One Foretaste of the 41st Edition

Since its creation 41 years ago, Cinéma du réel has become a flagship festival for documentary cinema in France. Mindful of the diversity of writings, forms and ideas, it draws a broad, attentive and curious public.

This 41st edition, proposed by Catherine Bizern – the new artistic director –, will offer its audiences the best and most innovative output of world documentary production. It is structured around a competitive section, retrospectives and moments for professional encounters, making Cinéma du réel the ideal meeting point with the creators of today’s documentaries.

→ Competitions
2 competitive sections, mixing feature and short films: International Competition // French Selection. The films in competition will be disclosed in February.

→ First Window
A selection to illustrate the emergence of the documentary, the very first steps of young professionals and students. Watch out for them in the film theatres or on the Internet.

→ Retrospective: Kevin Jerome Everson
In his presence, 8 films, 2 short film screenings and an installation will be presented to show the work of this prolific author, who films popular African-American culture, often forgotten in the mainstream history of the United States.
This retrospective will be the first in France to focus on his cinematographic oeuvre, already presented at London’s Tate Modern, New York’s Whitney Museum or at the Harvard Film Archive.

→ Making Cinema
Watching filmmakers at work, in the intimacy of creation and cinema in the making, with a journey that commingles the “making-of” [Auto production] by Virgil Vernier, 2008 / A.K by Chris Marker, 1985 [Film Catastrophe] by Paul Grivas, 2018, photo right, the re-editing of rushes [Un tournage à la campagne] by Alain Fleischer, filmmakers’ letters (like those of the legendary TV programme “Cinéma Cinémas” with notably J. Cassavetes, A. Cavalier, S. Gainsbourg, R. Ruiz, W. Wenders), filmed correspondence [Vidéo-lettres] exchanged between Robert Kramer and Stephen Dwoskin, 1991, portraits [Laurent Achard with Un, parfois deuxand 251 rue Marcadet on Vecchiak and Brisseau respectively], etc. Partnered by INA

→ Popular Front(s)
Each year, Popular Front(s) will mobilise the political and activist function of cinema. This year, the theme will be “What is the power of images?” or how can images that convey struggles take part in them.
A programme that will plunge us into revolutions in Romania, Ukraine, the Middle East, Africa... notably with films by Harun Farocki, Sergei Loznitsa, Yolande Zauberman [photo right, Would You Have Sex With An Arab?]

→ Festival Conversations
“Festival Conversations” is a one-day seminar for the Festival’s public - asking the question “what is documentary?” Partnered by the Université Paris Science et Lettres.
In 2019, for the first “Festival Conversations”, 3 round tables will be organised on Monday 18 March to launch a cross-cutting exploration of the documentary’s positioning across different disciplines such as philosophy, architecture, theatre, dance, contemporary art, photography and cinema.

→ ParisDoc
During the festival, 4 days of encounters and events for professionals, from Tuesday 19 to Friday 22 March. A brand new concept designed to dynamise discussions between French and international professionals.
- Works-in-Progress: 2 days of screening of films in progress intended for film diffusion professionals.
- Feed Back Pro: 2 round tables giving feedback on experiences.
- Les Matinales: 4 morning encounters to help create bridges between experienced and budding professionals.
- The Public Forum: open to everyone, a big debate on one of the industry’s key issues.

→ PLUS: special screenings: previews, rare films, first-time screenings... // performances, concerts

→ THE FESTIVAL VENUES: Centre Pompidou, Cinéma 1 / Cinéma 2 / Petite Salle // Forum des images // Luminor Hôtel de Ville

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