VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

Venice VR EXPANDED

September 2–12, 2020

EXPERIENCE
the World Premieres of the best
VIRTUAL REALITY projects from around the WORLD

portlandartmuseum.org
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The future is now, but there is so much change and uncertainty about what will come next.

But one thing we do know is that art connects us, soothes us, ignites us and brings us closer to our shared humanity. Thus, VR might just be the perfect brave new art form to capture what it means to be alive.

Virtual Reality is needed now more than ever, as it gives us new ways of seeing our world and understanding each other. It’s also a new way to experience empathy and equity, to explore worlds real and imagined without leaving the comfort and safety of home, and perhaps most amazingly, to be fully immersed in a work of art. It’s hard to imagine that sixty years ago, the pixel was invented right here in Portland. And today, the time has come where billions of pixels co-mingle at our Museum to bring people closer together.

VR used to be the stuff of science fiction, but now, it is a reality that is as simple as donning a headset and off we go into the unknown. For the next ten days, you can join astronauts, create stories from your own heartbeat, and explore the multifaceted shared realities that are facing our world and its people in this moment in history.

To be the only U.S. partner for the Venice Biennale’s 2020 Venice VR Expanded program is truly an honor. We are grateful to the Venice Biennale for breaking their long-standing rules and sharing the work with us—and with partners all over the world—after 125 years. We are inspired by our Venice VR curatorial partners Michel Reilhac and Liz Rosenthal for breaking boundaries with us and making work like this more accessible. Joshua Young and the team behind Reflective Brands, as well as artists MPU, also deserve our thanks for partnering with us locally to build out a world-class exhibition that is safe, equitable and mind-bending in its scope. We are also grateful most of all to the global artists, audiences and supporters who are bold enough to step up, take risks and create the future with us.

Together, we are connecting to a network of artists, storytellers, curators, technologists, museums and community partners who are banding together to change by whom, for whom, and how immersive stories are told. This exhibition may mark a small step forward, but it is just the beginning of what the Portland Art Museum, Northwest Film Center—and our city—will do to continue to create and support the change we wish to see.

Brian Ferriso
Director & Chief Curator
Portland Art Museum

Amy Dotson
Director, Northwest Film Center
Curator, Film & New Media
Portland Art Museum
Mobile Projection Unit (Fernanda D'Agostino & Sara Turner). *Che la Luna*, Summer 2020, Projection Mapping.

Cameron Stallings, *XRXP .1*, 2020, Digital Art
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4 FEET HIGH
Directed by MARIA BELEN PONCIO, ROSARIO PERAZOLO MASJOAN, DAMIAN TURKIEH
Argentina / France
Detona Cultura / Red Corner / ARTE France / Realidad 360
18 min.

Seventeen-year-old Juana, who is stuck on a wheelchair, is willing to explore sexuality but is ashamed of her own body. In the process of trying to fit in at her new school, she is to face failure, friendship and fear before learning to accept herself.

MARIA BELEN PONCIO is a filmmaker who wrote and directed the short film 4 Feet: Blind Date (2018), on which this new VR project is based. Among the contributors of the short film above are ROSARIO PERAZOLO MASJOAN and DAMIAN TURKIEH, respectively the film’s screenwriter and co-director.

AGENCE
Directed by PIETRO GAGLIANO
Canada
Transitional Forms / National Film Board of Canada
10 min.

In this animated and interactive experience, the fate of artificially intelligent creatures known as Agents is in the viewer’s hands. In this algorithmic universe, Agents live on small planets according to a preordained plan until they slowly build a sense of self-awareness. Should the viewer decide to let them live in social harmony, or disrupt this balance?

PIETRO GAGLIANO (b. 1979) is a Canadian filmmaker, producer and animator. In 2018 he worked on the production of the short film The Great C, which was selected that same year for the Venice VR competition.

AFRICAN SPACE MAKERS
Directed by THE NRB BUS COLLECTIVE
Kenya / Germany
The Nrb Bus Collective
50 min.

