

NewImages Festival – 4th edition

from **June 9 to 13 2021**, at Forum des images and online

The international competition and the coproduction market selection revealed!



Entirely dedicated to **immersive creation**, NewImages Festival reveals the **17 works presented in the context of the XR Competition as well as the 41 projects selected for the XR Financing Market!** The general public and professionals are invited to discover them from June 9 to 13, during its 4th edition, organized by the Forum des Images **onsite and online**, a double layout that had already been tested out in September 2020.

In only a few months, and despite the global pandemic situation, NewImages Festival rose to the challenge of **organizing this new edition, and reasserting its position:** to share the discovery of the best immersive experiences of the moment; to support artists and key players of the XR industry in their future collaborations and to uncover new territories – whether in terms of geographies, narratives and metaphors of XR creation.

“With more than 210 projects submitted, we can see a real trend taking shape: these forms of narratives are resolutely playing with the hybridization of genres, investing in the imaginary of live entertainment, of video games or of the musical universe. There are some lovely surprises ahead and we experience unique sensations and emotions. We cannot wait to share them with you, the public!” underlines **Michaël Swierczynski**, director of the festival and of digital development at Forum des Images.

Besides, this 4th edition will unfold a large variety of other offers: a **focus on African immersive creation** (Saison Africa2020); a **mapping inspired by African tales on the Saint-Eustache church’s façade**; audio installations and performances.

NewImages Festival invites all audiences to discover the best of virtual creation in the heart of Paris... and remotely!

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XR Competition: a selection rich in exclusivities and open-ended imaginations.

No less than **9 World Premieres** will be presented in competition, alongside **an international, a European, and three French Premieres!** The **17 works selected** (13 in virtual realities – VR, 4 in augmented realities – AR) will be competing to win the **Golden Mask** (Grand Prize, 6 000 €) and the **Jury's Special Prizes** (VR and AR, 3 000 € each). **The awards ceremony** will take place on Friday the 11th of June, marking the end of the Industry Days (9-11 June).

Virtual reality, augmented reality: the XR Competition offers an exceptional sample of the **diversity of genres, and formats seized by immersive creation, allowing us to explore them in an unprecedented way.** Science-fiction (*Biolum*), drama (*Amends; Kinshasa Now*), documentary (*Lady Sapiens, The Experience; Noah's Raft*), fantasy (*Strands of Mind*), rom com (*Marco & Polo Go Round*), and of course, animation (*Jailbirds - Bwa Kayiman; Namoo; Paper Birds*): the selection bears witness to all the narratives made possible by the fantastic alliance between creation and technologies. While virtual reality seizes social, historical or political topics (*Reeducated*), offering a sharp and original approach, it also offers – just like augmented reality does – a nice range of interactive or multi-sensorial experiences (*We Are At Home; Berlioz Trip AR - Dream of a Sabbath Night ; When She Gets Out... ; Acqua Alta – Crossing The Mirror*).

Through photography (*Voidopolis*), video game (*Down the Rabbit Hole*) or by focusing on an acoustic approach, immersion artists seize collective references, literary works (Dante, Lewis Carroll), musical works (Berlioz) or pictural works (Degas), offering other emotional readings.

The experiences selected are to be discovered, as is customary, at Forum des Images, in the heart of Paris. A new twist this year, the works in competition will also be available online, through [the virtual exhibition XR3](#), co-curated by **NewImages Festival, Cannes XR and Tribeca Festival** (from **June 9 to 20**, then from **July 6 to 15**).

List of the works in the XR Competition: see annex, pages 4 and 5.

More information

<https://newimagesfestival.com/en/2021-edition/xr-competition-line-up/>

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XR Financing Market: 3rd edition of the coproduction market.

An annual fixture that allows for future masterpieces of immersive art to come alive and to find their funding model, the XR Financing Market presents this year a selection of **41 immersive projects coming from 18 countries**.

Tackling some of the main challenges of our time (**women's rights, environment, Man-Machine relationship**) through a large variety of technologies and original experiences, the 2021 selection also dedicates the ability of immersive technologies to innervate artistic forms as a whole (film, video games, theatre, opera, installation, etc.) and to revolutionize our relationship to art. Noteworthy facts this year include the apparition of **audio immersive fictions** and the selection of three **projects in augmented reality that use LIDAR Scanning**. This technology (which Apple invested in for its new line of phones) is notably used for self-driving cars and allows for the integration of visual objects in complex environments.

