of its generous diversity, and will visit the spectators at home, further extending the possible territories. Thus, following weeks of negotiations for obtaining films and—amicable—battles between festivals, solidarity appears suddenly, along with the desire to unite and say that together we resist, committed to the belief that producing and upholding creation and filmmaking is essential, even in times such as these—especially in times such as these.

This edition should have been inhabited by 167 films, each of which had convinced us in their own way of their cinematographic grace and urgency, and that together constructed a selection seeking to draw invisible threads in all directions, and as far as possible. In addition, a Festival suffused with inspiring guests, such as our Maître du Réel 2020, Claire Denis, a free and adventurous filmmaker, Petra Costa, a committed and resilient Brazilian director, and Peter Mettler, a Swiss-Canadian essayist and visionary director.

Finally, Jean-Luc Godard, who gives us the honour and the pleasure of sharing a new work with us, in the form of an exhibition reinventing his latest film, *Le livre d'image*, and opening up a path that is simultaneously physical and experiential through a fragmented, reinvented, exploded body of work, at the Château de Nyon. It is entitled sentiments, signes, passions and will open its doors as soon as the Museum does.

At the time that I write these words, the team is going out of its way to implement this unprecedented edition, so firmly rooted in its time, and at the same time is encountering the friendship, solidarity and trust of the public and professionals who are resolutely choosing to support us in this adventure. Moreover, our partners, public and private alike, are also displaying unconditional support, which bears witness to a profound connection and gives us the confidence we need to continue our efforts.

So, amidst this uncertainty, we can confirm as of now: Visions du Réel 2020 will take place, wonderfully

The team of the 51st edition

Exceptional circumstances call for exceptional measures. The successive announcements of the Federal Council in March has shaken up the programming and organisation of this 51st edition of Visions du Réel. The entire Festival team has rallied together to ensure that the event could be redesigned on the web while retaining its essential features.

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Renegotiating film rights and handling the thorny issue of works being screened as world premieres required both tact and professionalism. Finally, the situation has led to the implementation of new tools and processes that will benefit future editions of the event.

This year's edition is also one of renewal within the strategic management of the Festival. As of October, 1st 2019, Raymond Loretan is President of the event. Former Swiss ambassador to Singapore and Consul General to New York, he

has gained vast political and strategic experience through his position of Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) of Switzerland and Chairman of SSR SRG notably. Raymond Loretan will put his political, economic and cultural experience to the benefit of the Festival. Furthermore, the recently announced renewal of the Foundation Board's membership has allowed for a greater feminine presence within Visions du Réel. The arrival of Irène Challand, Pauline Gygax, Cornelia Seitler and Sonia Weil meets the objectives of the SWAN (Swiss Women's Audiovisual Network) charter signed in April 2019, while offering the Foundation Board new experienced and committed members.

Finally, the Festival could not take place without the commitment and enthusiasm of the permanent and temporary teams.

Direction

Émilie Bujès, Artistic Director
Martine Chalverat, Director of
Administration and Operations

Programming

Astrid Silva, Co-Head of Programming
Office
Aurélien Marsais, Co-Head of
Programming Office
Valeria Wagner, Programming Office Intern
Mourad Moussa, Catalogue & programme
co-coordinator
Jennifer Siegrist, Catalogue & programme
co-coordinator

Selection committee

Emmanuel Chicon
Rebecca De Pas
Elena López Riera
Giona A. Nazzaro
Madeline Robert
Alice Riva (Preselection)

Industry

Gudula Meinzolt, Co-Head of Industry
Violeta Bava, Co-Head Industry
Jasmin Basic, Industry Consultant
Mateo Ybarra, Industry Coordinator
Léa Célestine Bernasconi, Media Library Intern
Aline de Rham, Industry Catalogue Intern

Production

Hélène Gandar, Production Manager
Félix Tatzber, Production Intern
Nadia Crivelli, Infrastructure & Decoration Manager
Àdria Puerto i Molina, Accreditation Manager
Ekaterina Vytchegzhanina, Accreditation Assistant
Nadège Hauser, Events Manager
Amandine Bula, Hospitality Manager
Louise Bonpaix, Hospitality Intern
Yves Félix, Staff Manager
Piero Clemente, Projections & Copy Manager
Mathieur Rohrer, Exhibition Coordinator