This VR series depicts a new generation of emerging creatives. The journey begins in Nairobi, Kenya, one of the liveliest metropolises in sub-Saharan Africa.

THE NRB BUS COLLECTIVE is a mobile creative space for artists and musicians inaugurated in 2012 traveling between Kenya and other areas in East Africa. It also hosts the Cultural Video Production and Cultural Video Foundation, which have both produced several feature films and TV series focusing on culturally and socially relevant issues.

AJAX ALL POWERFUL
Directed by ETHAN SHAFTEL
USA / China
VeeR / easyAction
15 minutes

Henry Winkler is a genie addicted to the human souls he collects in exchange for granting wishes to gullible humans. However, something is different about the seemingly naive little girl who has rubbed his lamp this time. For one thing, she has hired a straitlaced lawyer (Chris Parnell) to negotiate her wishes.

ETHAN SHAFTEL is a filmmaker chiefly known for his short films Kaiju Confidential, presented at Sundance, and Space Buddies, presented at Tribeca, both in 2019. His comedy-satire Extravaganza, mixing live-action and 3D, premiered at Tribeca and is now available on the leading VR platforms. He designed and directed a full-body VR game for Red Bull, a room-size 3D video installation for Nike, animated parade floats for Disneyland Tokyo, screen content for artists such as Rihanna, Beyoncé and Jay Z, as well as a dozens of award-winning short films, music videos, and a science-fiction feature.
AU PAYS DU CANCRE MOU (IN THE LAND OF FLABBY SCHNOOK)

Directed by FRANCIS GELINAS
Canada
couleur.tv
6 min.
with Catherine Cyr, Saule Gélinas, Francis Gélinas, Lileyna Joy, Monique Thomas, Daniel Judson

In this animated experience, a young boy asks his elder sister how she managed to stop being afraid of the dark. She shows him a number of dreamlike drawings that come alive little by little and help him conquer his fears.

FRANCIS GELINAS (b. 1979) is a Canadian filmmaker. He worked on the special effects of the mixed-technique short film Goldfish (2015).

BABA YAGA

Directed by ERIC DARNELL, MATHIAS CHELEBOURG
USA
Baobab Studios
15 min.
with Daisy Ridley

In this animated film and immersive experience, viewers follow Magda (played by Daisy Ridley’s voice) into a haunting fairytale world. Sometimes a force for evil, sometimes a force for good, the enigmatic witch Baba Yaga uses her powers to protect the forest from the villagers’ encroachment. When her mother, the village chief, falls deathly ill it is up to viewers and their sister Magda to do the unthinkable—enter the forest, uncover its hidden mysteries and get the cure from Baba Yaga.

ERIC DARNELL is a director, screenwriter, animator, producer and artistic director at the US-based virtual-animation Baobab Studios. He began his career as an animator at DreamWorks Animation where he worked on the film Antz and later co-directed and co-wrote the Madagascar films. In 2018, he directed the animated short-film Crow: The Legend, which in 2019 was awarded four Daytime Emmys, including an Emmy in the “Outstanding Interactive Media for a Daytime Program” category.

MATHIAS CHELEBOURG is a U.S. filmmaker and screenwriter. His career has centered on the production of VR animated short films such as Alice, the Virtual Reality Play (2017), Jack: Part One (2018) and Doctor Who: The Runaway (2019), for which he received a nomination in the “Best Immersive Experience” category at New York’s Tribeca Film Festival that same year.

BEAT

Directed by KEISUKE ITOH
Japan
WOWOW Inc. / CinemaLeap Inc.
12 min.

Beat is a story literally born out of viewers’ hearts since their heartbeat is faithfully reproduced in animation. Viewers also meet a rusty and heartless robot they can give their heart to by placing it in his metallic body. The happy robot stands up and starts moving around. After meeting new robots, though, he does not know how to communicate with them. His “heart” is key to the story’s progress and, through the robot’s personal growth, of viewers’ awareness of their own heart.

KEISUKE ITOH (b. Japan, 1986) is Japanese artist, animator and illustrator specializing in character design and 3D animation. His film Feather (2019) was presented at the 76th Venice Film Festival in the Biennale College Cinema – VR section.

