



48ste International Film Festival Rotterdam

23 januari – 3 februari 2019

Rotterdam, 3 February 2019

The festival opened on 23 January with the world premiere of **Dirty God** by Dutch filmmaker Sacha Polak. Over the course of twelve days, IFFR devoted special attention to a new generation of filmmakers, often presenting their first or second film. The films in Tiger Competition were presented on eight consecutive days for the full attention of the press and the public. Several films secured international sales deals (**Koko-di Koko-da**, **Sons of Denmark**, and Special Jury Award winner **Take Me Somewhere Nice**, among others). Brazilian Tiger nominee **No coração do mundo** is available on MUBI for thirty days (read more [here](#)). The Ammodo Tiger Short Competition showcased 24 short films.

Some musical highlights included the screening of **The Seven Last Words** with its Haydn score performed live by the Callino String Quartet; a screening of **Inner Landscape** combined with a performance by Chinese opera star Shen Tiemei; and Edgar Pêra's **Lovecraftland – Cine-Koncerto 3D**, a 'cineconcert' with live music by The Legendary Tigerman as part of the retrospective dedicated to the experimental Portuguese filmmaker.



Talks 2019, clockwise: Nina McNeely, Gabriel Martins, Agnieszka Holland, Cliff Martinez, Sacha Polak, Carlos Reygadas, Claire Denis, Jia Zhangke

Keeping up its reputation as a place where filmmakers and audiences meet eye to eye, IFFR 2019 upped its efforts by presenting a wide range of Talks and Masterclasses. [Claire Denis](#) was in Rotterdam to talk about her remarkable cinematic style and her latest film **High Life**; [Carlos Reygadas](#) discussed the uncompromising lyricism of **Nuestro tiempo**; [Jia Zhangke](#) looked back on the rise of Chinese independent cinema and the creation of his **Ash Is Purest White**; [Cliff Martinez](#) gave an insight into his work as a composer on films such as **Drive**; [Nicole Brenez](#) walked the audience through the creation of Jean-Luc Godard's **Le livre d'image**; [Gabriel Martins](#) did a masterclass on the new wave of Afro-Brazilian cinema and his new film **No coração do mundo**; [Agnieszka Holland](#) gave the annual Freedom Lecture, calling for solidarity with filmmakers at risk; and [Nina McNeely](#), choreographer for Gaspar Noé's psychedelic dance film **Climax**, gave a talk and a dancing workshop. Noé himself was also in Rotterdam to attend the Dutch premiere where he joined several dancers from the film for an impromptu dance performance. Other talks included conversations with screenwriter/author [Guillermo Arriaga](#), visual artist [Alfredo Jaar](#), and filmmakers [Sacha Polak](#), [Roberto Minervini](#), [Khalik Allah](#), [Kenneth Mercken](#) and [Sergei Loznitsa](#), and a range of panel discussions giving extra depth to IFFR's thematic programmes. Several of the talks were streamed live on Facebook and YouTube.

Festival director Bero Beyer: "This year, the broad scope of IFFR's past and present really became apparent. Established filmmakers who had been attending IFFR from the beginning of their career, like Claire Denis and Jia Zhangke, returned to IFFR. With an exhibition, restored shorts and a symposium, we honoured the work of Sergei Parajanov, who visited Rotterdam thirty years ago when he first set foot outside of the Caucasus."

Beyer underlines the direct link from these established masters to the young talent of the festival. "These filmmakers set the tone of IFFR that the new generation of filmmakers embraces and amplifies with vigour. The films in our competitions and throughout the festival demonstrate how alive and thriving the landscape of cinema is – especially when these courageous filmmakers have fought the odds to be heard and seen. They are the trailblazers of cinema and art and we are proud to present them at IFFR!"

In its Perspectives section, IFFR 2019 approached cinema from specific angles through five thematic programmes: [Rabbit Hole](#) explored how filmmakers and artists use the visual language of memes in cinema and the online realm; [Laboratory of Unseen Beauty](#) showed the (un)finished, re-invented, re-edited materials from 1921 to the present day; [Soul in the Eye](#) explored Zóximo Bulbul's legacy in the contemporary emergence of Afro-Brazilian cinema; [The Spying Thing](#) deliberated spying as a way of filming, and the camera as an espionage tool; and [Say No More](#) rediscovered the compelling sensation of collective viewing, and the notion of togetherness in silence.



Temple of Cinema #1: Sayat Nova Outtakes



Space Station: Rainbow Infinity by Cauleen Smith (Blackout)

Art was present in many forms at IFFR 2019. Following up on last year's **SLEEPCINEMAHOTEL** by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, IFFR's Frameworks programme asked two renowned names in art to present new works and to introduce two upcoming talents, known as the 'Acolytes', each of whom received a €10,000 grant to finish a single-screen art piece. French artist Philippe Parreno came to Rotterdam to create **No More Reality Whereabouts**, a new project combining 20 years of existing and re-edited footage to create a 'film of films' including 3D elements and a live score by famed pianist Mikhail Rudy. Parreno also introduced Acolyte [Asad Raza](#), a post-disciplinary artist who showed a loving portrait of his uncle in **Minor History**. IFFR screened Jean-Luc Godard's latest film **Le livre d'image** in a specially designed intimate environment he intended for it, and presented the interactive and visually investigative work of Acolyte [Fabrice Aragno](#).

