

CREDIT SUISSE FÖRDERPREIS VIDEOKUNST 2014

JURY REPORT 2014

In this, its third year, the number of entries has doubled since the competition first began: 56 people submitted work for the Credit Suisse Förderpreis Videokunst 2014. All 56 videos were viewed, and six made it onto the jury's shortlist, from which a winner was chosen. Despite the increased interest, the standard of the entries was not quite as high as last year. As such, it didn't take long for the jury to narrow it down to just one name.

On the other hand, the sexes were more evenly represented this year, although female artists were still in the majority: last year, it was 25 women to nine men; this time round, it was 36 women to 20 men. 42 of the entrants came from German-speaking Switzerland, and 14 from the French-speaking part of the country. Unfortunately, despite our various efforts, there was not a single entry from the Italian-speaking region. Students from almost every college and school of art in Switzerland took part in the competition: the University of Art and Design Lausanne, l'Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais (ECAV), the F+F School of Art and Media Design Zurich, HEAD in Geneva, Bern University of the Arts, the Higher Commercial Management College Basel, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, and Zurich University of the Arts. This year, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, and Zurich University of the Arts, had the highest number of entrants, with 15 each. The average age is also revealing: last year, it was slightly higher, at 27, compared with 25.9 this year. The winner was born in 1985, making him one of the older entrants. He is enrolled on the CCC (Critical, Curatorial, Cybermedia) program at HEAD in Geneva, where he is studying for his PhD.

Recognition of a Worthy Winner

The jury for this third annual prize was unanimous in its decision to award the Credit Suisse Förderpreis Videokunst 2014 to Nicolas Cilins for "Stalin's World" (2013, HD video, color and sound, 20 minutes).

This "documentary project," as the artist himself describes it, explores the topical issue of coming to terms with the past in Eastern Europe. How do we relate to the recent past, as those, who were a part of it, gradually depart this world, though the impact of that history is still tangible to this day in the form of nostalgia and memorials? This is the central question that Nicolas Cilins addresses in his video, through a private theme park, where parodies of Stalin's parades are held every year. This park in the south of Lithuania is run by entrepreneur Viliumas Malinauskas, who has collected sculptures from the former Soviet occupation era – now surplus to requirements – and installed them in the middle of a forest. These sculptures are now on display on his land, alongside an assortment of zoo animals, and open to the public. The video artist approaches Malinauskas and his theme park without succumbing to the entrepreneur's charisma or allowing himself to be manipulated. Instead, through his images, he seeks the inconsistencies and ambiguities in this staged production. He observes without judging and, in this way, strings together anecdotes, which coherently illustrate the dilemma between the fictionalization and

commercialization of history, and the nostalgic desire for an age in which jobs were still secure.

Jury 2014

Dr. Kathleen Bühler (Chair), film scholar, Curator of the Kunstmuseum Bern, Member of the Board of the Bernese Foundation for Photography, Film and Video

Mario Casanova, Curator and Director of the Centro Arte Contemporanea Ticino

Simon Lamunière, artist and independent curator

Ursula Palla, video artist

Dr André Rogger, Head of the Art Unit and the Credit Suisse Collection

Award ceremony and media event, February 27, 2014