On the side of **creators**, the selection gathers, as per usual, new talents and lauded international artists such as **Céline Tricart** (*The Key, The Sun Ladies*), **Amaury La Burthe** (*Notes on Blindness VR, Spheres, Umami, -22.7°C*), **Ainslee Robson** (*Ferenj: A Graphic Memoir in VR*, winner XR Competition 2020), **Charles Ayats** (*Sens VR, 7 Lives, MOA*), **Charlotte Mikkelsen** (*Fly*), **Tupac Martir** (*Cosmos Within Us*), **Anna West & David Callanan** (*To Miss the Ending*), **Poulomi Basu** (*Blood Speaks*).

No less than **80 Decision Makers** will participate to the XR Financing Market this year: many museum curators and programmers will join us for the first time. Those that have already confirmed their attendance are: Myriam Achard, **Phi Center** - Robert McLaughlin, **National Film Board of Canada** - Johanne Musch, **Fondation Cartier** - Averie Timm, **Facebook/Oculus** - Nigel Tierney, **Yahoo Ryot Lab** - Joanna Popper, **HP** - Bethanie Maples, **Google AI** - Elaine Wong, **Viveport, HTC Vive**.

The XR Financing Market puts artists and independent producers looking for funding and partners in contact with leaders of the industry and key players of the culture engaged in the distribution of these distinctive works of art. 320 meetings were organized during the latest edition in September 2020. With this program, NewImages Festival continues its contribution to structuring an ecosystem allowing for the support of immersive creation in a sustainable way.

List of projects selected for the XR Financing Market: see annex, pages 6 and 7.

More information

<https://newimagesfestival.com/en/xrfm-2021-selected-projects/>

Decisions Makers 2021

<https://newimagesfestival.com/en/2021-edition/decision-makers-2021/>

Informations: NewImages Festival

Forum des images - Tel. +33 (0)1 44 76 63 00 - newimagesfestival.com

With the support of the Africa 2020 Season, the 4th edition of NewImages Festival is organized in partnership with:

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, CNC, FRENCH INSTITUTE, AFD, FRENCH OFFICE OF TAIPEI, TAICCA, FRANCE TV, SACEM, SCAM, PROCIREP, DIGITAL LAB AFRICA, KAOHSIUNG FILM FESTIVAL

and

WESTFIELD FORUM DES HALLES, EGLISE SAINT EUSTACHE, CANNES XR, TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL, VRROOM, DIVERSION CINEMA, HTC VIVE, CLIC FRANCE, VIVEPORT, XING

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Annex 1 — XR Competition selected experiences

Acqua Alta – Crossing the Mirror

Adrien M & Claire B (FR) — 2020, AR

→ A pop-up book whose drawings and paper volumes are the decor of a story, visible in AR. Drawings and folded paper reveal the virtual life of a woman, a man, a house. It is a dive into the imaginary realms of water.

* **Amends** – French Premiere

Mikkel Battefeld - The Animation Workshop (DK) — 2020, VR 3DoF, dr.

→ A journey through the reflections of an upbringing with a now estranged mother. Revisit the memories of your upbringing and get to relive the complicated emotional relationship, which still awaits its resolution.

Berlioz Trip AR - Dream of a Sabbath Night – World Premiere

Pyaré (Pierre Friquet), Solveig (Géraldine Aliberti) - Sonic Solveig, Les Clés de l'écoute (FR) — 2021, AR, music.

→ This acoustic experience allows you to go into Berlioz's masterpiece and to physically walk around an orchestra. Immerse yourself in this phantasmagorical forest and complete Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique!*

* **Biolum** – European Premiere

Abel Kohen, Jon Rowe - IKO (FR), Reynard Films, Prefrontal Cortex (DE) — 2021, VR 6DoF, sci-fiction, horr.

→ An interactive, narrative VR sci-fi experience which immerses you in the mysterious beauty of deep sea life on a dive that takes a shocking turn for the worse.

* **Down the Rabbit Hole**

Ryan Bednar, Ricky Helgesson - Cortopia Studios (SE) — 2020, VR 6DoF, indie game.

→ Follow Alice in search of her lost pet Patches that has wandered into Wonderland. You will guide her as she moves through the mysterious world looking for her missing pet.

* **Jailbirds - Bwa Kayiman** – World Premiere

Thomas Villepoux - Be Revolution Pictures (BE), Digital Rise (FR) — 2021, VR 6DoF, fant.

→ The Bwa-Kayiman prison is a modern hell. Yet, despite all the bullying, one inmate, the giant Felix, is always happy and seems to have reached serenity - and that really irritates the Chief Warden.

* **Kinshasa Now**

Marc-Henri Wajnberg - Wajnbrose Productions (BE), Wim Forceville (BE), RG & Créatifs Associés (RDC), Eva Production (FR) — 2020, VR 3DoF, dr.