Cultural Participation

Virginie Portier, Cultural Participation
Manager

Administration

Clément Wegmann, Administrative
Assistant
Myriam Fragnière, Administrative Assistant

Communications

Pauline Cazorla, Communications
Manager
Loïc Sutter, Digital Communications
Manager
Camille Poudret, Communications Intern
Delphine Mouly, Video Manager
Caroline Stevens, Press Officer
Samuel Wanja, Media Relations Intern
Gloria Zerbinati, International Press Officer
Beat Glur, Pressesprecher Deutschschweiz

Members of the Foundation

Raymond Loretan
Président Gilles Pache*
Vice-Président
Yvan Quartenoud*, Trésorier
Andreas Bachmann-Helbling
Lionel Baier*
Irène Challand
Guillaume Etier*
Pauline Gyga
Bernadette Nelissen*
David Rihs
Cornelia Seitler
Olivier Thomas
Sonia Weil

*Board members

Online edition



2020 is a landmark year for the Festival, which has reinvented itself in order to guarantee its audience rigorous artistic standards and conviviality). These exceptional circumstances have generated new momentum within the team, leading to enthusiastic reflections and discussions. In addition to the greater part of the programme being put online thanks to our skilled partners (Festival Scope, RTS, dafilms.com and Tënk), all-new encounters, new formats and content have also emerged.

- From April 17 to May 2, 2020
- 167 films selected (221 without homage/Ateliers)
- 113 broadcast online (without homage/Ateliers)
- 58 participating countries
- 53 in the new edition
- 89 World premiers
- 45% of all films directed by women.
- 24 Swiss (Co)productions, (without homage/Ateliers)

128 film (confirmed on March 30) to view online from our website on streaming platforms without leaving one's home, short-form interviews with directors and debates with, among others, the members of the selection committee, and online masterclasses with Claire Denis, Petra Costa and Peter Mettler.

The bedrock of the programming includes the films in the International Feature Film Competition, International Burning Lights Competition, International Medium Length & Short Film Competition and Opening Scenes. 82 out of 84 films will be visible from April 17 onwards. In terms of the National Competition, another cornerstone of the official selection, all the films selected for the 2020 edition will be accessible during 24 hours from April 17 until April 30. It will be the same for The Grand Angle section. Finally, 10 films (out of 11) from the non-competitive Latitudes section will be shown. The Prizes will still be awarded and the

Juries will debate and deliberate online.

For professionals, the majority of the Industry's activities (Pitching du Réel, Docs in Progress and Rough Cut Lab in particular) will be offered online. For the Festival, this is an opportunity to further extend the spectrum of guests and to experiment with new formats.

To maintain the temporality of the festival, we will organise, in addition to encounters with the guests, reinvented opening and prize-giving ceremonies that will occur online—to be followed on <https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en>.

In order to support the different audiences and facilitate discussions, several tools will be in place, such as a hotline to help those less familiar with the internet to access films online, a film critic blog enabling the public to share their opinion with everyone, short-form participative radio spots, etc.

Also, the Festival catalogue including the entire original selection will be available online from 17 April. Exclusive interviews and portraits of directors will thus complete the initially planned programming.

To access every film of every section visit [visionsdureel.ch/en](https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en)
All the films are presented online in partnership with Festival Scope, Play RTS, dafilms.com (Doc Alliance) and Tënk

Sections

International Feature Film Competition

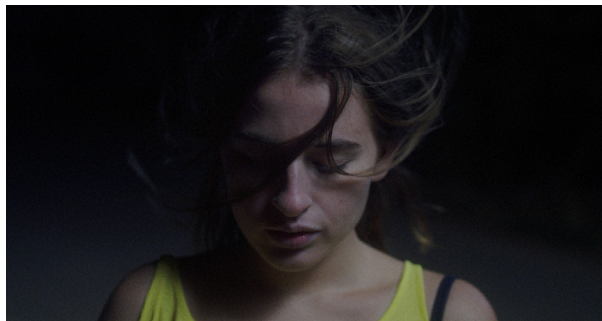
Contemporary documentary filmmaking through a selection of original and singular feature films.
Available from Saturday April 25 to Saturday May 2, 2020.