DREAMIN’ ZONE

Directed by FABIENNE GIEZENDANNER
France / Sweden / Germany / South Korea
Zéro de Conduite Productions / CINÉ-LITTÉ PRODUCTIONS / FAUVEA Studio / STUDIO YOG
18 min.
with Yolanda Creighton, Béatrice Bastiani, Amy Bull

Yuri, an old South Korean woman, thinks back of the day she turned 10, when she disobeyed her mother, ran away and crossed the border between the two Koreas in hope to meet her father, a soldier violinist who went to war and disappeared somewhere in North Korea. She travels through an animistic and dreamlike version of the demilitarized zone among strange-looking birds, mysterious ghosts and the scars the war left behind. Will she get to meet her dad?

FABIENNE GIEZENDANNER (b. 1967) is a Swiss filmmaker and screenwriter. Her work ranges from online games to the creation of animated series. In 2017 she directed Skyscrapers.
This animated, story-driven game is set in an enchanted world of gnomes and goblins. The viewer, as protagonist, will encounter inhabitants of a fantasy land, build a relationship with them, become part of their society, and save them from their foe.

JON FAVREAU (b. Queens, New York City, USA, 1966) is a U.S. filmmaker, producer and actor. Among his numerous feature films and TV series are Iron Man (2008), Iron Man 2 (2010), The Jungle Book (2016) The Lion King (2019), and The Mandalorian (2019). In 2009 he won the Saturn Award for Best Director for Iron Man, presented by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, USA. That same year the film was also nominated for the Hugo Award in the Best Dramatic Presentation category, and so was the Mandalorian series in 2019. In 2014, his feature film Chef won the Audience Award at Tribeca.

JAKE ROWELL is a U.S. filmmaker, artist and animator. He worked on the creation of videogame sagas such as Final Fantasy and Call of Duty. As a filmmaker, he worked on the special effects of feature films Animatrix (2003) and Superman Returns (2006). He first ventured into the VR world as director of the theBlu series, which was presented at Sundance in 2016.

This animated experience, Stella lives with her overprotective father Leonard. Her mother Liv can hardly take care of her daughter since she works on the other side of the world as an anthropologist and biologist. On her birthday, Stella would like to play in an important football tournament in Australia but her father is against it. Angry and crestfallen, she is just about to give up her dream when she unexpectedly receives a letter from her mother.

AMAURY CAMPION (b. 1990) is a French filmmaker and animator. He is director and founder of the Paris-based motion-design Studio Geppetto. Goodbye Mister Octopus is his first collaboration with the Atlas V studio.

In 1969, Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Despite those conspiracy theorists who called the moon landing a hoax, the United States proudly showed the world what a powerful nation could accomplish. Fifty years later, the Taiwanese people are fighting against identity crises and financial instability and waiting for something or someone to step up and make them rise again.

JOHN HSU is a Taiwanese director. His debut film Detention (2019) is based on the videogame of the same name. That same year, Hsu was nominated in twelve categories at the Golden Horse Awards, winning in five of them including Best Directorial Debut and Best Adapted Screenplay, together with Fu Kai-ling and Chien Shih-keng.

MARCO LOCOCO has worked on the special effects of two animated short films: Shave It (2012) and Uncanny Valley (2015). In 2019, he produced the animated short film Gloomy Eyes, selected for the Venice VR competition.

A sensory VR experience and installation turning viewers into the subject of a Northern myth and taking them into a mythological underwater land born out of the harsh seas and plains of Thy, a rural region in the North of Denmark where superstition abounds and the powers of nature rule.

VIBEKE BRYLD (b. 1976) is a Danish filmmaker, screenwriter and producer. In 2015, her film Pebbles at Your Door was in competition in Berlin for the Golden Bear as Best Documentary.
HERE
Directed by LYSANDER ASHTON
USA / UK
Intel Studios / 59 Productions
5 min.
with Joe Roger Davies, Sarah Mina Son

Based on Richard McGuire’s graphic novel, Here is a grand biopic on a specific corner of a room. We join the myriad characters that have called this particular room home throughout time. The narrative flow allows viewers to live an immersive experience in a unique place through time, connecting with those who have come before, as well as those yet to come.

