



**CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz** // 20 – 25 April 2016 // [www.crossingEurope.at](http://www.crossingEurope.at)

**Festival office:** Graben 30, 4020 Linz, Austria, T +43.732.785 700, F +43.732.785 700 40

**Media services:** Sabine Gebetsroither, gebetsroither@crossingEurope.at, M +43.664.245 77 60

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## **CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2016**

*A record number of film submissions; the second edition of the programme section CINEMA NEXT EUROPE under the motto HEIMATLAND – WONDERLAND; the 2016 festival trailer by Jola Wiczorek; this year's winner of the OK | Energie AG Upper Austria Art Prize is Lukas Marxt; and a new call for projects*

### **The final stage of programme selection**

The programme for the upcoming edition of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz, which will take place from **Wednesday, 20 April** to **Monday, 25 April**, is almost set. A few remaining films have yet to be negotiated and the first international guests have already been invited. February will see the end of this year's intensive phase of **selecting films and programming**. Once again, not only the quality but also the quantity of the film submissions is truly impressive. Over the course of the past year, we have watched a total of approximately **1,000** feature-length films from all over Europe, including an impressive **180** films by local filmmakers who entered their works for the programme section LOCAL ARTISTS.

As in previous years, the 2016 edition of CROSSING EUROPE, the second largest international film festival in Austria, is dedicated to European auteur cinema. With **roughly 160 carefully selected films dealing with contemporary socio-political issues**, the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of CROSSING EUROPE aims to attract audiences to unconventional films from Europe by presenting them for the first time in Austria and by awarding the competition winners with money and material prizes.

The festival audience can look forward to numerous **programme highlights**: As already announced in December, CROSSING EUROPE will dedicate this year's **Tribute** to the famed documentary director from the Czech Republic, **Helena Třeštková**. In addition to presenting her latest works and a cross-section of her oeuvre from the past 40 years, she will also hold a master class.

**The second edition of the programme section CINEMA NEXT EUROPE**, which was launched in 2015 for the first time, will be held under the motto **HEIMATLAND – WONDERLAND**, focusing on works by European newcomers. The **2016 festival trailer** was created by the young media artist Jola Wiczorek, who grew up in Upper Austria. And this year's winner of the **CROSSING EUROPE | Energie AG Upper Austria Art Prize** is Lukas Marxt. Furthermore, the OÖKB – the Upper Austrian Association of Composers will launch a call for proposals for a one-month **workshop** in Villa Stonborough-Wittgenstein in Gmunden aimed at realising projects that combine visual and auditory art. Here are the updates for CROSSING EUROPE 2016 in more detail:

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## CINEMA NEXT EUROPE 2016: HEIMATLAND – WONDERLAND

In 2015 CROSSING EUROPE introduced a new programme section in cooperation with the newcomers' initiative Cinema Next, **focusing on the "next generation"** of European filmmakers. As the new section was so well-received by both the general public and the specialised press, this platform for exchange and networking among young European filmmakers has been included in the programme for the second time. Once again, the main focus will be on **discovering new voices** and **promoting young European cinema**.

Six carefully selected film programmes will feature extraordinary voices from young European cinema: young filmmakers who are about to make their feature-length film debuts, showcasing powerful samples of their work. The programmes, curated by Wiktoria Pelzer and Dominik Tschüscher in cooperation with Crossing Europe, include films from various countries such as Portugal, Austria and Georgia, as well as an exciting and provocative work from **Switzerland: HEIMATLAND/WONDERLAND** (CH, DE 2015) – a collaborative film realised by ten directors (!). Following its world premiere at Locarno Film Festival and after winning a number of awards, it will premiere in Austria as the opening film of the section CINEMA NEXT EUROPE and an entry in the COMPETITION FICTION.

"HEIMATLAND – WONDERLAND" is also the **thematic headline** of this year's programme selection and a panel discussion hosting festival guests (title: Wonderland. The State of Young European Cinema): The issues of "the good life", feeling at home and feeling like a stranger, or finding a (new) home are featured in all the films in this section as well as the CROSSING EUROPE festival programme. The stories told in these films are just as diverse as the biographical backgrounds of the filmmakers themselves. This year's edition of the programme section CINEMA NEXT EUROPE thus not only presents new talents but also invites the audience to discover new ways of seeing **Europe today**. The programme section for European newcomers, CINEMA NEXT EUROPE, has been realised in cooperation with "[CINEMA NEXT – Junges Kino aus Österreich](#)" and is supported by CREATIVE EUROPE DESK AUSTRIA – MEDIA.

**Festival trailer:** RENATE P. [already online](#)

CROSSING EUROPE is pleased to announce that the young media artist [Jola Wiczorek](#) (\*1983) has created the **new festival trailer** (powered by Energie AG Oberösterreich). Jola Wiczorek was born in Poznań (Poland) and grew up in Bad Ischl, Upper Austria. She studied **media management** in St. Pölten, Lower Austria, and **audiovisual communication** in Barcelona. She then worked as production and casting assistant. In 2012 she was awarded the Erasmus Mundus Masters scholarship in documentary film directing (part of the DOC NOMADS course). During this two-year course which took her to **Lisbon, Budapest and Brussels**, she realised various film projects. Her short documentary LIST DO POLSKI won the prize for the Best Austrian Newcomer at the Vienna Independent Shorts festival and her medium-length film (her master's project) O QUE RESTA had its international premiere in the competition section "Pardi di domani" at the 68<sup>th</sup> Locarno Film Festival. Both films were featured in the programme of CROSSING EUROPE in 2015. The artist lives in Vienna and Barcelona and was awarded the **START fellowship** of the film department of the Federal Chancellery of Austria's Arts and Culture Division. She is currently working on her first feature-length documentary about the Mediterranean with the working title STORIES FROM THE SEA.

