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20th VIENNA SHORTS: AUSTRIAN SHORT FILM AWARD GOES TO VIKTORIA SCHMID—OTHER MAIN AWARDS GO TO CROATIAN ANIMATION UND FILIPINO FABLE

Magical New York doc, surreal puppet animation, and shrill regime criticism also qualify for Academy Awards—Tree dedications instead of trophies handed out at award ceremony for the first time—International Short Film Festival continues online until June 30

The visually magical New York study “**NYC RGB**” by Austrian filmmaker Viktoria Schmid, the somberly surreal puppet animation “**Remember How I Used to Ride a White Horse**” by the Croatian directing duo Ivana Bošnjak Volda and Thomas Johnson Volda, and the shrilly dissident dystopian fable “**Hito**” by Stephen Lopez from the Philippines go home with the main awards of the twentieth edition of VIENNA SHORTS. All three films now qualify for the Academy Awards and a tree that has been freshly planted in Vienna is dedicated to each of the winners as a “living trophy.”

While Viktoria Schmid’s winner of the Austrian Short Film Award additionally qualifies for the Austrian Film Award, the Croatian couple Volda’s animation also enters the race for the European Film Award. The prizes worth a total of almost € 30,000 were handed out at Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus on Tuesday evening.

For **festival directors Doris Bauer and Daniel Hadenius-Ebner**, the winning films also demonstrate that the anniversary edition “has celebrated the diversity of the short form in the most beautiful way imaginable.” Overall, this year’s festival proved a great success. “A huge turnout, wonderful guests, some intense days—we couldn’t have hoped for a better anniversary edition!” Over six festival days, a total of 340 films from 58 countries were screened at various locations in Vienna. While the festival on site is now over, there is still the possibility to catch up on competition films and other programs in the [film portal](#) as well as in the festival app ([Android](#), [iOS](#)) until June 30.

MAIN AWARDS FOR COLOR PLAY AND SURREAL WORLDS

For “NYC RGB,” the visual artist and filmmaker Viktoria Schmid pointed her camera out of the window of a twentieth-floor New York apartment over a period of seven months. With a special color separation technique, in which the film stock was pulled through different filters (red, green, blue), she achieved a kind of 3D effect without glasses. The Austrian Competition (ÖW) jury recognized the seven-minute gem as “an equally concise and immersive study of time and light, color and material, which ties in with historical film experiments and yet speaks its own language with echoes of the recent past.” The Austrian Short Film Award comes with a cash prize of € 4,000 euros and a post production gift certificate worth € 2,000.

Surreal works came out on top in the two international competitions: In “Hito” by Filipino director Stephen Lopez—recipient of the Vienna Short Film Award (€ 5,000)—a teenager fights her way through a dystopian world seamed by nuclear power plants and marked by military curfews. Both “unclassifiable and unconventional,” the

film's "visual excess and multimedia playfulness provide biting and humorous commentary on an authoritarian state," according to the Fiction & Documentary (FIDO) jury.

The ASIFA Austria Award (€ 2,500) in the Animation Avantgarde (AA) competition went to the Croatian production "Sjeti se kako sam jahala bijelog konja" (Remember How I Used to Ride a White Horse). The directing duo Ivana Bošnjak Volda and Thomas Johnson Volda takes the White Horse Café as the setting for monochromatic misery and a place of refuge for surreal daydreaming. The jury was impressed by the "metaphoric portrayal of psychological states of isolation and breaking away from them" as well as the "innovative narrative style. (...) Will this world be saved by the force of medieval ideals and noble love?"

MEDIA INFO

An extended press release is available for download (in German only) [here](#).

A short bio and portrait photo Viktoria Schmid can be found at distributor [sixpackfilm](#).

Download press materials and images of the main winning films at [viennashorts.com/en/press/](#).

Go [here](#) for a complete list of winners and jury statements.

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