

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2020

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Tribute to VALIE EXPORT, Crossing Europe goes Green & YAAAS! Young Programmers of 2020

18 Weeks to go!

In exactly 18 weeks, on Tuesday **21 April 2020**, CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz will start its **17th edition**. On six festival days (plus one “bonus day” on 27 April) the festival dedicates itself to opening up a differentiated perspective on European lives through around **150 hand-picked feature films and documentaries**. Additionally to the presentation of challenging European films, the exchange between the cinema audiences and the **150 attending filmmakers** represents a central point within the festival that makes the Upper Austrian capital (and UNESCO City of Media Arts) the cinephile center of Europe, at least for a short while.

In the festival office, work on the program is already making great strides: hundreds of entries have already arrived and rung in the first sighting phase, established program partnerships are being continued once more, and new collaborations are being drawn up. As in the previous years, the selection of the films adheres to a balanced gender programming according to the stipulations of the international film initiative “[50:50 by 2020](#)”. In that vein we would like to present the **first program details** to you, and remind you of the **deadline for film submissions**.

The **Tribute 2020** is dedicated to one of the most important representatives of international conceptual media art, as well as film and performance: **VALIE EXPORT**. On the occasion of her 80th birthday, CROSSING EUROPE will focus on the wide-ranging **cinematographic oeuvre** in a selection of the feature and experimental films by the artist from Linz. Her dealings with the societal role of the woman, her experiments with new media, and the changed perception through it, make VALIE EXPORT an international **pioneer of media art and feminist art**.

This year CROSSING EUROPE was able to put a number of resource-saving and environmentally friendly measures into practice, that allow for the festival to qualify as a **GreenEvent OÖ** by the Climate Alliance Austria. In the course of organizing the festival, the team is dedicated to keep on eye on **environmental and sustainability aspects**.

The **YAAAS! Competition** is one of four competition sections in the CROSSING EUROPE festival. This section shows **six current European feature films**, selected by the **YAAAS! Young Programmers**. For the festival 2020 the Young Programmers have already been selected, and the **five youths** have reached their final selection of the sighting of twenty films, after a multi-step process. The final six competition titles will be announced together with the details of planned school screenings in January 2020.

Last but not least – this year’s call for entries ends on **January 3, 2020**.

Tribute 2020: VALIE EXPORT

This year CROSSING EUROPE is dedicating its tribute section to one of the **most important representatives of international conceptual media, film, and performance art**: VALIE EXPORT was born 1940 in Linz, where she also grew up. On the occasion of her 80th birthday and in cooperation with the **VALIE EXPORT Center Linz** and **sixpackfilm**, CROSSING EUROPE will show a comprehensive program including her films and videos, for the first time **in the city of her birth** at this year's festival edition.

The tribute will present a **selection** of her short and feature length films from a period spanning **more than forty years**. This includes experimental studies, cinematic self-portraits, actionist and research films and videos, partly on 8 millimeter film, that were conceptualized for the cinema, exhibition spaces, and the television set. In the context of the festival the **following feature and experimental films** will be shown on the silver screen in attendance of VALIE EXPORT, who will also give a tribute talk.

| Feature length films |

- ❖ Unsichtbare Gegner/ Invisible Adversaries (AT 1976)
- ❖ Menschenfrauen / Human Females (AT 1979)
- ❖ Die Praxis der Liebe / The Practice of Love (AT 1984) – *Opening Film Crossing Europe 2020*
- ❖ Das Bewaffnete Auge - VALIE EXPORT im Dialog mit der Filmavantgarde (R: Zoltan Pataky; AT 1984)

| Short films |

- ❖ Gedichte / Poems (AT 1966 – 1980)
- ❖ Selbstportrait mit Kopf / Self-Portrait with Head (AT 1966/67)
- ❖ TAPP und TASTKINO / TAP and TOUCH CINEMA (AT 1968)
- ❖ Body Tape (AT 1970)
- ❖ Hauchtext: Liebesgedicht / Breath Text: Love Poem (AT 1970 – 73)
- ❖ Facing a Family (AT 1971)
- ❖ ...Remote...Remote... (AT 1973)
- ❖ Adjungierte Dislokationen / Adjunct Dislocations (AT 1973)
- ❖ Asemie – die Unfähigkeit, sich durch Mienenspiel ausdrücken zu können / Asemie or the Inability to Express Oneself through Facial Expressions (AT 1973)
- ❖ Hyperbulie (AT 1973)
- ❖ Mann & Frau & Animal / Man & Woman & Animal (AT 1970-73)
- ❖ Sehtext: Fingergedicht / Visual Text: Finger Poem (AT 1973)
- ❖ Body Politics (AT 1974)
- ❖ Syntagma (AT 1983)
- ❖ Ein perfektes Paar oder die Unzucht wechselt ihre Haut / Lust (AT 1986)
- ❖ the voice as performance, act and body (AT 2007)
- ❖ i turn over the pictures of my voice in my head (AT 2009)