Anerca, Breath of Life,
Johannes & Markku Lehmuskallio ↗

Burning Lights International Competition

An international competition dedicated to new vocabularies and expressions, to research and to narrative and formal experimentation (medium length and feature films).
Available from Saturday April 25, to Saturday May 2, 2020.



Pyrale, Roxane Gaucherand ↗

National Competition

A competition dedicated to feature and medium length films (co)produced by Switzerland.
Available from Friday April 17 to Thursday April 30, 2020 (one movie from the National Competition will be available every day for 24h).



Sapelo, Nick Brandestini ↗

International Medium Length & Short Film Competition

Contemporary documentary filmmaking through a selection of original and singular medium length and short films.
Available from Friday April 17 to Friday April 24, 2020.



Obāchan, Nicolasa Ruiz ↗

Grand Angle

Feature films that have already wowed audiences at other festivals or that shall mark the coming year. Available from Friday April 24 to Thursday April 30, 2020 (one movie from the Grand Angle competition will be available every day for 24h).



Sing me a Song, Thomas Balmès ↗

Latitudes

A non-competitive section (feature films) that aims to reveal a panorama of current documentary practices. Available from Friday 24 April to Thursday 7 May, 2020.



Leur Algérie, Lina Soualem ↗

Opening Scenes

A section dedicated to first short films or student films. Available from Friday 17 April to Friday 24 April, 2020.



Gone Home, Pega Moemen Attare ↗

All films from the Festival are available through the Festival's website: www.visionsdureel.ch/en

All the films are presented online in partnership with Festival Scope, Play RTS, dafilms.com (Doc Alliance) and TënK.

Juries

The Festival direction has decided to maintain the different competitions, except for the Zonta and Fipresci special prizes, which are cancelled. The juries who have all accepted to take part in this special edition will view the films from their homes before taking part in the online deliberations under the supervision of secretaries. The Audience Award is maintained, with the audience invited to vote online after viewing the films in the Grand Angle section. The winning films will be announced at the end of the Festival..

International Feature Film Competition

Marco Alessi, producer, writer and filmmaker, founder of Dugong Films (Italy)
Frédéric Boyer, Artistic Director of the Tribeca Film Festival (USA) and Les Arcs Film Festival (France)
Ursula Meier, filmmaker, co-founder of Bande à part Films (Switzerland)

Burning Lights International Competition

Valentina Novati, member of the selection committee at Directors' Fortnight, producer at Norte Productions and Norte Distribution (France)
Bianca Oana, producer, founder of Monogram Film (Romania)
Ala Eddine Slim, filmmaker, co-founder of EXIT PRODUCTIONS (Tunisia)

National Competition

Karim Sayad, filmmaker (Algeria/Switzerland)
Alessandro Stellino, critic and programmer, Artistic Director of the Festival dei Popoli – International Festival of Documentary Film (Italy)
Jia Zhao, producer, Muyi Film and Silk Road Film Salon (China/Netherlands)

International Medium Length & Short Film Competition

Manuel Abramovich, filmmaker, member of the Talents Selection committee at the Berlinale (Argentina)
Pedro Fernandes Duarte, producer, founder and co-ordinator of Primeira Idade (Portugal)
Simone Späni, producer and programmer, member of the short-film selection committee at the Berlinale, founder of Cocoon Productions (Switzerland)

Youth

Alice Blachon
Leandro Dobrinov
Cassandra Jaccard
Kimali Pilet
Margaux Rivier

Interreligious

Annet Betsalel, director (Netherlands)
Ali Biçer, writer, journalist and director (Switzerland /Turkey)
André Joly, clergyman (Switzerland)
Blanca Steinmann, head of Digital Communication at Action de Carême (Switzerland)

Special Guests

Maître du Réel

Visions du Réel pays tribute to Claire Denis, a significant, radical and adventurous filmmaker, by awarding her the Sesterce d'or Prix Raiffeisen Maître du Réel (which will be presented to her later in the year). A prominent figure in contemporary filmmaking, having directed over 30 feature-length films including six documentaries, Claire Denis has won awards at many international festivals such as the Venice Film Festival or the Cannes Film Festival. A selective retrospective is devoted to her work, and she will give a masterclass online during the Festival (the exact date will soon be confirmed on the Festival website). This invitation is made in collaboration with La Cinémathèque Suisse and the ECAL (Lausanne University of Art and Design).

