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The winners of the 9th Weimar Poetry Film Award

The films “Für immer” (Jury Award for Best Real Film) and “09.01. Berkovitch” (Jury Award for Best Animation) have won this year's Weimar Poetry Film Awards.

The prize has been awarded by the Literarische Gesellschaft Thüringen and the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar since 2016 for short films that experiment in a particularly innovative way in the field of tension between poetry and film.

479 short films from 51 countries were submitted for the 9th Weimar Poetry Film Award. The program committee, consisting of Ana María Vallejo (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar) and Guido Naschert (Literarische Gesellschaft Thüringen), nominated 12 of these films for the competition.

This year's jury was made up of the British poetry film expert Sarah Tremlett, the French filmmaker Pierre Guiho and the German author and translator Rike Bolte.

They selected the German entry “Für Immer” (2023) as the winner of the 1,200 euro prize in the “Best Video” category. The film was directed by Berlin-based director Christian Tung Anh Nopper. The jury praised the film with the words: “A film about two generations of the Vietnamese community in Germany, which, set in motion by the first part of a simple poem, brings a young protagonist closer: in the kitchen of the family restaurant, and in a snowy landscape. A young debut film with emotional depth and transcultural foresight, embedded in a cyclical poetic structure. And a statement in these times.”

In the “Best Animation” category (also endowed with 1,200 euros), the German-Russian film “09.01. Berkovitch” (2024) by filmmaker Anya Ryzhkova, who studies at Bauhaus University, won. The jury explained the choice of her film with the words: “Another statement: a graphic record of a court hearing in Russia at which a meta-documentary poem is read out. The film gives this text space and voice and juxtaposes the concepts of justice and miracles. Carefully animated, with a high degree of transparency and subtle metamorphic dynamics, the film also incorporates the English subtitles: with a gesture that is precarious in the truest sense of the word, corresponding with the simple request to be heard. The voicelessness of an artist in the face of a repressive system is lifted.”

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The films "Trains passing" (Germany, 2023) by Ani Mrelashvili, and "Oskar" (Canada, 2022) by Max Vannienschoot also received special mentions as particularly valuable films.

The award ceremony took place on Saturday, June 1 at the Lichthaus cinema in Weimar.

All festival films can still be viewed online on the festival website for a fee of 15 euros until June 15.

www.poetryfilmtage.de

The competition is sponsored by the Thuringian State Chancellery and the City of Weimar.

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