

## VIENNA SHORTS 2020 – AWARD WINNERS

### VIENNA SHORTS AWARDS 2020

#### Vienna Short Film Award International Competition Fiction & Documentary – Best Film

Film title: Sun Dog  
Director: Dorian Jaspers (BE)

Qualifies for the Academy Awards – Live Action Short Film

“It goes to an experiential film with a unique cinematic language and narrative that takes us on a trip where space, time, and the characters melt together in a strange dream where anything can happen. The Vienna Shorts Award for Best Film goes to the unique and stunning **Sun Dog** by Dorian Jaspers. Congratulations!”

Donated by the City of Vienna: € 4.000

#### ASIFA Austria Award International Competition Animation Avantgarde – Best Film

Film title: Genius Loci  
Director: Adrien Merigeau (FR)

Qualifies for the Academy Awards – Animated Short Film

“This film is outstanding, complex piece of art in all aspects. Inside–outside sceneries melded together by the great soundtrack, beautiful animation, and graphic style demonstrate a percussive (not singular) way of recognition. The ASIFA Austria Award for the Best Animation Avantgarde Film goes to **Genius Loci** by Adrien Merigeau. Congratulations!”

Donated by ASIFA Austria: € 2.000

#### Austrian Short Film Award Austrian Competition – Best Film

Film title: The best city is no city at all  
Director: Christoph Schwarz (AT)

Qualifies for the European Film Awards  
Qualifying for the Austrian Film Awards

“A film about a moving 15,000-piece church and a newly built empty city where human beings can only take the form of either ghosts or masses. The singularity and peculiarity of human nature are gone forever in the notes of this building site’s soundtrack. Replacing of school children’s games are empty underground parking

lots, 'slow traffic' safety zones and reminiscences of holiday places on the Upper Adriatic Sea. This documentary essay poses a reasoned critique of late capitalism, depicting it with the forms of an architectural dystopia on the outskirts of Vienna, where so-called progress cancels out the past and the peculiarity of a place and its former inhabitants without any plausible reason. That said, 'only when things have disappeared can they be missed.' The Austrian Short Film Award for the Best Austrian Film goes to **The best city is no city at all** by Christoph Schwarz."

Donated by VdFS, viennaFX & Blautöne: € 3.000 + € 2.000 postproduction voucher

## **Austrian Music Video Award Best Music Video**

Film title: Über Nacht – Oehl  
Director: Rupert Höller (AT)

Qualifying for the Austrian Film Awards

"The winning video turned out to be a poignant forecast of our everyday lives only one year after its release: a woman in solitude engaging in mundane indoor tasks and activities. What separates her quarantine from ours, though, is the huge stylish house she has all to herself. The elegant and magical deceleration of the whole vision and the desexualized way in which the protagonist is portrayed make it the most outstanding piece in this competition. Congratulations to Rupert Höller and his music video for **Oehl – Über Nacht!**"

Donated by FAMA: € 1.000

## **VIENNA SHORTS JURY PRIZE 2020**

### **Jury Prize International Competition Fiction & Documentary**

Film title: Apiyemiyekî?  
Director: Ana Vaz

Qualifies for the Academy Awards – Documentary Short Subject

"Our Jury Prize goes to a film that struck us in its poetic and political strength. By working on language as an object of revelation and a necessary means of communication to keep memory alive, the director guides us through a territory and its colonial history and heritage that resonates with the current situation in Brazil with great urgency. The Jury Prize goes to **Apiyemiyekî?**, or 'Why?' in English, by Ana Vaz. Thank you very much, Ana, for this beautiful and important film."

Donated by Q21/MuseumsQuartier Wien: 1 Month Residency in Vienna

## Jury Prize

### International Competition Animation Avantgarde

Film title: The Six

Directors: An Xu & Chen Xi (CN)

“This film adopts the meditative rhythm of the moon phases, guiding your gaze through time and space in a loop. It looks monotonous but fascinates the viewer by beautifully and sensually evoking various feelings and emotions. The Animation Avantgarde Jury Prize goes to **The Six** by An Xu and Chen Xi.”

