



## Prize Winners of the third edition of the Villa Medici Film Festival (13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> septembre)

*MON PIRE ENNEMI* by Mehran Tamadon  
France  
Villa Medici Prize for Best Film

*THE HUMAN SURGE 3* by Eduardo Williams  
Argentina, Portugal, Brazil, Netherlands, Taiwan,  
Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Peru  
Villa Medici Jury Prize

*BANEL & ADAMA* by Ramata-Toulaye Sy  
France, Senegal, Mali  
Mention of the Jury

During the awards ceremony for the third international competition of the Villa Medici Film Festival, the jury, made up of **Alice Diop**, **Cyprien Gailard** and **Chiara Parisi**, announced on Saturday 16 September 2023, in the company of the director of Villa Medici, **Sam Stourdzé**, the two winning films and the jury's special mention.

***Mon pire ennemi (My Worst Enemy)*** by Mehran Tamadon won the **Villa Medici Prize for Best Film**, and ***El auge del humano 3 (The Human Surge 3)*** by Eduardo Williams was awarded the **Villa Medici Jury Prize**.  
***Banel & Adama*** by Ramata-Toulaye Sy received the **Mention of the Jury**.

The festival, dedicated to artworks that explore contemporary practices of the moving image, drew a large audience for the awards ceremony, which took place in front of the historic façade of the Villa Medici.

# VILLA MÉDICIS

"For the invention of a cinematographic device that allows us to confront the violence of a regime that avoids images, for the risk-taking and courage of its heroine, but also of a filmmaker who commits himself body and soul, we award the Villa Medici Prize for Best Film to *Mon Pire Ennemi* by Mehran Tamadon."

"For its spectral and shamanic vision of the world, for its ability to express vulnerability, for the interconnectedness of a fragmented collective existence, we award the Special Jury Prize to *The Human Surge 3* directed by Eduardo Williams."

"For the lyricism of its cinematographic writing, For the modernity of the portrait of its heroine, we have decided to award the Jury's Special Mention to *Banel & Adama*, directed by Ramata-Toulaye Sy."

## The 2023 jury

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Mehran Tamadon



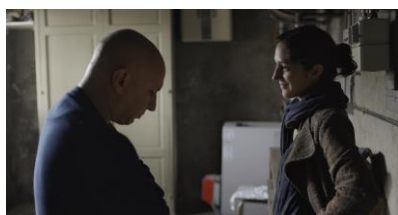
Eduardo Williams



Mehran Tamadon, Ramata-Toulaye Sy & Eduardo Williams



# VILLA MÉDICIS



**MON PIRE ENNEMI** by director Mehran Tamadon (2023, France, 81'), presented for its Italian premiere at the festival, has won the **Villa Medici Prize for Best Film**. The prize of 5,000 euros includes a creative residency at Villa Medici.

**Synopsis:** Mojtaba, Hamzeh, Zar and others have undergone ideological interrogations in Iran, at different periods of their lives. Mehran Tamadon, the director, asks them to question him, as an agent of the Islamic Republic could do.

**Mehran Tamadon:** Born in 1972 in Theran, Mehra Tamadon decided to devote himself to directing after studying architecture. His new films, *My Worst Enemy* and *Where God Is Not*, presented at the Berlinale in 2023, deal with the violence of interrogation and detention in Iran.



**EL AUGE DEL HUMANO 3 (The Human Surge 3)** by director Eduardo Williams (2023, Argentina, Portugal, Brazil, Netherlands, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Peru, 121'), presented for its Italian premiere, wins the **Villa Medici Jury Prize**. The prize of 3,000 euros includes a creative residency at Villa Medici.

**Synopsis:** Different groups of friends wander in a rainy, windy, dark world. They spend time together, trying to get away from their depressing jobs, meandering constantly towards the mystery of new possibilities.

**Eduardo Williams:** Born in 1987, Eduardo Williams is a filmmaker and artist. His first feature, *El auge del humano*, won the Pardo d'oro at Filmmakers of the Present at the 69th Locarno Film Festival.



**BANEL & ADAMA** by director Ramata-Toulaye Sy (2023, France, Senegal, Mali, 87'), also presented in its Italian premiere, won the **Jury's Special Mention**. The award includes a creative residency at Villa Medici.

**Synopsis:** Banel and Adama are fiercely in love. The young married couple lives in a remote village in Senegal. Yet their perfect love is on a collision course with their community's customs. Because in this world, there is no room for passion, let alone chaos.

**Ramata-Toulaye Sy:** Born in 1986 in Bezons, French-senegalese Ramata-Toulaye Sy was raised in the Paris region. In 2020, she directed her first short film, *Astel*, selected in more than 80 festivals. *Banel & Adama* is her first feature film.

## THE 2023 JURY OF THE FESTIVAL

The Jury is composed of **Alice Diop** (director), **Cyprien Gaillard** (artist) and **Chiara Parisi** (art historian and director of the Centre Pompidou-Metz).

## THE 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.

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## THE VILLA MEDICI FILM FESTIVAL IN NUMBERS:

- Exceptional projections from 13 to 17 September 2023
- 5 days of the festival in the historic spaces of the French Academy in Rome
- 3 cinema rooms, including 1 outdoor screen that can accommodate up to 500 spectators each evening
- Nearly 40 international film screenings
- 2 prizes awarded at the end of the festival
- Masterclasses and meetings with filmmakers
- Nearly 4,000 entries during the 2023 edition of the festival
- A selection of books on cinema by Librairie 7L

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## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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



**RÉPUBLIQUE  
FRANÇAISE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
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**The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici would like to thank the  
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