

A close-up portrait of a woman's face, focusing on her eye and mouth. The image is partially obscured by a yellow vertical bar on the right side. Overlaid on the image is the text 'crossing europe film festival' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**crossing
europe
film festival**

linz //

25—

30 april

2017



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz // 25 – 30 April 2017 // www.crossingEurope.at

Festival Office: Graben 30, 4020 Linz, Austria, T +43.732.785 700 90

Media Service: Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, M +43.664.245 77 60

// Media Information – Linz, 1 Mai 2017 //

RÉSUMÉ & FESTIVAL AWARDS 2017

The 14th CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival ended yesterday and has been more than satisfactory. Roughly 23,000 festival visitors were counted in the past six days at 182 screenings and 16 supporting programs. Festival Director Christine Dollhofer is therefore happy to be able to announce a new visitor record.

23.000 Visitors in 6 Days – a New Record

23.000 festival guests, film and music enthusiasts accepted the invitation from Festival Director Christine Dollhofer to make use of the virtual Interrail ticket – which she “promoted” at the program press conference – and set out on a cineaste journey through crisis-ridden Europe. 1,000 visitors more than last year were counted – an increase that was especially noticeable directly in the cinemas at the film screenings. Almost five days of rain and the public holiday today certainly contributed to the positive development of the festival’s popularity with the audience from the first day on. In addition to the film screenings, though, the exhibitions, talks, performances, and the music nightline were also very well attended at CROSSING EUROPE.

With 23,000 visitors, **last year’s record has been significantly surpassed**, which may be taken as an affirmation of the orientation of the festival program. The entire festival team around Christine Dollhofer can thus happily and hopefully look forward to the **anniversary edition of the festival next year**, when CROSSING EUROPE presents itself as host to Europe for the 15th time.

A total of **160** selected feature films and documentaries (all of 107 of them premieres) from **43** different countries were presented in the cinemas that were largely sold out, while around 700 branch guests from Austria and abroad – including about **130 film guests** – were counted.

It is especially gratifying that the aforementioned “invitation” was also accepted by numerous established European directors, whose impressive works artistically treat the current state of Europe – to name only a few representatives, these included the opening film guests **Lucas Belvaux** (CHEZ NOUS) and **Vitaly Mansky** (RODNYE), this year’s Tribute guests **Anka and Wilhelm Sasnal** from Poland, and the Turkish Spotlight director **Yeşim Ustaoglu**, whose films met with great response.

A Tribute to Europe

With this year’s film selection CROSSING EUROPE has again sought to spotlight the various nuances of the (film) continent of Europe. With the program of the **14th edition** the festival has enable multifaceted and cinephile insights into a continent with a complex history, a conflicted present, and yet a still hopeful future. It is a continent often rebuked now, but one that holds so many strong narratives and offers a tremendous abundance of possibilities and perspectives with its multidimensionality. And it is

exactly at this point that CROSSING EUROPE 2017 has come in and presented this **diversity of filmic forms, traditions and themes** – as an invitation to a direct engagement with European life worlds and as a cinematic declaration of love for Europe.

The focus here was on **issues of identity politics** as well as an engagement with the realities of life in today's Europe. In keeping with this credo and with the most diverse artistic approaches, the film authors negotiated **European questions** that move all of us. They told of a society in upheaval; of a society facing a turning point, and in which the values of liberal democracy, its zones of conflict and communities of solidarity must be newly probed and defended. They told of autocratic, anti-democratic, nationalist movements; of the subsequent impacts of traumatic experiences and system crises all the way into the smallest cell of society, the family (however this may be defined). And they told of a young generation in upheaval and uproar, experiencing a complex process of self-discovery in a rapidly changing and globalized world. In summary: the CROSSING EUROPE 2017 program was just as diverse as the film continent of Europe itself – with a broad spectrum of themes and styles arching geographically and artistically all the way across Europe and beyond.

Outlook – Festival Anniversary 2018

Next year the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz already celebrates its **15th edition**. Since the founding in 2003 and the first edition of the festival in 2004, CROSSING EUROPE has established itself as a **fixed point on the European festival map and in the cultural calendar of the city of Linz**. In 2018 as well, CROSSING EUROPE will remain true to its program and rely on the attraction of European auteur cinema – also in the hope of continuing to mobilize those interested in film from Austria and abroad to the same extent in the future as in the past, and to inspire them to take a cineaste journey all across Europe.

In order to be able to reach this goal, CROSSING EUROPE depends on the financial, organizational and ideal support of its funders, sponsors and partners. Following years marked by concern for the future of CROSSING EUROPE, the **financial situation of the festival has now stabilized**; the commitment of the funders from Austria has fortunately remained the same. A mid-term valorization of the funding amounts would be desirable, since the annually **rising costs in all organizational units** have an impact. In times of decreasing culture budgets in both the public and the private sector, we can only hope that a reasonably solid financial foundation is available for the anniversary edition of CROSSING EUROPE.