Donated by Q21/MuseumsQuartier Wien: 1 Month Residency in Vienna

## Jury Prize

### Austrian Competition

Film title: Fish Like Us

Director: Raphaela Schmid (AT)

“A Chinese restaurant immersed in a colorful palette serves as an intimate stage for the reunion and mourning ritual of two adult siblings trying to find a way to deal with their mother’s death. Embedded in a soundscape of voices and snippets of conversation from adjacent tables, the cast’s strong performance and a precise, detailed visual language create an intense cinematic atmosphere. The young director’s script carefully balances a humorous tone with an emotional density of intimate gestures and subtle dialog. With formal consistency, the farewell ritual is shot on analog film and framed by color schemes, editing, and aesthetics reminiscent of ’90s cinema as the main characters struggle with the present loss of a family member and try to find a future home for their mother’s goldfish. The Jury Award for Best Newcomer in the Austrian Competition goes to Raphaela Schmid for **Fish Like Us**. Congratulations!”

Donated by VAM, viennaFX & Blautöne: € 2.000 + € 1.000 postproduction voucher

## VIENNA SHORTS – SPECIAL AWARDS 2020

### Elfi Dassanowsky Award

#### Best Female Director

Film title: Marée (Tide)

Director: Manon Coubia (FR)

“Monstrous snow plows at a ski resort. The casual killing of a deer. A mountain blizzard glows in the strange blue of the night. A young worker’s plow stalls but someone waits for him in the wreckage of the night. Manon Coubia’s film **Tide** is an allegory on human relationship with nature. The film’s visual beauty and haunting narrative recall the Bergfilm of the 1920s, Kubrick’s 2001 and The Shining, Marlen Haushofer’s The Wall, even the nature sagas of pagan Europe. Is it sacrifice that brings on the cyclical geening of spring? Is it an eternal

female spirit that knows its price? Coubia's visionary film is a timely meditation on a sentient earth that insists on rebirth regardless of our technology and human cost.”

Donated by the Elfi Dassanowsky Foundation: € 1.000

## Youth Jury Award Best Austrian Experimental Film

Film title: THORAX

Director: Siegfried A. Fruhauf (AT)

“The award for best experimental film goes to **THORAX**. This abstract film tells a story. On the one hand, a story about a beating heart. On the other hand, it lets the viewers freely interpret the plot lines and the form. It inspires and fascinates us. **THORAX** reminds us of infinitude and has a hypnotic effect. We also want to make special mention of the experimental films ‘The City Bridges Open Again’ and ‘200118\_T3’; the former because of its extraordinarily magical impact and technique, and the latter because of its powerful visual effects.”

Donated by viennaFX & Blautöne: € 1.000 postproduction voucher

## VIENNA SHORTS – SPECIAL MENTIONS 2020

### Special Mention International Competition Fiction & Documentary

Film title: 3 Logical Exits

Director: Mahdi Fleifel (AE/DK)

“He keeps looking, he keeps filming, he keeps asking questions. Cinema as politics and as a means of communication inform this director’s filmmaking. It also keeps making us think, discuss and ask questions. The Special Mention goes to **3 Logical Exits** by Mahdi Fleifel.”

### Special Mention International Competition Animation Avantgarde

Film title: Serial Parallels

Director: Max Hattler (DE/HK)

“This film reflects on urban architecture in a very physical rather than intellectual way. The megacity is experienced as a pulsating apparatus where you can just sense the presence of otherwise invisible humans. It speaks directly to the retina and vestibular system. The Animation Avantgarde Jury gives a Special Mention to **Serial Parallels** by Max Hattler.”

## Special Mention Austrian Competition

Film title: How to Disappear

Director: Total Refusal (Robin Klengel, Leonhard Müllner, Michael Stumpf) (AT)

“The jury wishes to extend a special mention to Total Refusal’s philosophically rich and politically charged **How to Disappear**. This film provocatively employs the online confines of Battlefield V as both minefield and playground in an unsettling exploration of acts of defiance.”