



Press Release

The Villa Medici Film Festival returns to Rome from 13 to 17 September: Alice Diop, Cyprien Gaillard and Chiara Parisi are members of the panel of judges for the 3rd edition

Founded in 2021, the Villa Medici Film Festival explores the ever-closer links between cinema and contemporary art and sets out to discover new filmic writing.

For its third edition, from 13 to 17 September 2023, the festival is following the path taken for the past two years by presenting a selection of films in a variety of genres and forms that transcend practices and perspectives and demonstrate the permeability between cinema and contemporary art. Over the course of one week, the festival welcomes artists and filmmakers in residence at Villa Medici for meetings and screenings to encourage the artistic emulation of the medium of cinema.

The festival takes place in three parts: the **International Competition** with twelve recent films of all genres and lengths, the **parallel Focus selection** with films by out-of-competition artists, masterclasses and special gatherings, and the **Piazzale screenings**, which bring together all audiences for open-air screenings of previously unreleased films, with many previews but also classic films screened in restored versions.

While the 2022 edition rewarded *In Fields of Words*, a political fresco by Lebanese director Rania Stephan (Villa Medici Prize for best film 2022), as well as the astonishing police comedy *Gigi la Legge*, by Alessandro Comodin (Special Jury Prize 2022), the next competition's selection will once again take a plunge into disconcerting, poetic and engaging tales.

While waiting to unveil the films selected for the competition and the complete programme, Villa Medici has announced the panel of judges who will preside over this third edition.

The 2023 panel, made up of director **Alice Diop**, artist **Cyprien Gaillard** and Centre Pompidou-Metz director **Chiara Parisi**, will award two prizes: the **Villa Medici Prize for the best film** and the **Special Jury Prize** for a unique film that has drawn the attention of the judges. These prizes, which are financially supported, also offer the opportunity for filmmakers to undertake a writing residency at Villa Medici.

VILLA MÉDICIS

THE PANEL OF JUDGES FOR THE 3RD EDITION OF THE VILLA MEDICI FILM FESTIVAL



Alice Diop is a French documentary filmmaker of Senegalese origin, born in 1979 in Aulnay-sous-Bois. After completing her studies in history, she earned a degree in visual sociology. She made her first short documentaries in the early 2000s, in which she filmed the neighbourhood where she grew up and the Parisian suburbs.

Among her first films, *Towards Tenderness* won the César for best short film in 2017. That same year, she won the French competition prize at the Cinéma du réel Festival for *On Call*.

In 2022, she directed her first feature film with *Saint Omer*, which won the Silver Lion for the Grand Jury Prize and the First Film Prize at the Venice Film Festival, as well as the 2023 César for best first film. The film was also selected to represent France at the 2023 Oscars.



Cyprien Gaillard is an artist, born in 1980 in Paris. He lives and works in Berlin. He graduated from the Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne and has received numerous awards such as the Arken Art Prize and the Best Experimental Short Film Award of the Melbourne International Film Festival (both 2016), the Preis der Nationalgalerie (2011) and the Marcel Duchamp Prize (2010).

His work, taking the form of sculptures, videos, prints, photographs and interventions in public spaces, has been exhibited in numerous venues including: Palais de Tokyo et Lafayette Anticipations,

Paris (2022), Fondation LUMA, Arles (2022), Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2021), TANK Shanghai (2019), Accelerator Konsthall, Stockholm (2019), Musée Tinguely, Bâle (2019), K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2016), Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf (2015), MoMA PS1, New York (2013), Hammer Museum.

VILLA MÉDICIS



Chiara Parisi is an Italian art historian, born in Rome. She has been director of the Centre Pompidou-Metz since December 2019.

From 2004 to 2011, she was director of the Centre international d'art et du paysage de l'île de Vassivière, then for five years director of the Monnaie de Paris. Where, in particular, she realised a large monographic exhibition dedicated to the artist Paul MacCarthy in conjunction with the sculpture at Place Vendôme and landmark exhibitions on Maurizio Cattelan or "Take Me (I'm yours)" with Christian Boltanski and Hans Ulrich Obrist.

Since 2017, she has been a regular guest curator at the French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici where she presented the exhibitions of Annette Messager, Katharina Grosse or also Anne and Patrick Poirier. She also designed the group exhibition "*Le Violon d'Ingres*", at the crossroads of art history and contemporary research, and the exhibition "*Ouvert la nuit*", with, among others, Rosa Barba, Christian Boltanski, Trisha Donnelly, Elmgreen & Dragset and Felix González-Torres.

