

Jury Statements | 12 November 2023

Awards of the International Competition

Jury of the International Competition

Willy Hans (DE), filmmaker

Clara Helbig (DE), filmmaker & curator MUBI

Michael Omonua (GB/NG), filmmaker

Céline Roustan (FR), SXSW Film & TV

Manuel Asín (ES), Punto de Vista Festival Cine Estudio – Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid

Grand Prize of the International Competition

«Oyu» (France, Japan 2023) by Atsushi Hirai

CHF 12 000.–, donated by Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur

This delicate slice of life impressed us with its emotional depth and the complex reckoning with grief and community values it depicts. Subtle, enigmatic, and with a touch of humour, «Oyu» moved us with its universality and magnetic lead performance.

Promotional Award of the International Competition

«Blinded by Centuries» (USA, Thailand 2023) by Parinda Mai

CHF 10 000.–, donated by the City of Winterthur

We thought that this short pushed the boundaries of what's possible with cinema. Bold, energetic, and surprisingly tongue-in-cheek, this film inspired by the ancient Buddhist tale «The Twelve Sisters» questions modernization in a thought-provoking way. Parinda, we hope that you continue to tell daring, adventurous stories as distinctly and passionately as you told this one.

Prix George for the Best Documentary Form in the International Competition

«Pacific Club» (Qatar, France 2023) by Valentin Noujaïm

CHF 10 000.–, donated by the Volkart Foundation

How to depict a disappeared underground space and the atmosphere of the time that vanished with it? This hybrid documentary employs a wide range of forms to capture such a space. The film speaks to the power of archive-making, which feels especially urgent in view to present-day questions about the self-representation of marginalized communities. Valentin shapes a retro-futuristic document that glows from within, at once dreamy, dystopian, and visceral.

Candidacy for the European Film Awards (EFA)

«Dildotectónica» (Portugal 2023) by Tomás Paula Marques

Two stories separated in time. One about two people who were condemned by the Inquisition, the other about an artist who makes ceramic dildos far from cis-normative standards. The jury liked the subtle echoing between the different eras united by the search for pleasure.

Special Mention, International Competition

«Out of the Blue» (Switzerland 2023) by Morgane Frund

Shining a light on a well-discussed film through her personal perspective, director Morgane Frund created a cathartic, highly emotive essay film that is sure to leave an impression. Revelling in purposeful abstractions and omissions, «Out of the Blue» draws you in, urging the audience to reflect on the fact that even in the most intimate of moments, the personal remains political.

Awards of the Swiss Competition

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Émilie Poirier (CA), Festival du Nouveau Cinéma (FNC)

Pierre-Yves Walder (CH), Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF)

Stefano Knuchel (CH), Locarno Film Festival

Award for the Best Swiss Film

«2720» (Switzerland, Portugal 2023) by Basil da Cunha

CHF 10 000.–, donated by SUISSIMAGE and SSA

In this short, Basil Da Cunha moves with great empathy in a reality he has been celebrating through his films for years. The intense interplay between the filmmaker and the many inhabitants of the neighbourhood he relentlessly traverses, straddling the line between a ballad and a ballet, seems like the perfect summation of a long artistic journey.

Special Mentions, Swiss Competition

We would like to complement the prize to an established Swiss filmmaker with two equally special mentions to highlight two promising talents, who express themselves in completely different styles and techniques, both mastering their own world.

- «Searching for the 5th Direction» (Switzerland 2023) by Matthias Schüpbach
- «Troupeau» (Switzerland 2023) by Victor Cateau

ZKB Audience Award

«And Me, I'm Dancing Too» (Iran, Czech Republic, Germany 2023) by Mohammad Valizadegan

CHF 10 000.–, donated by Zürcher Kantonalbank

Swiss Film School Day

The jury of the Swiss Competition gives feedback to the students and selects the winner of the Award for the Best Swiss School Film.

Award for the Best Swiss School Film

«Beutset (L'Aurore)» (Switzerland, Senegal 2023) by Alicia Mendy, HEAD
CHF 5000.-, donated by SRG SSR

The use of sci-fi and other genre cinema elements to highlight real and contemporary concerns, evocative moments of dance, and a powerful musical score: in this film we saw all the signs of a unique and relevant voice emerging. We look forward to discovering what's next for this promising filmmaker.

Special Mention I, Swiss Film School Day

«Summer Rain» (Switzerland 2023) by Marlene Low, Julia Krummenacher, Johanna Kern, HSLU

Like the best haikus, this short animation manages to evoke complex feelings in a nuanced and concise manner, giving us images that linger in our memory.

Special Mention II, Swiss Film School Day

«A Monster Called Love» (Switzerland, 2023) by Sophia Lara, Nimue Schweizer, ZHdK

For the creation of their own unique universe with skilful underground references.

Awards for the Best Films in the Section Sparks

Sparks Jury

Noa Kündig (17)

Lars Antoni Weber (17)

Seraina Lendfers-Berndonner (18)

Award for the Best Film in the Section Sparks

«Been There» (Switzerland, 2023) by Corina Schwingruber Ilić
CHF 2000.-, donated by Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur

«Been There» criticizes tourism in a remarkably blunt way. Interesting shots show the increasing loss of culture and individuality. The camera conveys unvarnished reality, while the only commentary is provided by the music.

Special Mention, Sparks

«Wild Summon» (Great Britain, 2022) by Saul Freed and Karni Arieli

We would like to give a special mention to the movie «Wild Summon». The portrayal of salmon as human beings is striking, making it easy to identify with them. The film chooses an unusual perspective to reflect on how our actions impact nature.

Industry Awards

Postproduction-Award

Jury of the Postproduction-Award

Nina Cutkovic, Jingle Jungle

Christof Hächler, Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur

Eva Schweizer, SRF

Postproduction-Award

«Blu cipresso» by Laura Gönczy (Filmgerberei Zürich)

CHF 10 000.–, in-kind prize, donated by Jingle Jungle

The «Blu cipresso» project is convincing on several levels: the strong presence of amateur actress Rosina Danner as Nina; the careful handling of the topic of disability; the successful visual realization, including the light of late summer; and the coherent narrative style. This award for sound post-production will allow to additionally emphasize all these aspects and the atmosphere, transporting the audience into the film's world. We are delighted to continue supporting this project, which was developed at the Migros-Kulturprozent Story Lab.

Residency @ P.AiR.S

«Yasmeen Ghauri» by Youssef Youssef

We are sending you, Youssef, to a little paradise, outside your comfort zone, to continue your journey in search of your cinematic expression. We are impressed by your courage and urge to tell your story of the struggle for self-acceptance. We hope that this seven-week residency will allow you to dive deeper into the idea of sharing the story with other artists and ultimately an audience.

Invitation to participate in the European Short Pitch 2023/24

«The Veil of Senses» by Elisa Baccolo

We would like to support this attempt at challenging conventional sensorial forms of cinema. The director aims to tear down the veil that separates our perception from the experience of congenitally blind people. The European Short Pitch 2023/24 Swiss W.i.P. participant is «The Veil of Senses» by Elisa Baccolo.