INVISIBLE ADVERSARIES (festival premiere at the Berlinale Forum 1977) was VALIE EXPORT's **first feature length film** and also picks up on her own earlier works. Photography, performance, and video come together to form the story of a woman who feels increasingly threatened by an invisible force. **HUMAN FEMALES** (world premiere at the Berlinale Forum 1980) sketches the social conditions of woman on the basis of four protagonists who try to break free from societal ascribed roles, expertly artistically visualized by VALIE EXPORT. In the film **THE PRACTICE OF LOVE** (world premiere at the Berlinale Competition 1985) the artist transposes her experiences from the genre of avantgarde film into a thriller that deals with dependencies and abysses.



CROSSING EUROPE

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VALIE EXPORT (* 1940 in Linz) is a pioneer of conceptual media, performance and cinematographic art. She has been active since the **1960s**, the focus of VALIE EXPORT's artistic research is on the physical, societal and technological types of relations between body and space. The (usually female) body and its attribution to and inscription into social, medial and architectural spaces serves as a starting point and tool. She works with a wide range of media and caught the attention with actions in public space that belonged to the field of performance and to media art and were developed from a feminist perspective. VALIE EXPORT's **oeuvre of groundbreaking feminist and media reflective works** were awarded the best-endowed European art prize, the Roswitha Haftmann-prize in 2019. EXPORT made a name for herself in **the 1960s and 1970s** with **body actions** in the public space, including the TAPP and TASTKINO. Developed from a female perspective, they are to be considered as performance and media art.

A **co-founder** of the Austrian Filmmakers Cooperative, she has participated in numerous **film and video festivals** all around the world. She began her **curatorial** activities in the 1970s, with the focus on feminism and media art, furthermore she **taught** at institutions such as the Art Institute in San Francisco, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee/USA, and Berlin University of the Arts. Until 2005 VALIE EXPORT held the professorship for Multimedia and Performance at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. In 2009 she was the co-commissioner for the Austrian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

The **TRIBUTE 2020** is carried out in collaboration with the [VALIE EXPORT CENTER LINZ](#) and [sixpackfilm](#).

| The mission of [VALIE EXPORT Center Linz](#) is the research into and appraisal of the artist's premature legacy, as well as its mediation and contextualisation. Since the beginning of her artistic activity, VALIE EXPORT, a pioneer of Media and Performance Art, started to build a substantial archive, which was acquired in 2015 as a premature legacy by her native city of Linz and incorporated into the collections of the LENTOS Kunstmuseum. International in its orientation, the research center strives to promote the artistic and scientific exploration of, in particular, the subject areas of Media and Performance art, and establishes a link to contemporary artistic practices. |

| [Sixpackfilm](#) was founded in 1990 as a non-profit-organisation. The most important goal for sixpackfilm is the furthering of the public perception for Austrian filmmakers and video artists inside and outside of the country. The main focus for the distribution network is the mediation of current film productions to international festivals. After being shown at festivals, the films are then attended to and made available by sixpackfilm distribution. The distribution program includes more than 1700 productions, including many classics from the Austrian avant-garde – as well as the works by VALIE EXPORT. |

CROSSING EUROPE will be a GreenEvent OÖ

For the past years, CROSSING EUROPE has increasingly been putting measures into practice that focus on **sustainable and environmentally friendly festival work**. This year we could implement a bundle of initiatives that allowed for CROSSING EUROPE to be certified as a [GreenEvent OÖ](#) by the Climate Alliance Austria ([Klimabündnis Österreich](#)). In the course of organizing the festival, the team is dedicated to keep on eye on **environmental and sustainability aspects**. Among other things, we were concerned with climate friendly mobility (of the teams and ours guests) and food (at festival events), resources and waste conserved, and the festival is dedicated to communicate these steps and the social aspects. In this way, CROSSING EUROPE also intends to **implement** individual measures surrounding the topic and put a focus on the topic in a **holistic manner in every aspect of a cultural event** of this size.

The goal is that every step of the organization of the festival is regularly analyzed and optimized in regards to environmental compatibility. Next to ecological aspects, a good personal contact to all our event partners, sponsors, and funders is of great importance to us, in order to facilitate a sustainable conduct through long-term and fair collaboration.

