

The UXdoc Space returns for the 18th Montreal International Documentary Festival

Montreal, October 14, 2015 – The **Montreal International Documentary Festival** is pleased to announce the second annual incarnation of its **UXdoc Space** for the festival's 18th edition, November 12 to 22. The UXdoc Space, located in Norman McLaren Hall at the Cinémathèque québécoise, is dedicated to a range of projects involving unique experiences that underline the ever-increasing presence of the virtual in our lives.

The UXdoc Space hosts the works in the **UXdoc section** as well as the **webdocumentary portion of the RIDM's Young Audiences program**. Now in its fourth year, and located in the same dedicated space for the second year, UXdoc is returning with a strong slate of interactive projects, installations and virtual reality works that demonstrate new narrative forms in documentary. This year's selection of works, programmed by Patricia Bergeron of Leitmotiv productions, transports us through a variety of interactive experiences, including a stay in a Japanese love hotel, an intimate portrait of Syrian refugees and an investigation into the harvesting of personal information.

Festivalgoers will also have the chance to experience ***Do Not Track***, an interactive, personalized, documentary web series, the product of an ambitious international collaboration led by activist web filmmaker Brett Gaylor (*Rip! A Remix Manifesto*). Enhanced by enlightening contributions from cybersecurity experts, the seven episodes of *Do Not Track* explore privacy in the digital age.

Last year marked the centennial of the beginning of the First World War. There are no surviving veterans of the conflict, which killed nearly 19 million people. Inspired by the discovery of a photo album in the Laurentians, ***The Unknown Photographer*** brings the war back to the forefront of our collective memory through a dreamlike 3D journey into the fragments of a war photographer's memory.

The video installation ***En attendant Bárðarbunga***, by multidisciplinary artist François Quévillon, explores the phenomena that can be observed before the eruption of an Icelandic volcano. The sequence of videos changes based on a probabilistic system linked to the workings of the computer showing them, eloquently underlining the instability of the environment.

Universe Within, the last chapter in the multi-platform *Highrise* series, will also be presented as part of UXdoc. *Highrise* is a series begun in 2009 by Katerina Cizek and followed up by more than 20 multi-platform projects (including *A Short History of the Highrise*, RIDM 2013). Through three holographic 3D guides, the final chapter, *Universe Within*, invites us to discover the secret world of high-rise dwellers around the world (from an Azerbaijani blogger to a Chinese LGBT activist), their use of the web and its impact on their relationship with the outside world.

The result of a collaboration between Al Jazeera and the Montreal-based interactive firm Kngfu, ***Life on Hold*** puts a human face on the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War. The project presents the first-person accounts of ten of these nameless Syrian refugees, giving each one a profile akin to an interactive scrapbook. Beyond videos and photos documenting their stories, users are also invited to post encouraging words, like stars of hope.

The ***Love Hotel*** web project aims to replicate the experience of a tryst at the fabled Japanese institutions. This web project features three rooms, each offering a distinctly different erotic experience.

Lastly, ***Polar Sea***, the world's first 360° documentary, explores the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic. Accompanied by a television series, mobile app and travel blog, this impressive multi-platform project provides a series of perspectives on environmental and cultural changes resulting from global warming.

In 2012, the RIDM launched an outreach program for young people. Several hundred students have enjoyed screenings of Quebec-made documentaries in their schools, with the directors present, and participated in two webdoc creation workshops: ***Sans cell, trop cruel*** (sanscelltropcruel.ca) and ***Intersections*** (intersections-mtl.nord.com).

All of these installations, virtual reality experiences and webdocs will be available in the UXdoc Space throughout the festival.

The UXdoc Space is presented by the Canada Media Fund with the support of SODEC, Telefilm Canada and UQAM.

Quebec's only film festival dedicated to documentaries, the Montreal International Documentary Festival presents the best reality-based films, including the works of established directors and new talents.

The 18th edition of the RIDM will take place from November 12 to 22, 2015.

Information: www.ridm.qc.ca / info@ridm.qc.ca

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The complete program of this year's RIDM, featuring more than 140 documentaries from around the world, will be announced at a **press conference on Tuesday, October 20 at 10 a.m. at Cinéma Excentris**. It will be available online the same day.

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