

# Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève

Geneva, 28 July 2016

## Press release

**Two works co-produced by the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève for the Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement 2016 in competition at the Venice and Locarno film festivals.**

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is proud to announce that *Spira Mirabilis*, by the director duo Massimo D'Anolfi and Martina Parenti, as well as *The Challenge* by Yuri Ancarani, **two of the 27 films that the Centre supports, produces or co-produces on the occasion of the Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement 2016**, have just been chosen to compete in two of the most prestigious film festivals: The **Venice Film Festival** and the **Locarno Film Festival**.

The official film selection of the 73rd Venice film festival was announced on Thursday 28 July 2016 in Rome. It is a great achievement, for the Centre as well as for the two director's to present *Spira Mirabilis* (Italy - Switzerland, 2016, 130 minutes) at the mythical **Palazzo del Cinema** and to compete in the **official selection** to win the prestigious **Golden Lion award**.

This allegorical documentary deals with immortality in science, art, faith and feelings through the four Classical elements of nature: water, air, earth and fire, to which is added ether, the fifth Aristotelian element. Close to visual symphony, the work recounts four "histories of immortality", shot in four different places in the world: deathless jellyfishes in Japan; musical instrument inventors in Bern (CH); the restoration of the Duomo in Milan; intimate experiences with the Indian population of contemporary America and the cosmos.

*The Challenge* (France - Italy, 2016, 65 minutes)—a documentary exploring the leisurely activities of the Qataris directed by Yuri Ancarani for the Biennale has also been shortlisted in the "Cineasti del Presente" section of the Locarno Film Festival.

*The Challenge* follows the journey of an artist who becomes a playful anthropologist, exploring the leisurely activities of the Qataris, the inhabitants of a small country, who have gained remarkable media attention in the last few years through their unconventional lifestyle and their exuberant wealth: an advanced techno-capitalistic world where the ancient symbols of wealth and power (gold, rifles, sports cars, etc.) are ubiquitous. *The Challenge* reveals the role of rare and expensive falcons, which are employed in ritualized forms of hunting. Through his work, Yuri Ancarani transforms the codes of documentary filmmaking in a monumental dimension. The man in action, the protagonist of his artworks, becomes transfigured through a rigorous construction of image and sound.

These two works will be shown in **world premiere** in these two festivals and can be discovered in Geneva between November 9th and 13th, in the presence of their directors, during the Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement.

Founded in 1974 by André Iten and relaunched in a new format in 2014 by the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, the Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement is a one of a kind hybrid situated somewhere between a cinema festival and a contemporary art exhibition. The originality of the new BIM resides in the fact that it consists exclusively of works commissioned and produced for the occasion.

Both of these shortlist announcements bear witness to the importance of the discovery and support work undertaken in the framework of the Biennale and testify to the important intermediary role it plays between art institutions and festivals. This 2016 edition already looks promisingly successful.

### **Press contact**

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### **Key Dates**

#### **Press Conference**

Wednesday, 9 November 2016, 10.30am, followed by an inaugural lunch.

#### **Vernissage**

Wednesday, 9 November 2016 until Sunday 13 November 2016

#### **Public dates**

Thursday 10 November 2016 until Sunday 19 January 2017

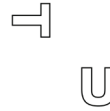
# Support

The BIM 2016 is organized by the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève and co-produced by Faena Art and In Between Art Film.

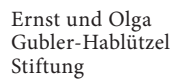
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