

The 2nd edition of the NewImages Festival unveils its VR competition selection 19–23 June 2019



Exclusively devoted to digital arts and virtual worlds, the Forum des images [NewImages Festival](#), unveiled a daring program today, to be showcased on the occasion of its second edition, which will take place over five days in the heart of Paris. For the first time this year, its **international competition of VR works**, open to all genres – fiction, animation, video game, experimental – will come with €15,000 in prize money.

The competition is just one of the many events taking place inside Forum des images and throughout Forum des Halles, contributing to the festival's uniqueness, since NewImages is the one festival that gives the general public an opportunity to discover and engage with the most innovative artistic creations, using the whole range of immersive technologies, all the while bringing together the most influential XR industry (VR, AR, and MR) figures from around the world to create the coproduction and economic models of tomorrow.

International VR competition – NewImages Festival

Dedicated to uncovering new kinds of VR and AR storytelling from around the globe, NewImages has **selected 12 immersive or interactive works** from approximately a hundred applications. The selection will take you on a tour of the latest in VR creation from around the world, as these works skillfully defy labeling and expectations, changing our perspective and awakening all our senses.

The competition will showcase works from far and wide, from the US (*Wolves in the Wall*) to Paraguay (*Opus VR* – French premiere), from Romania (*RocketMan 360*) and Moldavia (*Aripi*), with a special focus this year on Taiwanese talents: *Abandoned Temple* (world premiere), *Mr Buddha* (European premiere), executive-produced by filmmaker Hou Hsiao Hsien, *Pneumo Hacker* (French premiere), and *Mechanical Souls* (European premiere), a French-Taiwanese co-production conceived at last year's NewImages Industry Days.

There are four French works amongst the selection – Jan Kounen's *Ayahuasca*; Jan Kounen, Charles Ayats and Sabrina Calvo's *7 Lives* (European premiere); the video game *A Fisherman's Tale*; and the animated futuristic narrative *Gloomy Eyes*, narrated by Colin Farrell.

A jury of figures from the XR, culture and film industries, to be announced soon, will preside over this competition.

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The NewImages Festival International VR competition

From the hundred or so works submitted from around the world, NewImages selected the 12 most innovative projects – from a storytelling standpoint – regardless of their genre (fiction, video game, animation, experimental) or underlying technology (installation, VR theater, stand-up VR).

These innovative storytellers will compete for the **Golden Mask** (Grand Prize), worth €10,000, the **Special Jury Prize**, worth €5,000, and – in partnership with SCAM, the Prize for new forms of storytelling, worth €5,000.

- ✓ **A Fisherman's Tale**
Balthazar Auxietre, Alexis Moroz – Innerspace VR, ARTE
France, 2019, video game, 15 min approx., French language
- ✓ **Abandoned Temple**
World premiere
Wei-Hao Cheng – Kaohsiung Film Archive, Dramaholic Media Studio
Taiwan, 2018, fiction, 9 min, English language
- ✓ **Aripi**
Dmitri Voloshin – Simpals Studio
Moldavia, 2019, animation, 7 min, English language
- ✓ **Ayahuasca**
Jan Kounen – ATLAS V, a_BAHN, Small Studio, Pictanovo. With the support of CNC and FilmFund
France, Luxembourg, 2019, experimental, 15 min approx.
- ✓ **Gloomy Eyes**
Jorge Tereso, Fernando Maldonado – AtlasV, 3DAR, ARTE, RYOT, HTC Vive. With the support of CNC and Rhône-Alpes Cinema
France, Argentine, USA, Taiwan, 2019, animation, 9 min approx., French language
- ✓ **Mr. Buddha**
European premiere
Chung Lee – Cher Wang, Szu Ming Liu, HTC VR Content Center
Taiwan, 2018, fiction, 19 min approx., Mandarin with English subtitles
- ✓ **Mechanical Souls**
European premiere
Gaëlle Mourre – Digital Rise, Serendipity Films, DVgroup, Kaohsiung Film Archive
France-Taiwan, 2018, fiction, 30 min approx., English language
- ✓ **OPUS VR**
French premiere
Michael Kovich Jr. – Al Mango Film Production
Paraguay, 2019, fiction, 18 min approx. (1st chapter), Spanish language with French subtitles
- ✓ **Pneumo Hacker**
French premiere
Kuan Yuan Lai – Poké Poké Creative & Mithra Games
Taiwan, 2019, fiction, 11 min, Mandarin with English subtitles
- ✓ **RocketMan 360**
Millo Simulov – SPIDER Group
Romania, 2018, fiction, 20 min, English language
- ✓ **Wolves in the Wall: It's All Over**
Pete Billington – Fable Studio, Facebook Sound+Design
USA, 2019, animation, 20 min, English language
- ✓ **7 Lives**
European premiere
Jan Kounen, Charles Ayats, Sabrina Calvo – Red Corner France Télévisions, a_Bahn, Frakas Productions
France, 2019, fiction, 20 min approx., French language

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Interactive digital experiences (excluding XR)

Along with PXN (Digital Experiences Producers Association), NewImages will also highlight creativity in hybrid formats – excluding XR – designed for computer or mobile phone screens. PXN will distinguish five works from around the world (fiction, interactive documentary, video game, mobile app, etc.) that reflect the wealth and vitality of this art form. The PXN Prize will award one of these works and will be announced during the festival.

- ✓ **Clit Moi** Jeunes pousses : L'École interactive ONF × UQAM / Canada, 2019, educational game for mobile phone, 5 min, French language
- ✓ **Florence** Mountains (developer), Annapurna Interactive (publisher) / USA, 2018, interactive fiction, French language
- ✓ **One Last Beat** Héctor Monerris Ivorra / Spain, 2018, interactive fiction, English language
- ✓ **Missing** Kylie Boltin, Matt Smith - SBS Australia / Australia, 2019, interactive documentary, English language
- ✓ **Otis (ep. 1)** Casey Stein – Nukhu / USA, 2018, interactive fiction, 7 min, English language

About the NewImages Festival

Festive and educational, with something for all ages, NewImages is full of experiences to share and discover. In addition to its international competition, it also features a unique focus on Taiwanese VR creation, a selection of multiplayer interactive experiences (including escape games and virtual table football), large-scale immersive installations, concerts mixing the digital with the traditional, and an AR exhibition.

The Festival will also be organizing a special day for school and community groups to showcase the amazing creativity of virtual worlds.

With the launch of XRFM, a brand new **co-production and financing market**, NewImages is also a key hub for industry creators and professionals.

On 20 June, the developers of [the 40 project in selection](#) (out of 112 applications) will meet one-on-one with the heads of leading companies in the XR industry, including HTC, VEER VR, ONF/NFB, DREAMSCAPE IMMERSIVE, and SECRET LOCATION. KALEIDOSCOPE FUND will also award a prize to one of the projects.

The NewImages [Industry Days](#) (20–22 June) will be an opportunity for attendees to discuss everything from business models to coming trends, with numerous talks, case studies and meetings with renowned industry professionals.

The NewImages Festival, the **Kaohsiung Film Festival** and **Taipei's French Office** have launched a three-month VR creation residency in Taiwan. The name of the first laureate will be announced at NewImages.

INFORMATION : [NEWIMAGES FESTIVAL](#)

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THE NEWIMAGES FESTIVAL'S PARTNERS :

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CNC, MINISTRY OF CULTURE, INSTITUT FRANÇAIS, AMBASSADE DE FRANCE À TAIPEI

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