LYSANDER ASHTON (b. 1982) is a British filmmaker. She is the director of 59 Productions and art director of many of the company’s productions. His career spans different sectors, from stage and exhibition design to VR events management and organization. He began as a video designer for theatre; his works have been shown at the National Theatre, Royal Opera, New York’s Metropolitan Opera, and on Broadway, among others. With Danny Boyle, he made the video for the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics. For the National Theatre he directed Fabulous Wonder.land, the virtual version of the 2015 musical Wonder.land, which premiered at Sundance’s New Frontier program in 2016.

MINIMUM MASS
Directed by RAQI SYED, AREITO ECHEVARRIA
New Zealand / France / USA
Floréal Films / Like Amber
20 min.

The viewer is taken into the surreal cinematic story of a family living through a series of miscarriages. Set in contemporary Rotorua, New Zealand, their story is one of love, loss and black holes.

RAQI SYED has designed the special effects of several internationally successful films such as Avatar (2009), The Avengers (2012) and the Hobbit trilogy (2012-2014). Minimum Mass is his directorial debut.

AREITO ECHEVARRIA has been working on the special effects of several celebrated and internationally successful films such as Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004), King Kong (2005) and Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (2016). In 2014 he won an Academy Award for Technical Achievement. Minimum Mass is his directorial debut.

MIRROR: THE SIGNAL
Directed by PIERRE ZANDROWICZ
France
Atlas V / Versus Production / Albyon Studio
9 min.

Sent to an unknown planet, young exo-biologist Claris violently crashes on a mysterious land. As she tries to find the other members of her team, she witnesses the first “signal” generated by the planet itself.

PIERRE ZANDROWICZ is a filmmaker who has directed several short films such as Transfert (2009), The Ferryman (2009), and I, Philip (2016), presented at Cannes. In 2019 he was in the Venice VR competition as director of the Ex Anima Experience project, and also produced two more VR installations in competition that same year, Gloomy Eyes and Battlescar—Punk Was Invented by Girls.

KINSHASA NOW
Directed by MARC-HENRI WAJNBERG
Belgium / Congo
Wajnbrosse Productions / RG Créatifs Associés
25 min.

Thirty-five thousand kids abandoned by their families following witchcraft allegations are doing their best to survive on the streets of Kinshasa, Congo. One night, 14-year-old Mika must suddenly come to terms with this terrible situation and learn the rules of the street to survive, find food and shelter, and, even most importantly, fit in.

MARC-HENRI WAJNBERG (b. Brussels, Belgium, 1953) is a Belgian filmmaker, screenwriter and producer. His directorial debut, the 1983 mini-comedy-series Clapman, consisted of several short films. He later directed the documentary films Yevgeny Khaldei, Photographer under Stalin (1997), Oscar Niemeyer, un architecte engagé dans le siècle (2000) and Kaleidoscope, Looking at Life Frames (2002). In 2012 he directed the feature film Kinshasa Kids, on which this VR project is based.
OM DEVI: SHEROES REVOLUTION
Directed by CLAUDIO CASALE
Italy / India
Sibilla Film
23 min.
with Anjali Rani, Devya Arya, Shabnam, Ikra
In contemporary India, we follow three women engaged in a day-to-day fight for gender equality. Anjali is a doctor who works non-stop to lower the high death rate. Shabnam is a civil rights activist and acid-attack survivor taking care of her daughter Ikra. Devy Arya studies at a Hindu school to become a priestess. Their diverse stories take us right to the heart of India’s changing society.

CLAUDIO CASALE (b. 1986) is an Italian filmmaker and screenwriter. He began his career by making documentary short and full-length films such as Piccolo Mondo Cane (2017) and My Tyson (2018). His short film Alice’s Playground (2017) explores the theme of emotional and social distancing affecting the lives of digital natives and younger generations.

