



**EUROPEAN  
MEDIA ART FESTIVAL  
25.–29. APRIL 2007**

Osnabrück, 29 April 2007

## **Award ceremony at the 20th European Media Art Festival**

**The award-winners of the 20th European Media Art Festival, which presented around 280 new media artworks from 25 to 29 April 2007, have been announced by the juries. The EMAF Award goes to the Canadian artist Melanie Shatzky and her American partner Brian Cassidy for their film “The Delaware Project”. The “Dialogue-Award” by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the promotion of intercultural exchange is awarded to the Belgian Sarah Vanagt and her film “First Elections”. The “Preis der Deutschen Filmkritik 2007” in the category experimental film is awarded to Jan Peters for his film “Wie ich ein freier Reisebegleiter wurde”.**

Peters manages to comment on the social reality of being unemployed and having “mini jobs” with both humour and subtlety, and to expose it pointedly at the same time, according to the jury. In so doing, he uses the possibilities offered by experimental film in a confident and manifold manner – a satire that succinctly combines performance, fiction, documentation and experiment.

Sarah Vanagts received the “Dialogue-Award” of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for her work entitled “First Elections”. Here is an excerpt from the jury’s statement: “The filmmaker gives the audience an insight in the political and social situation of the border region between Rwanda and the Republic of Congo, without ever falling in the trap of an aestheticisation of poverty.”

The jury member Lies Declerk, Director of the Media Art Biennale in Mechelen, commented on the reasons for the decision behind the EMAF Award for Melanie Shatzky and Brian Cassidy as follows: “We are touched by the aesthetics of absence that both artists use throughout the narrative to represent a reality of non-communication and desolation in a post-industrial society.”

In its anniversary year, the European Media Art Festival welcomed more visitors than ever before – a total of around 15,000. “We are particularly delighted with our popularity among students”, enthused Hermann Nöring, Alfred Rotert and Ralf Sausmikat from the festival management team. The festival’s popularity among specialist visitors was also very pleasing. Guests from both home and abroad praised the communicative atmosphere, which traditionally characterises the festival. The organisers were very pleased with the course of the festival and with the high quality of the work exhibited this year.

Thanks to the positive signals sent by the main sponsors, nordmedia and the City of Osnabrück, the festival management is looking positively into the future, hoping that the festival can continue to be developed into a forum that presents and discusses current trends in art and media in future years. New projects comprising, for instance, a media art archive, are also being planned.

The exhibition of the festival “Final Cut – Media Art and Cinema” in the Kunsthalle Dominikanerkirche, which exhibits works by international artists, will be on display until 20 May, and is accompanied by an extensive programme.

Picture credits for the photo enclosed: from left to right Romano Fattorossi, Lies Declerk, Melanie Shatzky, Carola Ferber (EMAF Award)  
Photo: Angela von Brill / EMAF

// FUNDED BY

nordmedia - Die Mediengesellschaft Niedersachsen/Bremen mbH

The City of Osnabrueck

The Federal Cultural Foundation

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

The German Foreign Office

The EU Commission - MEDIA Programme

The Canadian Embassy

and funding from other sponsors

EMAF is member of the European Coordination of Film Festivals  
E.C.F.F.

// Concept and festival management: Hermann Nöring, Alfred Rotert, Ralf Sausmikat.

// Contact address for the press: Karoline Kraut, [karolinekraut@emaf.de](mailto:karolinekraut@emaf.de), Tel. 0541/ 25779

// European Media Art Festival // Lohstr. 45a // D- 49074 Osnabrück

// Tel. + 49 (0) 541/21658 // Fax +49(0) 541 283 27 // [info@emaf.de](mailto:info@emaf.de)