From our point of view, a “green” festival is the best prerequisite for long-lasting, stable success. That is precisely why careful planning and weighing of organizational as well as topics aspects is so essential – of course within our financial possibilities. The following cornerstones are key to our strategy as a GreenEvent:

- ❖ Climate protection – travel and logistics: reduction of travel and CO₂ compensation (festival team and guests; screening copies), change to climate friendly methods of transport – on a European scale, as well as regionally and locally – as well as the promotion of alternatives within the scope of the festival communication.
- ❖ Conservation of resources: waste prevention and separation, a responsible use of print and other festival media, as well as promotional and production means.
- ❖ Environment – products & foods – accessibility of the festival: catering for the festival guests (biological, fair, local, seasonal), increase of accessibility (both analog and digital).

As a mid-size European film festival CROSSING EUROPE intends to continue its success, while recognizing its responsibility for people and the environment. For this reason we would like to invite both our festival guests, as well as our cooperation partners to engage with **sustainable and environmentally friendly cinema** in the framework of the festival. Let's go green!

The YAAAS! Young Programmers for 2020

Ever since the last edition, the YAAAS! Competition has added a **fourth competition section** to CROSSING EUROPE, in which the **festival prize CROSSING EUROPE Award – Youth Jury** (endowed with 3000 €) is awarded. The YAAAS! Competition shows six contemporary European feature films, selected by the **YAAAS! Young Programmers**. For the 2020 festival the Young Programmers have already been chosen: Magdalena Chan, Jonas Mayrhofer, Kara Musch, Hanna Triefhaider, and Sabine Wimmer, all attend our partner school, the HBLA for Artistic Design in Linz, and were given a multi-step **introduction** into the process of **film curating** from October onward. The five youths have watched around twenty films in the past few weeks and are about to announce their final selection for the YAAAS! Competition soon.

Three of the six selected films will additionally be shown at special **school screenings** at the festival. The exact dates, details, film descriptions, and links to the trailer, as well as **school materials** for preparation and follow-up of the festival visit will be announced in January 2020. Additionally, the Young Programmers will be taking over the introductions of the films and the Q&A sections, and will take care of the participants of the YAAAS! Workshop-Program.

The section YAAAS! provides a holistic offer for **film education and the acquisition of media competency and DIY video production**, and is aimed at young people between the ages of 15 and 20 who are given the chance to enter into a direct exchange with industry professionals, learn new skills, see and discuss films, as well as present their own work.

Next to the **competition section** curated by the Young Programmers, **the film screenings**, a **youth jury**, and a **video project spanning multiple days**, YAAAS! offers a number of **practical workshops** and **accessible events** in order to get to know the film industry. More than **900 youths** took part in the YAAAS! edition in 2019 that understands its role as supplementary to the media education at a secondary level and aims to further to acquisition of media competency through practical work with the medium of film and its reception.

| Details on the YAAAS! Youth Program can be found at:
<https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/program/yaaas-youth-section.html> |

Film submission deadline: **3 January 2020**

Until **3 January 2020** filmmakers are invited to submit their current work for the next festival edition. On our [website](#) you can find the conditions for entry, the rules, as well as the **entry forms**. Details on the awards can be found [HERE](#) on our website.

In the **European program sections** on current films (year of production 2019 or 2020) with a minimum length of 60 minutes can be submitted. The selection is based on **new ways of storytelling**, or an **innovative artistic design**, as well as current sociopolitical topics, and dealing with European (lived) realities, in short: cinematographic positions that do justice to the variety (and thus also the variety of language) of European cinema and the continent of Europe.

The **Local Artists section** in the festival program shows current film and video works from the years 2019/2020 from Linz, or rather Upper Austria, and thus gives the local film scene and young filmmakers from the area an international platform. **Filmmakers from Upper Austria** are invited to submit their current works for the local artists program. **Films and videos from every genre, in every format, and in every length** are welcome. Submissions from artists born, living, working, or studying in Upper Austria will be considered, as well as productions that were partly financed by an Upper Austrian funding agency and are presented in Upper Austria for the first time.

| Details on online submissions as well as the entry forms can be found at
<https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/program/film-submission-2020.html> |

Happy X-mas

The CROSSING EUROPE team wishes to thank all its partners, funders, and sponsors and wishes everyone happy holidays and a good start into the New Year! We are looking forward to meeting again at the 17th edition of CROSSING EUROPE in April!

Dates and Deadlines

Film submissions: **3 January 2020** | [HERE](#)
Program press conference: **8 April 2020** – Linz, 10 am, City-Kino
Festival dates: **21 to 26 April 2020**
Screening award winning films ("Bonus day"): **27 April 2020**, City-Kino

Photos & Updates

Filmstills & Photo materials: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos.html>
Logo & Festivalsujet: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos>
Festival impressions: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/>
Regular **updates** and **current information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2020 can be found on our website at www.crossingeurope.at as well as on our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).