ONCE UPON A SEA
Directed by ADI LAVY
Israel / Canada
Bilmey Intuitive Pictures
22 min.
Users are transported to the Dead Sea and taken on a tour of one of the wonders of the world, which has been inaccessible for 35 years. A place famous for its long history and therapeutic powers, the Dead Sea can now be virtually experienced by viewers thanks to photo-realistic environments.

ADI LAVY is an Israeli filmmaker known for her documentary film Sun Kissed (2012) presented at the Los Angeles Film Festival.

PAPER BIRDS
Directed by GERMAN HELLER, FEDERICO CARLINI
Argentina
3dar
19 minutes
This is the story of a shortsighted boy and extraordinarily talented musician. When he is thrown into darkness, he must find a way to save his own family who have been kidnapped by THE SHADOWS.

GERMAN HELLER (b. 1981) is an animated and VR film director and producer.

FEDERICO CARLINI is a director, animator and special effects artist. In 2019 he worked on the making of the VR short film Gloomy Eyes, presented that same year in Venice. In 2019 he also worked on the production of the music video Lil Dicky: Earth, a project involving several film and music stars including Leonardo DiCaprio and Ariana Grande, among others.

PENGGANTIAN (REPLACEMENTS)
Directed by JONATHAN HAGARD
Japan / Germany / Indonesia
Kampung Ayu / Ossa Film / Suwe Ora Jamu
12 minutes
with John Navid, Tri Yuliantini, Rido Purwanto, Hartini Sarimo, Galih Budi Oetomo, Septatiana Effendi
Inspired by people and places that truly exist, the film depicts a Javanese family living in a fictional neighborhood in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia. Here, they witness the city’s political transformation and rise of Islamic fundamentalism causing the overall decay of the surrounding urban environment.

JONATHAN HAGARD (b. 1986) is a Kyoto-based Indonesian-French filmmaker, animator and illustrator. He has made 2D, 3D and VR animated works.

RECODING ENTROPIA
Directed by FRANÇOIS VAUTIER
France
Da Prod
8 min.
In the midst of a spatial void, an imposing geometric form wanders in the horizon of infinite space presenting itself to the viewer's eyes. It is a huge and pure eternity-evoking tetrahedron. As it stays still, it breaks apart scattering its million pieces in empty space as ghosts in the heart of infinity. Soon enough, this imposing entity is shattered into a cloud of particles dancing in nothingness.

FRANÇOIS VAUTIER is a French filmmaker. He has been chiefly working for television as director of two feature films, Le p’tit bleu (2000) and Déjà vu (2007) and a documentary film, Twenty show: Le film (2009). He presented his first VR project, I Saw the Future, in the 2017 Venice VR competition.
SHA SI DA MING XING (KILLING A SUPERSTAR)
Directed by FAN FAN, China
Beijing iQIYI Science & Technology Co.
20 min.
with Luyao Zhang, Zi Dou, Ziqiao Song, Haorong Deng, Ding Yue, Songming Chen

Lisa is an actress who has been recently caught in a scandal and even received death threats. Her agent invites a well-known TV host to Lisa’s secret villa for a live interview. Unexpectedly, at the beginning of the live show a dead person is found at the scene. Was it an accident or murder? Killing a Superstar is an immersive VR video: viewers can solve the case directly at the crime scene through interactive functions.

FAN FAN is a young Chinese producer and director who has been working with iQIYI since 2017. His focus is on the creation and production of VR films and games. Among those, the immersive project “The Last One Standing VR” has been shortlisted for an award in the VR category at the 75th Venice International Film Festival.

SILTOJEN ALTA TULEVAISUUDEN IHMISELLE (MAN UNDER BRIDGE)
Directed by HANNA VÄSTINSALO
Finland
Thinkseed
7 min.

Johan K. Harju was a self-taught writer and historian, as well as an alcohol-addicted homeless person. His unique talent resided in his ability to document his friends’ lives as well as his own through his personal voice that made listeners see the world through his eyes. This virtual-reality experience combines animation with photos and Harju’s voice recordings from the Helsinki City Museum archives, placing users in a historical tram featuring animation inspired by Harju’s drawings.