→ 35,000 kids abandoned following witchcraft allegations are doing their best to survive on the streets of Kinshasa, DR Congo. One night, Mika must suddenly come to terms with this terrible situation. You decide what happens next.

* **Lady Sapiens, The Experience** – World Premiere

Camille Duvelleroy - Little Big Story, coprod. Little Big Story Lab, France Télévisions, Ubisoft (FR) — 2021, VR 6DoF, doc.

→ You are Lady Sapiens, you were born 38 000 years ago. As you leave your valley, you meet a huntress who leads you to her clan. No, women were not harvesting while men hunt. Welcome to the Palaeolithic era.

* **Marco & Polo Go round** – World Premiere

Benjamin Steiger Levine - Audrey Pacart, Pierre Even, Paul-E. Audet (CA), coprod. Alain-Gilles Viellevoye (BE), part. ARTE France — 2021, VR 6DoF, anim., romcom.

→ *Marco & Polo Go Round* is a comedic love story with a very surreal twist. A couple confronts the difficulties in their relationship as gravity turns on its head and their world literally falls apart around them.

* **Namoo** – French Premiere

Erick Oh - Baobab Studios (US) – 2021, VR 6DoF, anim.

→ *Namoo* is a narrative poem come to life, led by 2021 Oscar nominated director Erick Oh and inspired by Erick's grandfather. The narrative follows the journey of a man from his birth up until the end of his life.

* **Noah's Raft** – World Premiere

Joel 'Kachi Benson, Tal Michael Haring - VR360 Stories (NG) – 2021, VR 3DoF, doc.

→ From a young age, Noah believed that his destiny was in the water. But after going to a school in the city, he returns with a dream - to use education to transform the lives of children living in Makoko.

* **Paper Birds** – French Premiere

German Heller, Federico Carlini - 3Dar (AR) – 2020, VR 6DoF, anim.

→ This is the story of a short sighted child with an exceptional talent for music. He must find his way through the world of darkness to bring back his sister, taken away by the shadows.

* **Reeducated** – International Premiere

Sam Wolson, Ben Mauk, Nick Rubin, Matt Huynh - The New Yorker, Dirt Empire (US) – 2021, VR 3DoF, doc.

→ Get inside a "reeducation" camp in China, guided by the recollections of three men who were caught in what is likely the largest mass-internment of ethnic and religious minorities since the Second World War.

* **Strands of Mind** – World Premiere

Adrian Meyer - Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg (DE) – 2021, VR 3DoF, psych.

→ Explore a world beyond the bounds of our human perception. A world full of mystery, of beauty and darkness. Let yourself be taken on a trip into the woven nature of existence.

Voidopolis – World Premiere

Kat Mustatea - Kat Mustatea (US)
2021, AR

→ A digital installation loosely adapted from *Dante's Inferno* about loss and memory, informed by the grim experience of wandering through NYC during a pandemic.

* **We Are at Home** – World Premiere

Michelle Kranot, Uri Kranot - Late Love Production (DK), Floréal Films, Miyu Productions (FR), National Film Board of Canada (CA) – 2021, VR 6DoF, anim., multi-user instal.

→ This multi-user installation is based on the poem *The Hangman at Home* (C. Sandburg) and explores the theme of acknowledgement and the awkward intimacy that comes with being human.

When She Gets Out... World Premiere

Gordon, Marie Sellier - Lucid Realities, coprod. Musée d'Orsay, France Télévisions (FR) – 2021, AR

→ An augmented reality experience in which Degas' Little Dancer brings you along a fantastic journey through artworks displayed in museums. Her silhouette strolls and looks onto them with a naive and enchanted gaze.

*Experiences available online in the virtual exhibition XR3

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Annex 2 — XR Financing Market selected projects

(Hi)Story Of A Painting

Gaëlle Mourre, Quentin Darras - Fat Red Bird (GB) — doc.

A Night In Cosmos

Deniz Yenihayat, Seckin Maden, Kerem Aksoy, Candas Sisman, Deniz Kader - Terminal Film, Nohlab (TR), Retinize (GB) — music., instal.

Anon VR

Jan Lachauer, Clarens Grollmann - K5 Factory GmbH (DE) — game

Assembly

David Rosenberg, Glen Neath - Darkfield (UK) — fiction, audio

Being Waves

Kinkajous, Anrick - Studio ANRK (GB) — music., instal.

Blackout

Antoine Boucherikha, Arthur Aumoite - Next Sound Lab (FR) — fiction, audio

Blood Speaks: Maya The Birth Of The Superhero

Poulomi Basu, Cj Clarck - Floréal Films (FR), JAPC (GB) — doc.