Again in 2018 Festival Director Christine Dollhofer and her team will endeavor to bring together the demands of the professional audience and the local cinema audience, to offer **six inspiring festival days** in the Upper Austrian provincial capital, and to create with CROSSING EUROPE a vibrant event for the presentation of contemporary socio-political auteur cinema from Europe. And so we invite you now to join us in **celebrating the 15th edition** of CROSSING EUROPE from 25 to 30 April 2018!

CROSSING EUROPE Competition - Fiction

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Best Fiction Film

€ 10.000,- powered by [Linz Kultur & Land Oberösterreich / Kultur](#)

[NE GLEDAJ MI U PIJAT / QUIT STARING AT MY PLATE](#)

Hana Jušić, HR/DK 2016

The COMPETITION JURY – Fiction (Cosima Finkbeiner, Karel Och, Andrei Tănăsescu) explained their decision with the statement: "With a subtle, contagious sense of humour, and growing dramatic power, we are brought into a unique directorial vision that depicts the tenderness and cruelty of family relationships. Complex and provocative, heartfelt and energetic, it conveys the message that it's never too late to come of age."

CROSSING EUROPE Audience Award - Best Fiction Film

€ 1.000,- powered by [Crossing Europe](#)

& material prizes, sponsored by [ray filmmagazin](#) & [PARK INN by Radisson Linz](#) – First Hotel Partner

[HJARTASTEINN / HEARTSTONE](#)

Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson, DK/IS 2016

CROSSING EUROPE Competition - Documentary

CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Best Documentary

€ 5.000,- powered by [gfk-Gesellschaft für Kulturpolitik OÖ](#)

[RODNYE / CLOSE RELATIONS](#)

Vitaly Mansky, LV/DE/EE/UA 2016

The COMPETITION JURY – Documentary (Lina Dinkla, Alejandro Díaz Castaño, Audrius Stonys) stated the reason for their decision with these words: "We want to honor a work by a brave filmmaker, a work that comes from the necessity of telling the truth. This film relies on a strong cinematic language and perfectly merges a personal story and the current events of a war."

CROSSING EUROPE Competition – Local Artist

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Local Artist

€ 5.000,- powered by [Land Oberösterreich / Kultur](#)

€ 2.000,- voucher from the company [The Grand Post - Audio & Picture Post Production](#)

Money Prize: [ODERLAND.FONTANE](#)

Bernhard Sallmann, DE 2016

The COMPETITION JURY – Local Artist (Felix Sebastian Huber, Katrin Köppert, Angela Summereder) stated: "The Local Artist Award money prize goes to a film that impressed us by daring to slow down and with its coherent form. ODERLAND.FONTANE by Bernhard Sallmann undertakes a poetic and filmic survey of the German Oder region in Brandenburg. Starting from texts by Theodor Fontane, the film explores the surface and the underlying structure in a historical, political, and ecological perspective. Meditative calm and analytical acuity are the parameters that make up the aesthetic principle of the film, opening up a

space to the audience through the excellently selected and presented picture-sound montage, in order to understand the complex connections between nature, culture and politics – including the parallels that emerge with current issues such as climate change and migration. We wish this film much attention and success!”

Voucher: [KAUGUMMIZIGARETTEN](#)
Marie Luise Lehner, AT 2016

The COMPETITION JURY – Local Artist (Felix Sebastian Huber, Katrin Köppert, Angela Summereder) stated: “With a brilliant start – the leap into wet uncertainty – and an entirely apt sense of the narrative, the film creates a snotty childhood world moving in the ambivalence of contemporary concepts of family. Lia, wonderfully portrayed in her inner turmoil, is at the center of this film experiment, which provides no ultimate answers to the question of what a good and proper family life is.”

CROSSING EUROPE Innovative Award – Local Artist

€ 3.500,- powered by [ÖÖ Kulturquartier](#)

[FETISH FINGER](#)
Susanna Flock, AT 2016

The COMPETITION JURY – Local Artist (Felix Sebastian Huber, Katrin Köppert, Angela Summereder) stated: “Media images of the self are the fetishes of digital culture. Whether it is one’s own cat, the body mutated into an optimizable surface, or a cooking pot – they all serve the subject culture of selfies. With Susanna Flock’s video “Fetish Finger” we scroll slowly through this image culture of the present. The depiction of the hand here, the ultimate symbol of DIY culture, is especially convincing. This arrangement dramatizes how we – having become objects ourselves – desperately attempt to make contact with ourselves. The pictured touch of the touchscreen and the invisible interface illustrate how the self struggles to cope with the gap between materiality and virtuality. “Fetish Finger” is a colorful, sometimes absurd and, most of all, refreshingly non-moralizing commentary on this new fetish culture.”

CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO Audience Award

€ 1.500,- powered by [CREATIVE REGION Linz & Upper Austria](#)

[NAKED THOUGHTS – ALPINE DWELLER](#)
Josef Fink, David Haunschmidt, AT 2016

// The prize has been awarded now for the fifth time, once again the winner was chosen by votes from the audience. //

Photo Material & Updates

Photos & Film Stills: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/xe-presse/pressefotos/>
Festival Impressions: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/>
Logo & Festival Motif: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/en/xe-presse/logos>

Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2018 can be found, as ever, on our website: www.crossingEurope.at and our social media channels [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).