HANNA VÄSTINSALO is a Finnish filmmaker, screenwriter and producer. She has pre-eminently worked on short films such as Father (2015) and Wombsong (2018).

SMAGEN AF SULT (A TASTE OF HUNGER)
Directed by CHRISTOFFER BOE, DAVID ADLER
Denmark / Sweden / France
MAKROPOL / Zentropa / Atlas V / Zentropa Sweden
15 min.
with Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Katrine Greis-Rosenthal

A fully immersive VR experience placing the viewer at the center of a love affair’s classic triangle connecting attraction, conflict and reconciliation. The virtual space is divided into 20 moments linked with these three key situations, highlighting lovers’ unity and divergence.

CHRISTOFFER BOE (b. Rungsted Kyst, Denmark, 1974) is a Danish filmmaker, producer and screenwriter. In 2003, his full-length film Reconstruction was awarded the Prix Regards Jeune and the Golden Camera at Cannes. In 2006 his feature film Offscreen premiered in Venice and won the “Arca Cinema Giovani” collateral award.

DAVID ADLER (b. 1985) is a Danish filmmaker and screenwriter. In 2015, his short film Sort won the “OFF Animation Talent” award at the Odense Festival.

THE HANGMAN AT HOME—AN IMMERSIVE SINGLE USER EXPERIENCE
Directed by MICHELLE KRANOT, URI KRANOT
Denmark / France / Canada
Floréal Films / Late Love Production / Miyu Productions
25 min.

What does the hangman think about when he goes home at night from work? Based on Carl Sandburg’s poem, The Hangman at Home explores the possible answers to this question through five interwoven stories: five characters in one apartment, in five different moments. An immersive, animated and interactive experience allowing viewers to become aware of their influence on the events—until they are required to make a decision and act upon them.

MICHELLE and URI KRANOT are a couple of Israeli filmmakers. Their art brings animation and modern technologies together to create entirely new experiences. They are the founders of research and development studio TinDrum, as well as the producers and creative directors of ANIDOX, a company specializing in the development and production of animated documentary films; they also worked in key positions at The Animation Workshop in Denmark. The Kranots have won accolades for the films Black Tape, Hollow Land, an animated short film presented at the Giffoni Film Festival, How Long, Not Long, and more recently the VR installations Nothing Happens, presented in Venice in 2017, and Songbird. They are both members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
WE LIVE HERE
Directed by ROSE TROCHE
USA
Afrobel Inc. / Oculus VR for Good / VR Playhouse
12 min.

The film follows Rockey, a sixty-year-old homeless woman, on the
day the police want to kick her out of the park where she lives. As
the homeless people living there are warned to leave the area within
ten minutes, Rockey’s friend Paul encourages everyone to avoid
arrest by listening to his instructions; Rockey reluctantly follows his
advice. As viewers are given a detailed account of Rockey’s busy
daily routine, they realize a homeless person’s everyday life is not
that different from their own.

ROSE TROCHE (b. Chicago, USA, 1964) is a U.S. filmmaker
and screenwriter originally from Puerto Rico. Her cinematic debut
Go Fish, a depiction of gay life in Chicago, was presented at the
Sundance and the Berlinale in 1994. In 1998, she directed the film
Bedrooms and Hallways, exploring men’s sexual life. She also
directed The Safety of Objects (2001), a feature film based on A.
M. Homes’s short stories focusing on sexuality in the suburbs. In the
last decade she has been mostly working for television and directed
several episodes for numerous TV series.

WO SHENG MING ZHONG DE 60 MIAO
(ONE MORE MINUTE)
Directed by WAN DAMING
China
Veer / MeDoc
26 min.

A documentary film on people’s lives during the COVID-19
outbreak in China. The viewer experiences the power and beauty of
life, and the heartbreaking real events that took place at 10 a.m. on
February 20, 2020.

