

// Media Information – Linz, 6 February 2017 //

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz – First Festival Preview

Film selection finale, the program section ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIETY goes into the eighth round under the motto "Gender & Space", this year's prize winners of the OK | Art Prize of the Energie AG Upper Austria are Christoph Frey and Denise Mair, and the audiovisual live performance LAS DOS CARAS – ON THE DUALITY OF MIGRATION offers the festival audience a multimedia highlight in Deep Space 8K in AEC.

Program Selection on the Home Stretch

Most of the festival films have now been selected, and the first travel arrangements for our international film guests have already been booked. The cooperation partners for the coming festival are ready to go, and following the announcement of this year's Tribute – which is dedicated to the renowned Polish artist couple Anka and Wilhelm Sasnal – further **program highlights** for the **14th edition** of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz, which takes place from **25 to 30 April 2017**, are announced today.

Following the deadline for film submission in early January and after Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team have viewed **far more than 900 feature-length films** from all over Europe during the past few months, one thing is certain: the festival audience can look forward to a very strong festival edition with hand-picked feature films and documentaries that promise an **exciting filmic survey of our continent**. This year's program brings together socio-politically aware, artistic-eccentric filmmaking with **around 160 current filmic positions**. These and the numerous film guests attending will again be able to arouse the audience's pleasure in unconventional cinema from Europe. In addition to numerous **Austrian premieres**, international award-winning film highlights from the past festival season can be experienced on the screen in Linz. And again in 2017, CROSSING EUROPE provides the regional film scene from Upper Austria with an attractive forum for the presentation of new work with a selection from the 160 film and video works entered this year for the section LOCAL ARTISTS.

ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIETY: Gender & Space in Cooperation with afo architecture forum upper austria

CROSSING EUROPE presents, now for the eighth time, the section **Architecture and Society**, curated by Lotte Schreiber. Under the title **GENDER & SPACE**, this year the section explores the relationship between gender roles and space. Centering around Sofia Exarchou's multiple award-winning Greek debut film PARK, a four-part film program pursues the question of the extent to which the social construct of "gender" influences our perception and ideas of real and imaginary spaces.

In **PARK** the director situates a coming-of-age story on the periphery of Athens, specifically in the Olympic Games buildings, which have been vacant and decaying for more than ten years. They become the stage for gender-specific self-representations and an intimate place of retreat for first sexual experiences. The female body as actor in transitory space is the focus of the journal-like documentary film **WANDERLUST, CUERPOS EN TRÁNSITO**. This film accompanies two young women from different backgrounds, who travel exclusively over land and water from Egypt to Germany. The Kurdish-Canadian documentary filmmaker Zaynê Akyol focuses on the role of Kurdish women in the armed battle over a territory in **GULÎSTAN, TERRE DE ROSES**, offering an insight into an unknown, hidden everyday life. Solitude, quite and the untamed forces of nature dominate the life of the scientist Aušra Revutaite in the Kazakh mountains in the Lithuanian film **WOMAN AND THE GLACIER** by the director and 2008 Tribute guest Audrius Stonys. In contrast to this, the Latvian short film **GARĀŽAS** shows the audience the testosterone-dominated world of garages.

// In addition to Audrius Stonys, other filmmakers will also be present in person. //

Here an overview of the films in the section:

// PARK (GR, PL 2016), D: Sofia Exarchou – feature film / Austrian premiere

// WOMAN AND THE GLACIER (LT, EE 2016), D: Audrius Stonys – documentary film / Austrian premiere

// GULÎSTAN, TERRE DE ROSES / GULISTAN, LAND OF ROSES (CA, DE 2016), D: Zaynê Akyol – documentary film

// WANDERLUST, CUERPOS EN TRÁNSITO / WANDERLUST, FEMALE BODIES IN TRANSIT (DE, AR 2016), D: Anne von Petersdorff, Maria Perez Escalá – documentary film / Austrian premiere

// GARĀŽAS / GARAGES (LV 2016), D: Katrīna Neiburga – mid-length documentary film / international premiere

CROSSOVER Projects & CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG 2017

The **Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter** is the well-established festival location and vibrant center of the festival again in 2017. The OK as a production house contributes impulses to the program with **site-specific projection works**, showing the interesting development of artistic projection work (in mapping, VJ projects), which go beyond the conventional crossover between film and visual art and penetrate into public space.

In addition to the large **solo exhibition** with seventeen works, including nine video works, by the Spanish media artist **Cristina Lucas** in the OK, two more individual positions will be presented with the multimedia project **“Europastrasse”** by the Upper Austrian artist **Otto Hainzl** in the Ursulinenhof and the **winning project** for the CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG – a facade projection by **Christoph Frey and Denise Mair**.

Since 2013 artistic projection works are showed on the exterior facade of the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter during the film festival CROSSING EUROPE, expanding it into an art space. The projects shown are taken from the CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize of the Energie AG, which aims to further develop and promote an engagement with film/light in public space. The prize, awarded in 2017 now for the fifth time, is a project grant **amounting to €4000** for an outdoor projection for an artist from Upper Austria, which the Energie AG OÖ awards in cooperation with the Art University Linz in conjunction with the film festival CROSSING EUROPE.

As the third partner, the OK in the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter provides production means and technical assistance. Under the motto “the best idea wins”, a total of 16 artistic project were entered this year.

