PRESS RELEASE

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2nd NewImages Festival

19–23 June 2019

A new French-Taiwanese VR Creation residency!

NewImages - Kaohsiung Film Festival – Taipei's French Office

Building on its strategy of global expansion, the **NewImages Festival** is partnering with the **Kaohsiung Film Festival** (KFF) and Taipei's French Office to set up Taiwan's very first VR Creation residency.

This new endeavour is part of a series of Forum des images initiatives designed to foster co-productions between XR leading players throughout the world and bring immersive works to a broader audience.

A unique opportunity for French creators

Thanks to the **NewImages/Kaohsiung Film Festival VR Residency**, one French creator will get to work for a period of **three months in Kaohsiung** on an innovative VR experience (360, interactive, installation). That work will have its world premiere at the next KFF, and will then be showcased at the NewImages Festival.

The residency is open to any creator who has experience working on a VR project as a director, producer, screenwriter, artistic director, or equivalent. All VR projects (360, interactive, installation) are eligible. The selected creator will receive **a grant of €30,000,** a monthly stipend for their stay in Taiwan, round-trip airfare tickets, and free accommodation.

An opportunity for encounters and collaborations with the Taiwanese VR ecosystem – local film production and distribution companies, creators and artists –, the residency "symbolizes the joint ambition of the NewImages Festival and the Kaohsiung Film Festival: to connect XR leaders and foster new immersive co-productions between Taiwan and France," Michael Swierczynski, Director of the NewImages Festival and Head of Digital Development at Forum des images, said.

Terms and conditions

The registration process must be completed no later than **Friday 3 May 2019.**

Registration link VR Residency

The projects will be assessed by a jury made up of representatives from the three organizing bodies. The selected VR creator of the NewImages/KFF VR residency will be announced on the last day of the NewImages festival.

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About the NewImages Festival/Kaohsiung Film Festival (KFF) partnership

Conceived in April 2018 during the first edition of the NewImages Festival, the partnership with the Kaohsiung Film Festival was finalized in November, in Taiwan. One of Taiwan's major international film festivals, KFF has been funding creation over the past couple of years, with the launch of the KAOHSIUNG VR FILM LAB, and an international co-production ("Mechanical Souls") to its credit.

Screened at Sundance last January, "Mechanical Souls" was born from a meeting between the heads of Digital Rise – DV Group (France) and Serendipity Films Ltd (Taiwan), during the 2018 NewImages Industry Days.

"Just as we did last year by showcasing the vibrant VR production on the African continent, we made sure to keep in touch with what was happening in Asia, to curate the most creative immersive works, to discover new networks, and to nurture synergies with French talents", Swierczynski added.

Every year, NewImages showcases a country or a specific region. In 2019, a focus on Taiwanese XR creation will feature artists, industry professionals, and a delegation of state representatives.

With a wealth of discoveries, this panorama of Taiwanese production will stand alongside the main sections of the NewImages Festival: the international VR competition, the selection of two dozen or so experiences (out of competition), and festive events that use immersive technology.

About the Kaoshiung Film Festival (KFF)

First held in 2000, the Kaohsiung Film Festival is an important cultural event in Southern Taiwan. It is organized and hosted annually by the Kaohsiung Film Archive, in partnership with the Bureau of Cultural Affairs of the Kaohsiung City Government.

KFF also holds Taiwan's biggest international short film competition, and has received praise for its contribution to the discovery of potential filmmakers, and its willingness to embrace new technology.

Equipped with the very first 8K stereoscopic VR theatre in Taiwan, KFF launched the KAOHSIUNG VR FILM LAB in 2017, a comprehensive project including VR content production, funding, talent nurturing, exchange programs, showcases of new technology and promotion.

Information: **NewImages Festival**

FESTIVAL NEWIMAGES PARTNERS

The National Centre for Cinema and the Moving Image (CNC), the Ministry of Culture and Communication, France Télévisions, the French Institute, ARTE, the Multimedia Authors Civil Society (SCAM), the Dramatic

Authors and Composers Society (SACD), the Authors, Composers and Music Publishers Society (SACEM), Diversion Cinema, Vroom, and Forum des Halles.