WAN DAMING is a Chinese filmmaker.
1ST STEP—FROM EARTH TO THE MOON
Directed by JÖRG COURTIAL, MARIA COURTIAL
Germany
Faber Courtial
14 min.
with Christian Jacob, Alexander Waigel, Holger Winter
A legendary space-travel experience following in the steps of the Apollo mission from launch to the astronauts' journey back home: a magic story of how dreams came true as mankind took their first step on the moon.
JÖRG COURTIAL (b. 1966) is a German filmmaker and animator. He made his debut in the VR world with a series of documentary-style films such as Gladiators in the Colosseum VR 3D 360° (2016) and 2nd Step VR 3D 360° (2018). These first-person visual experiences allow visitors to relive some key moments in human history.
MARIA COURTIAL (b. 1965) is a German filmmaker and producer. She collaborated with director Jörg Courtial on the making of VR content and participated in the production of works such as Gladiators in the Colosseum VR 3D 360° (2016) and 2nd Step VR 3D 360° (2018).

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE
Directed by RYAN BEDNAR
Sweden
Cortopia Studios AB
5 hours
with Katie Gaskin, Sean Chiplock, Jean-Michel George, Michael Edwards, Bob Feeser, Jill Rolls
In this prequel of Lewis Carroll's celebrated Alice in Wonderland, viewers play the role of a girl that is accidentally transported to Wonderland; as such, they are free to control her fate and make decisions along the way.
RYAN BEDNAR (b. 1978) is a filmmaker and artistic director of Stockholm-based Cortopia Studios, Sweden. He is a creator of both traditional and VR videogame content.

BLIND SPOT
Directed by HU ZHANGYANG
China
Unlimited Fly Inc.
6 hours
As the main character of this videogame experience, the viewer wakes up in a storage room. The house the viewer has always lived in with his father and sister does not look like it used to. A weird phone message complicates things further.
HU ZHANGYANG (b. 1992) is a Chinese filmmaker; Blind Spot is his directorial debut.

GRAVIDADE VR (GRAVITY VR)
Directed by FABITO RYCHTER, AMIR ADMONI
Brazil / Peru
Delirium Xr
15 min.
The story unfolds in a surreal world where all existing things are perpetually falling down, as are players themselves. In this world with no walls or horizon, no bottom or top, there is no fear of heights: rather, viewers find themselves floating in a gravity-free environment.
FABITO RYCHTER is a filmmaker who directed the short film Gravity (2018), on which this new VR project is based.
AMIR ADMONI is a Brazilian filmmaker, screenwriter and producer who made two short films: the documentary Monkey Joy (2008) and Linear (2013).
**JIOU JIA (HOME)**  
*Directed by HSU CHIH YEN*  
Taiwan  
Kaohsiung Film Archive / Hsu Chih Yen Director Studios / Funique VR Studio  
18 min.  
with Chia-Lin Hsu, Tsui-You Hung, Jia-Dong Shea, Ruey-Huey Kuo, Kun-Chuan Chen, Ying-Ting Li  
Based on the director’s real-life experience. A family gathers in their old house on a summer day to spend time with their grandmother, who can now barely move, hear or react to any external input. Many people visit the house as the day goes by. The viewer also takes part in this family gathering in a very peculiar role: the grandmother’s.  
HSU CHIH YEN (b. 1985) has directed both short and full-length films such as Yellow Claw Feat. Rochelle: Waiting (2018) and Dear Ex (2018), for which he won the Audience Award, the Best New International Talent Award, and the Best Feature Film Award at the Taipei Film Festival.

**THE BOOK OF DISTANCE**  
*Directed by RANDALL OKITA*  
Canada  
National Film Board of Canada  
25 min.  
Hiroshima, 1935. Yonezo Okita left his home in Japan for Canada. Then war and racism changed everything. Three generations later his grandson Randall Okita leads us on an interactive pilgrimage through an emotional geography of immigration and family to recover what was lost.  
RANDALL OKITA (b. 1979) is a Japanese-Canadian filmmaker, director and artist. In his career he has worked on both full-length and short films such as The Weatherman and the Shadowboxer (2014), winner of the Best Canadian Film Award at the Toronto International Film Festival that same year, and The Lockpicker (2016), winner of the Discovery Award at the 2017 Canadian Screen Awards. The Book of Distance is his latest experiment blending VR and storytelling.