Further crossovers between the film and art worlds came in the form of the short films and magic lantern performances by Charlotte Pryce, the short films and performance by Cauleen Smith and the artworks by Mika Taanila. In the exhibition **Temple of Cinema #1: Sayat Nova Outtakes**, restoration expert Daniel Bird presented mesmerising, never-before-seen outtakes from Sergei Parajanov's **The Color of Pomegranates** in a thought-provoking setting in the Arminius church. Francesca and Mica Levi came to Rotterdam to present their own version of this seminal film. (The restored version of **The Color of Pomegranates** is now available on IFFR Unleashed) The well attended [Blackout](#) exhibition in the Kunsthal Rotterdam brought together a range of international artists who use the carousel slide projector in new artworks to highlight forgotten histories.



Winners 2019, clockwise: Zhu Shengze, Ena Sendjarević, Aya Koretzky, Anna Eborn, Nadine Labakí, Elmar Imanov

The award winners at 48th IFFR showcased a thirst for new directions in cinema. Zhu Shengze won the Tiger Award with her **Present.Perfect.** which according to the jury “takes us to places where we have never been” and “expands the language of cinema to a new grammar”. Ena Sendijarević’s **Take Me Somewhere Nice** won the Special Jury Award for “portraying a journey through a unique and very precise personal vision”. Aya Koretzky’s **A volta ao mundo quando tinhas 30 anos** won the Bright Future Award, Anna Eborn’s **Transnistria** won the VPRO Big Screen Award, Nadine Labaki’s **Capharnaüm** won the BankGiro Loterij Audience Award, and Elmar Imanov’s **End of Season** won the FIPRESCI Award. For an overview of all winners and jury reports, click [here](#).

On Sunday 27 January 2019, a three-person professional jury announced the three winners of this year’s Ammodo Tiger Short Competition. The winning films are **Freedom of Movement** by Nina Fischer and Maroan el Sani, **Wong Ping's Fables 1** by Wong Ping and **Ultramarine** by Vincent Meessen. They won three equal Ammodo Tiger Short Awards worth €5,000 in prize money. **Freedom of Movement** has also been selected as IFFR’s Short Film Candidate for the European Short Film Awards 2019. Click [here](#) for an overview of the selection and winners.

The second instalment of the Reality Check conference tackled the thorny subject of development; how filmmakers can exploit their own content and the variety of new platforms to the benefit of all. There were panel discussions, diverse speakers (including visual artist Caroline Monnet) and a wide range of industry professionals attending.

The 36th edition of CineMart presented [16 projects in the making](#) and welcomed 580 guests. The on-screen harvest at IFFR 2019 was plentiful – no less than [sixteen feature films](#) previously supported by the Hubert Bals Fund (celebrating its 30th anniversary this year) or presented at CineMart were shown at the festival. Four virtual reality projects were presented during the VR Days event and 60 producers participated in Rotterdam Lab.



IFFR's education programme has increased its reach once more. From toddlers to university students, the different education screenings, workshops and specials are for all ages. Thanks to a new collaboration with Movies that Matter Festival in the context of a screening of **Rafiki**, an increased number of vocational students were reached. The activities ranged from watching and discussing films to programming, organising masterclasses and reporting on the festival. The IFFR Academy programme, which supports young filmmakers in kickstarting their careers, worked together with international organisations for the first time.

Together with our main partners we organised several events – vfonds hosted an inspiring Vredescollege (lecture on peace) for students, opened by H  l  ne Christelle Mungayende, as well as the Freedom Lecture by Agnieszka Holland; BankGiro Loterij adopted the Audience Award for the first time this year and welcomed their loyal supporters for a special screening; and, like every year, the Volkskrantdag welcomed thousands of visitors for a full day of film. IFFR expanded its educational programmes thanks to the support of several funds including Fonds 21 and VSBfonds. Rotterdam brewery Kaapse Brouwers, new partner of IFFR, developed the special Kaapse Tijger lager beer exclusively for the festival. New partner BMW provided the festival with plug-in hybrid and electric cars to transport festival guests. For an overview of all the partners and benefactors, see the [colofon](#).

Visits:

327,000

Films:

236 feature-length films (59 world premieres, 30 international premieres and 12 European premieres)

280 short and mid-length films (73 world premieres, 14 festival world premieres, 46 international premieres and 14 European premieres)

28 art installations

Guests:

2407 industry guests

337 film directors

580 CineMart guests

331 journalists (221 international and 110 Dutch)

The 49th edition of International Film Festival Rotterdam will be held from Wednesday 22 January to Sunday 2 February 2020.

 pr.co