The **winners** of the CROSSING EUROPE | Art Prize this year are the media artists **Christoph Frey** (*1987) and **Denise Mair** (*1987), both from Linz, who are currently working on their masters degrees at the Art University Linz in the field of time-based media. The jury, consisting of Christine Dollhofer (Festival Director CROSSING EUROPE), Franz Prieler (art commissioner of the Energie AG), Genoveva Rückert (curator OK in the Upper Austrian Cultural Quarter), Siegfried A. Fruhauf (artist/filmmaker), and Gitti Vasicek (Head of the Institute for Media/Art University Linz), unanimously found their project “**Nähe*Distanz/Closeness*Distance**” compelling because of its coherent engagement with the format of the facade projection during the film festival CROSSING EUROPE. No image will be seen twice during the course of the festival week. The roughly 42-hour projection runs through only once, and as it extends in time over six days, it offers an ongoing viewing value for festival visitors. The filmic event extends as a five-part projection across the facade. In the deceleration of the images, the contents arch between closeness and distance arising from this formal solution. In the approach of translating communication into movement, light, text and gestures, this work addresses the experience of cinema in a multifaceted way. Starting from the film projection without sound and the idea that sign language represents a communication form of its own through gaze and touch, the film also translates aspects of its own image language, which consistently carries the experience of sound further in light movements and rhythm.

// *The **realization and presentation** of the winning project will take place with the coming edition of CROSSING EUROPE in April 2017 every day starting at sunset; the site of presentation is again the facade of the office building in the **OK Square**.* //

PERFORMANCE Las Dos Caras @ Deep Space 8K

PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE Atelier Award Winning Project live at CROSSING EUROPE

Last year the **OÖKB**-Upper Austrian Composers' Association, in cooperation with **CROSSING EUROPE**, the composer Tanja Brüggemann and the Office of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government/ Office of Culture, announced a competition for an **atelier** in the Villa Stonborough-Wittgenstein in Gmunden for one month in November 2016. The call was addressed to filmmakers and musicians/composers from Upper Austria. They were invited to submit artistic projects or plans by teams of two, which were devoted to **linking music/sound and film** in a special way. The **PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE Atelier Prize** is the logical continuation of the networking event PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE, which took place during CROSSING EUROPE in 2014, dealing with the creative practice of film- and music-makers in the field of visual and auditive art.

The Atelier Prize was awarded to the independent artist and arranger **Fatima El Kosht** and the independent artist in the fields of animation film and theater **Remo Rauscher**, who developed the **audiovisual live performance LAS DOS CARAS – VON DER DUALITÄT DER MIGRATION/ON THE DUALITY OF MIGRATION** together in the atelier in Gmunden in November 2016. It will be performed during the coming festival in **DEEP SPACE 8K** in the Ars Electronica Center Linz.

In an open dialogue between image and sound, El Kosht and Rauscher illuminate the state of being uprooted in the no-man's-land between culture, society and identity, where a presumably transitional status can become a diffuse permanent state. They conjoin musical, visual and literary fragments with concrete atmospheres and abstract snapshots revolving around personal experiences into an interdisciplinary narrative in the sense of visual music. With the unique possibilities of the venue DEEP SPACE 8K – with high-resolution, interactive projections in 3D on a surface of 16 by 9 meters on the wall and floor – the planned live performance promises to be one of the **highlights of the coming festival**.

// The approximately one-hour performance takes place on Thursday, 27 April, at 6:00 pm in Deep Space 8K of the Ars Electronica Center Linz // In addition, in cooperation with the Linz Music School and Upper Austrian Provincial Music Education, a workshop will be held around the same time for school pupils with Fatima El Kosht and Remo Rauscher under the direction of Tanja Brüggemann. //

TRIBUTE 2017: Anka und Wilhelm Sasnal (PL)

As announced in December, CROSSING EUROPE will be the first film festival to present a complete retrospective of the film work by the Polish artist couple Anka and Wilhelm Sasnal, which will open with their **current feature film** SŁOŃCE, TO SŁOŃCE MNIE OŚLEPIŁO / THE SUN, THE SUN BLINDED ME (PL, CH 2016). The film premiered at the renowned film festival in Locarno and was highly praised by critics for its political topicality and its artistic quality. The two TRIBUTE guests are no strangers to the festival audience in Linz, as they have already been represented in the festival program twice in the past. With their feature film Z DALEKA WIDOK JEST PIĘKNY / IT LOOKS PRETTY FROM A DISTANCE (PL 2011), which premiered in Rotterdam, they won the main award in Linz in 2012 and later returned with HUBA / PARASITE (PL, UK 2014).

In addition to the three works already mentioned, the TRIBUTE 2017 also includes two further feature-length films (ŚWINIOPAS / SWINEHERD (PL 2008) and ALEKSANDER (PL, US 2013)) by the director duo and **seven short films by Wilhelm Sasnal**, which were made between 2005 and 2015. Our Tribute guests Anka and Wilhelm Sasnal will be present in person for the film talks, and a **Directors' Talk** is also planned during their stay.

// You will find additional information and film descriptions [HERE](#) on our website. //

More detailed film & program information will be announced in mid-March in our next press release.

Upcoming Dates

Deadline for accreditation: **Mon, 20 March 2017**

Program press conferences Linz & Vienna: **Wed, 12 April 2017**

Festival dates: **Tues., 25 to Sun., 30 April 2017**

Photo Material & Updates

Photos & Film Stills: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/xp-presse/pressefotos/>

Festival Impressions: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/>

Logo & Festival Motif: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/en/xp-presse/logos>

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2017 can be found, as ever, on our website: www.crossingeurope.at and our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).