**SOUND SELF: A TECHNODELIC**  
*Directed by ROBIN ARNOTT*  
USA  
Andromeda Entertainment  
20 min.  
An inward-looking journey of meditation: Through the use of their own voice, viewers experience a state of complete relaxation and altered awareness.  
ROBIN ARNOTT (b. 1987) is a filmmaker, sound designer and founder of Andromeda Entertainment. He designed the sound effects of several videogames and short films. In 2013 he contributed to the making of the game Antichamber, nominated at the NAVGTR in the Videogame Design category.

**THE ROOM VR: A DARK MATTER**  
*Directed by MARK HAMILTON*  
UK  
Fireproof Studios  
3 hours  
London, British Institute of Archaeology, 1908. The disappearance of an esteemed Egyptologist prompts a police investigation into the unknown. The viewer is called to explore cryptic locations, examine fantastic gadgets and solve puzzles in an otherworldly space that blurs the line between reality and illusion.  
MARK HAMILTON (b. 1981) is a filmmaker and videogame designer. After working on several 3D-modeling projects, he founded the production company Fireproof Games.
IL DUBBIO - EPISODIO 1
Directed by MATTEO LONARDI; produced by FRANCESCO LONARDI
Italy
Nowadays, we tend to see doubts as weaknesses in our struggle to succeed no matter what. We would rather show off our accomplishments, confidence and productivity, especially in the creative process. Il dubbio is an interactive documentary VR experience challenging these assumptions and exploring doubt as a driver of creation. The journey begins in Leonardo Da Vinci’s studio, where users can experience a lesser-known side of the celebrated Renaissance master.

MATTEO LONARDI is an Italian director, screenwriter and producer. He has directed two short VR films, Reframe Iran (2016) and Reframe Saudi (2018).

MEET MORTAZA VR
Directed by JOSÉPHINE DEROBE; produced by ORIANE HURARD
France / Belgium
An immersive VR experience taking viewers into the private life of a man driven into exile. Ten years ago, Mortaza was forced to leave Afghanistan when a fatwa was pronounced against him. After spending three dangerous months as an illegal alien on the run, he eventually reaches the country where he wants to seek asylum, France. However, the government proves to be another obstacle in his journey to freedom.

JOSÉPHINE DEROBE is a filmmaker who has made two 3D short films, Journal d’un frigo (2011) and Souviens-moi (2013). She has also made a number of installations and VR 360° 3D projects.

QUEERSKINS: ARK
Directed by ILLYA SZKILAK, CYRIL TSIBOULSKI; produced by SARAH VICK, DIEGO PRILUSKY
USA
Reading her son's diary after she lost him to AIDS, a Catholic mother living in rural Missouri finds a way to overcome her pain by picturing him alive and in love. Viewers are helped to create the story by moving around and playing with their own body.

ILLYA SZKILAK is a filmmaker, screenwriter and producer. She also co-directed with CYRIL TSIBOULSKI the short film Queerskins: A Love Story (2018), on which this new VR project is based.

VAJONT
Directed by IOLANDA DI BONAVENTURA, producer: SAVERIO TRAPASSO
Italy
25 min.
This interactive first-person VR experience is set in the Vajont valley, Italy, a few hours before the disaster. The story is centered on a dialogue between a husband and his wife: the woman senses the danger and wants to leave; her husband dismisses the idea that there is any danger at all. What stops us from leaving the places we feel we belong? Can we accept the idea of having to protect ourselves from something that is part of our own identity—the place we grew up in?

IOLANDA DI BONAVENTURA (b. L’Aquila, Italy, 1993) is a visual artist and director. Her work focuses on the environment as a constituent part of one’s personal identity, and on finding new technical and creative languages that can support artistic expression and communication.