Continuum VR

Tomás Espinosa, Daniela Maldonado, Natalia Bernal - Canvar (FR), AROA, Red Comunitaria (CO) — doc.

Culture Archive

Kidus Haillesilassie, Ainslee Robson - Culture Archive (US) — live perform., instal.

Deusa Das Aguas

João Paulo Miranda Maria, Be Leite - Les Valseurs (FR) — fiction

Ego

Alexandre Perez, Sarah Beaulieu - Cinétévé Experience (FR) — game

Extraordinary People Extraordinary Places

Shehani Fernando - ScanLAB Projects (GB) — doc.

Fight Back

Céline Tricart - Red Corner, Lucid Dreams (FR) — game

Future Faces

Charles Ayats, Nicolas Pelloille-Oudart, Nicolas Gagnon, Hadrien Cousin - Hiver Prod (FR) — fiction

Haunted Healing

Rita Martinos, Signe Ungermund - MANND ApS (DK) — fiction

Hauteville House

Marion Augustin, Charles Ayats, Franck Weber - ArtofCorner, Narrative (FR) — doc.

Jailbirds

Thomas Villepoux, Fred Rémuzat - Be. Revolution Pictures (BE), Digital Rise (FR) — fiction

Kvöldvaka

Dane Christensen, Carol Dalrymple, Barna Szász - Dansker Digital (DK), Edge of Discovery (US), Barna Szász (HU) — doc., instal.

Labeled Black

Irit Dolev, Alon Marom - Irit Dolev (IS), KNGFU (CA) — doc.

Lady Liberty

Eric Morfaux, Fouzi Louahem - Virtual Journey, Seppia, Origin 3D, Holo3 (FR) — doc.

Lights!

Agnès Bovet-Pavy, Jean-Baptiste Marot, Fabien Bourdier - Les Films du Tambour de Soie, Small Creative, Auteurs&Cies (FR) — doc.

Lips

Lin, Pei-Ying - Nau-Tai Delusional Studio (TW) — live perform., instal.

Love Simulation EVE

Eero Tiainen, Juuso-Matias Maijanen, Inna Huttunen, Ikkamatti Hauru, Rongzhi Liu, Noora Heiskanen, Erik Söderblom - Avatar's Journey, International Theater of Finland (FI) — live perform., game, fiction

Moon Expedition

Amaury Solignac, Vincent Rieuf, Jean-Stéphane Beetschen, Thierry Perrain, Gregoire Lourme - Iceberg, Orbital Views (FR) — game

No Reality Now

Charles Ayats, Vincent Dupont - J'y pense souvent (...) (FR) — live perform., instal.

Of Hybrids and Strings

Lauren Moffatt - Fabbula (FR) — art

Oto's Planet

Small By Mac Guff (studio), Zeilt Studio - Skill Lab (LU), Small Creative (FR) — fiction

Rabiola Tales

Leonardo Souza - Black Public Media (US), Vild Studio (BR) — doc.

Red

Jasmin Kent Rodgman, Lisa Luxx, Gaëlle Mourre - Jasmin Kent Rodgman, Fat Red Bird (GB) — art, live perform.,music.

Remembrance

Anna Brady - StudioBento (AU) — doc., instal.

Sigana Tales of Lawino

Melisa Allela, Brandon Young - LESO Stories (KE) — doc.

Spring Odyssey AR

Elise Morin - Lucid Realities, Tulipes & Cie (FR) — doc.

Sunflow

Gaston Carballal, Gonzalo Paz - Novelab (FR) — fiction

The Lazarus Project

Charlotte Mikkelborg - Picture This Productions (GB) — doc., instal.

The Machine Stops

Kim Baumann Larsen, David Gochfeld, Nick Tjaardstra - Dimension Design (NO), Find My Missing Socks (US), Random Error Studio (HU) — theater, game

The Space Between XR

Leticia Caceres, Steve Vizard, Paul Grabowsky, Luke Bubb - New Canvas (AU) — opera

Then Now Tomorrow

Hanna Västinsalo, Juulia Kääriä - Thinkseed (FI) — fiction

These Three Things

Anna West, David Callanan - idontloveyouanymore (GB) — game

Thomas Merritt's cabinet of curiosities

Cédric Babouche, Laurent Queyssi, Gilles Warmoes, Alexandre Coirier - UMANIMATION (FR), GameExPro (DE) — game

Tornado

Corentin Kopp, Louise Dubois, Alexandre Grileta, Victoria+Jean - Abyssal (BE) — fiction

Unique

Tupac Martir, Andrew Lancaster, Sergio Settanni, Shmuel Yechezkel, Rajan Chakravarty Jalem - Satore Studio (GB) — theater