Ateliers

Petra Costa and Peter Mettler will both take part in an 'Atelier', a section of the Festival composed of a retrospective and a masterclass.

Petra Costa

Nominated at this year's Oscar ceremony in the Best Documentary Feature category for *The Edge of Democracy*, Petra Costa will present her work as a director and producer during the first retrospective dedicated to her work. The Brazilian filmmaker draws from her personal experience inspiration to evoke the divisions and contradictions of a country faced with tumultuous events. While Petra Costa is publicly attacked by the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro for having criticised his government, the Festival is delighted to welcome a great filmmaker who is committed to democracy and freedom of expression.

The Atelier is maintained; the masterclass will be co-hosted by the HEAD-Geneva (University of Art and Design), which is partner to this invitation, and a large number of her films will be available on dafilms.com (the platform of Doc Alliance of which Visions du Réel is a member, alongside CPH:DOX in Copenhagen; Doclisboa; Docs Against Gravity FF; DOK Leipzig; Marseille Festi-

tival of Documentary Film; Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival).

Peter Mettler

Renowned director and cinematographer Peter Mettler profoundly influenced documentary writing in the 2000s. His hybrid work explores the limits of human perception without any predetermined script and according to an associative process that wanders about along the borders of essay, documentary and fiction. The director will give a masterclass online, while a retrospective will be dedicated to work on dafilms.com as well.

All the information regarding these encounters, as well as the arrangements for participation, will follow on the Visions du Réel website.



Claire Denis ↗



Petra Costa ↗



Peter Mettler ↗

Jean-Luc Godard Exhibition



Le Livre d'Image ↗

The Festival presents *sentiments, signes, passions – à propos du livre d'Image*, an all-new exhibition conceived with Jean-Luc Godard. A carte blanche to the filmmaker, entitled *passions, signes, sentiments*, should also have been on the programme of the 51st edition of the Festival.

Exhibition: *sentiments, signes, passions – à propos du livre d'Image*

Le livre d'Image (2018) is the latest film by Jean-Luc Godard, the French-Swiss filmmaker who lives in Rolle, and is connected to the City of Nyon through his personal history. A monument of world cinema, the highly prolific director has profoundly influenced and shaken up the cinematic art with his unclassifiable and revolutionary style. The exhibition, conceived with the filmmaker in a dialogue initiated two years ago, covers the cutting of the film in six parts. It fragments, and breaks down each part of the work, both in terms of sound and vision, distancing itself from the linear filmic format and creating an entirely different type of experience and relationship with image. The five chapters of the film and their epilogue will thus be reinterpreted within six rooms in Nyon Castle.

Following the same concept as Jean-Luc Godard's exhibition at the Pompidou Centre in 2006, *sentiments, signes, passions* takes root in an approach located within the heritage of Henri Langlois and his film museum, which mixed posters, models and drawings so as to give a physical form to the very idea of editing

The exhibition enables the public from here and elsewhere to understand the work of the legendary filmmaker in a new guise, enjoying an all-new experience. It will begin as soon as Nyon Castle re-opens.

The exhibition is proposed by Visions du Réel and presented in collaboration with Nyon Castle, with the support of the Canton of Vaud, the City of Nyon, the Region of Nyon and the Jan Michalski Foundation.

Creation: Jean-Luc Godard
Design and production: Fabrice Aragno
Coordination: Mathieu Rohrer, Aurélien Marsais
Proposed by Visions du Réel – Émilie Bujès

Industry

Industry, the professional interface of the Festival, supports and contributes to the funding and realisation of film projects through activities (Pitching du Réel, Docs in Progress, Rough Cut Lab) following each stage of development through to broadcasting.

The main Industry activities will be adapted and maintained online; the participants and professionals have already confirmed their interest in taking part.