Jola Wieczorek sees a film as a **window** to another reality that is different from the viewer's reality. A window symbolises the acts of seeing and watching – and films are generally based on these two acts. In this year's Crossing Europe festival trailer entitled RENATE P., two **portholes** stare into the distance from inside a cargo ship named Renate P. The distance only becomes discernible through the movements of the ship, making the curtains dance and the horizon sway. That is similar to what a festival does: it takes its audience on a journey, letting them look from the inside to the outside world, it moves the audience and gives them new points of view and changes the horizon of their perception. The noises of the ship represent the diversity of the festival programme and move – just like the festival audience – from the inside to the outside. Suddenly, we are outside, surrounded by the sound of the sea and then the radio message takes us back into the ship. Renate P. is asked **“What is your destiny?”** Each person in the festival audience will have to answer this question for themselves. The 2016 festival trailer will be used to **promote the festival** and will be screened in art house cinemas across Austria. The new festival trailer is **already** online and can be viewed under: [www.crossingeurope.at/trailer2016](http://www.crossingeurope.at/trailer2016).

### **CROSSING EUROPE | Energie AG Art Prize 2016: “Captive Horizon” by Lukas Marxt**

Since 2013 the outer façade of the OÖ Kulturquartier community centre has featured projection artworks during CROSSING EUROPE, transforming it into an art space. The CROSSING EUROPE | Energie AG Art Prize aims to support and promote **artistic works involving film and light in public spaces**. Once again, Energie AG Upper Austria has joined forces with Linz University of the Arts and announced a **€ 4,000 scholarship for an outdoor projection artwork in OÖ Kulturquartier**, to be exhibited throughout CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival. The call is addressed to students and graduates of Linz University of the Arts. As a third partner, the OÖ Kulturquartier provides production materials and technical assistance.

This year's winner is the media artist [Lukas Marxt](#) (\*1983) from Schladming, Styria. He studied in Linz, Cologne, Leipzig and Lisbon. A number of his films have already been featured at CROSSING EUROPE (2007: winner of the CROSSING EUROPE Local Artist award together with Michael Petri for NACH DER EISHÖHLE).

Lukas Marxt won the jury over with his work **CAPTIVE HORIZON**: By focussing on remote natural landscapes and with his keen awareness of time, he creates works of art with an almost magical allure. The original images of **erosive landscapes captured by drones** are featured on the façade of the OK square as a **two-channel video projection**. The visually stunning images alternate between micro and macro cosmos, long shots and close-ups, abstract and concrete, thus creating a fascinating experience of changing perceptions. The landscape almost seems like an apocalyptic allusion. The changing perspectives and the varying speed of the images create an air of suspense that makes passers-by pause for a moment to reflect.

The winning project will be **realised and presented** during the upcoming edition of CROSSING EUROPE in April 2016.

### **PROJECT CALL – “PICTURE your SOUND your PICTURE”**

In cooperation with **CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz**, the **OÖKB** – the Upper Austrian Association of Composers will launch a call for proposals for a one-month **workshop** in November 2016 in Villa Stonborough-Wittgenstein in Gmunden.

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The call is aimed at filmmakers and musicians/composers from Upper Austria. In teams of two, they can submit proposals for art projects (all lengths and formats) that take a unique approach to exploring the **combination of music/sound and film**. The project must focus equally on visual and auditory art. The work will then be completed during the workshop. The winning project will also be featured in the programme of CROSSING EUROPE 2017.

**Eligibility criteria:** At least one of the team members has to be from Upper Austria or at least live and work in Upper Austria. In addition to the proposed project, the application must include up-to-date CVs and information on other works by the applicants. The location for the workshop, which is provided by the Department of Culture of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government, is in Villa Stonborough-Wittgenstein and consists of a living room, two bedrooms and a studio, where preliminary work for the film can be presented. In addition, the Government of Upper Austria provides a grant for travel and personal expenses amounting to € 500 per person.

A **jury of three** will select the winning project in their session on 25 April. The members of the jury are: [Tanja Brüggemann](#) (composer and musician, member of the expert group Film and Media of the Austrian Composers' Society), [Sandra Trostel](#) (director – her latest documentary EVERYBODY'S CAGE will be featured at CROSSING EUROPE 2016), [Alexander Kukulka](#) (composer and chairperson of the Austrian Composers' Society, member of the expert group Film and Media of the Austrian Composers' Society). – **Please send your applications by 30 March 2016** to Tanja Brüggemann ([tanja.brueggemann@me.com](mailto:tanja.brueggemann@me.com)).

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#### PREVIEW

Programme press conference in Linz & Vienna: **6 April 2016**

Programme release party: **7 April 2016**

Festival dates: **Wednesday, 20 to Monday, 25 April 2016**

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#### IMAGES & UPDATES

Photos & film stills: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/pressefotos/>

Festival impressions: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/crossingeurope/collections/>

Logo & festival artwork: <http://www.crossingeurope.at/xe-presse/logos>

For regular **updates** and the **latest information** on CROSSING EUROPE 2016 visit our website [www.crossingEurope.at](http://www.crossingEurope.at) or our social media sites on [Facebook](#), [google+](#), [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).