VILLA MÉDICIS

FESTIVAL ORGANISATIONAL COMMITTEE:

The organisational committee for the Villa Medici Film Festival is made up of **Alizée Alexandre** (in charge of cultural programming at the French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici), **Lili Hinstin** (programmer and artistic director of festivals), **Laurent Perreau** (author and director), **Sam Stourdzé** (director of the French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici) and **Véronique Terrier Hermann** (art historian and programmer).

THE 2023 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Each year, a selection committee is appointed to select the films for the competition.

Leonardo Bigazzi has been curator of the Festival Lo Schermo dell'Arte since 2008 and of VISIO - European Programme on Artists' Moving Images since 2012. Since 2020 he has also been working as a curator at the Fondazione In Between Art Film, where he is responsible for commissioning and producing artists' films.

Mathilde Henrot is a producer of art films (namely of the art films of artist Camille Henrot) and a curator, namely of the Locarno and Sarajevo film festivals. She is also the founder of the websites Festival Scope and Festival Scope Pro, along with Alessandro Raja.

Lili Hinstin is a programmer and artistic festival director. In charge of cinema at Villa Medici between 2005 and 2009, she became a programmer for the Cinéma du Réel festival from 2010 to 2013. Lili Hinstin then became artistic director of the Belfort Film Festival (2013-2018), then of the Locarno International Film Festival (2018-2020). She is the director of programming for the Biarritz International Festival - Nouvelles Vagues.

Valentine Umansky has worked for various visual arts institutions and is currently curator at the Tate Modern in London. Between 2015 and 2020, she held positions in the United States at the International Center of Photography, the Museum of Modern Art and the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati. She is also a curator and author.

Contact:

film.festival@villamedici.it

VILLA MÉDICIS

IMAGERY

A selection of royalty-free images from the two previous editions of the Villa Medici Film Festival is available for download at [this link](#).

PHOTO CREDITS

Portrait of Alice Diop © Elodie Lamachere
Portrait of Cyprien Gaillard © Albrecht Fuchs
Portrait of Chiara Parisi © Philippe Levy

About the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici

Founded in 1666 by Louis XIV, the French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici is a French institution that has been housed since 1803 at the Villa Médicis, a 16th century villa surrounded by a seven-hectare park and located on Mount Pincio in the heart of Rome.

A national public institution under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici today fulfils three complementary missions: to welcome high-level artists, creators and art historians in residence for long stays of one year or shorter periods; to set up a cultural and artistic programme that integrates all the fields of the arts and creation and that is aimed at a wide audience; to conserve, restore, study and make known to the public its built and landscape heritage as well as its collections.

The French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici is directed by [Sam Stourdzé](#)

Cinema at Villa Medici

Since 1974, The French Academy in Rome has been hosting fellows, scriptwriters and visual artists who make films. Among them are Théodora Barat, Éric Baudelaire, Xavier Beauvois, Yasmina Benabderrahmane, Clément Cogitore, Benjamin Crotty, Caroline Deruas, Mitra Farahani, Lola González, Evangelia Kranioti, Nora Martirosyan, Valérie Mréjen, and Thomas Salvador. Since 2021, the Villa Medici has partnered with the video-on-demand platform Tënk to create the Villa Medici x Tënk Documentary Residencies to support the production of contemporary documentaries.

VILLA MÉDICIS

CHANEL and cinema

For the second consecutive year, CHANEL is the major partner of the Villa Medici Film Festival.

CHANEL's history is closely linked to that of cinema. Close to many artists, Gabrielle Chanel was in contact with the world of cinema from a very early stage, dressing actresses who were to become its most beautiful ambassadors and embodying CHANEL's close links with the cinema. Today interpreted by Virginie Viard, this emblematic look remains, through a powerful and assertive vision possessing both cinematographic photogenics and an attitude anchored in reality.

French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici

viale della Trinità dei Monti, 1 - 00187 Rome

T. +39 06 67611

www.villamedici.it



Press contacts:

France and international

Babel Communication,

Isabelle Baragan

isabellebaragan@orange.fr

T. +33 06 71 65 32 36

Italy

Elisabetta Castiglioni

info@elisabettacastiglioni.it

T. +39 328 4112014

The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici would like to thank the sponsors and partners who support its artistic programme:

Partners of the Villa Medici Film Festival

CHANEL

FONDATION LOUIS ROEDERER

GROUPAMA ASSICURAZIONI

SOFITEL ROME VILLA BORGHESE

AIR FRANCE

CULINARIES

CLUB CRIOLLO

CASA MANFREDI