In addition to the Media Library, which enables professionals to view the films in the official selection as well as films ready for acquisition that are exclusively selected for the platform, the Industry section offers a broad perspective of the current audio-visual market and a networking platform bringing together directors, producers, buyers, distributors and broadcasters from all over the world. Both convivial and professional, this department is at the service of audio-visual professionals. Visions du Réel's Industry is one of the most significant film markets in the European territory.

This year, the Media Library will be open to professionals from beginning April 25th.



Industry 2019 ↗

A commitment to our audiences



Théâtre de Marens 2019 ↗

Visions du Réel's audiences

Visions du Réel is undertaking a series of specific projects, which exist to make the Festival accessible to as many people as possible. For example, these projects range from film-directing competitions to writing workshops, to a jury made up of teenagers from the region or to a special meeting between an audience of senior citizens and a film industry professional.

These encounters are made to measure for each audience, with the aim of offering a gateway to documentary films for everyone.

Visions du Réel set itself two main goals in 2020: to find new audiences and to widen accessibility.

Concerning the offering for young children, two special documentary sessions will take place at the start of the next school year, thanks to our precious collaboration with La Lanterne Magique. In the meantime and to keep the children patiently waiting, in mid-March we launched a nationwide drawing competition, on the themes of emotions in film.

Working on the inclusion of audiences, a project has begun with a group of senior citizens, Festival regulars, to practically address the potential obstacles encountered confronted with culture. For this particular edition, a telephone hotline will be put in place so that those less familiar with technology can enjoy personalised support for this online edition.

One of the main focuses of this digital edition is to make it accessible to different audiences. In this respect, the cultural participation sector is crucially important in encouraging audiences to meet each other and be able to create social connections through cultural objects accessible from their homes. The challenge is significant, but we wish accept it by offering varied easy-to-access and innovative sharing channels.

This year, in order to achieve this, we will offer: film trails aimed at schools, online directing competitions, a film critic blog where people can share their opinions with everyone, short-form participative radio spots, useful infographics and instructions to access the online films, a drawing competition for children, the Jury des Jeunes (Youth Jury) who will debate and deliberate online, as well as many partnerships with the region's cultural sites to communicate our offering and encourage audiences into encounters despite the confinement.

Partners

Following the restrictions linked to Covid-19 and given the form of the Festival in 2020 we had to give up certain partnerships for this edition. We warmly thank the partners with whom we have not been able to work this year as well as the 2020 partners.

Main partner

La Mobilière

Main media partner

SRG SSR

Public and institutional partners

Office Fédéral de la Culture (OFC),
Direction du développement et de la
coopération (DDC) du DFAE,
Ville de Nyon, Canton de Vaud,
Région de Nyon, Ville de Gland,
République et canton de Genève

Media partners

RTS, La Côte, Le Temps, TV5 Monde

Foundations

Fondation Esther Locher-Gurtner,
Fondation Goblet,
Fondation Jan Michalski,
Fondation Juchum,
Landis & Gyr Stiftung,
Loterie Romande,
Migros pour-cent culturel,
Fondation Sandoz

Technical sponsors

Imersis, Tënk, Festival Scope,
DocAlliance, Cinando2

Main partners

Raiffeisen, Mémoire Vive

Partners

Cinémathèque suisse, Ecole
cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL),

Freestudios, Haute école d'art et de
design Genève (HEAD), La Lanterne
Magique, La Parenthèse, Les Cinémas
Capitole, Nyon Région Tourisme,
Doc&Film International,
Université de Lausanne

Suppliers

Les Cinémas Capitole, Europcar,
India Zelt & Event AG, Propaganda

Printing partner

Cornaz SA

Visions du Réel is a member of
Doc Alliance, Conférence des
festivals, Cinélibre, Nyon
Ville de Festivals and FRAC.

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Attachments

Attachment 1 : Films' List

Attachment 2 : Presse release from La Mobilière, main partner.

Partenaire principal Partenaire média

la Mobilière

SRG SSR

Partenaires institutionnels



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Bundesamt für Kultur BAK
Office fédéral de la culture OFC

Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA
Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC

 canton de
vaud

 VILLE DE
NYON



Région
de Nyon

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ROMANDE**

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