



# Biennale des bewegten Bildes 29 November – 3 Dezember, 2017 Frankfurt am Main

**Strong showing: 43,000 visitors attended B3 2017**

**B3 BEN Awards for Jonas Mekas and Ingvild Goetz**

**Key exhibition is open until December 20, 2017**

(Offenbach/Frankfurt, December 3, 2017) On Sunday, December 3, 2017, the “B3 Biennale des bewegten Bildes” successfully closed in Frankfurt/Main. The third edition of Europe’s most important creative moving images festival attracted so first estimates suggest, about 43,000 visitors (incl. the outdoor projection and the Parcours).

A special highlight of this year’s B3 was the world premiere of “The Great Farce” by Federico Solmi with a 110-meter-wide video panorama on the façade of the Frankfurt theater and opera house; it was very well received by both the media and the general public.

“The B3 more than met our high expectations and with its guiding theme “On Desire” perfectly captured the zeitgeist. Over the last few days, Frankfurt has been an international center for artistic and socio-political debates. In other words, the B3 now has a very firm place in Europe’s cultural/political diary. The moving image is the driving cultural force of the 21st century,” said Prof. Bernd Kracke, B3 Festival Director and Artistic Director of B3.

The B3 came to a marvelous conclusion with the bestowal of the B3 BEN Awards on December 3 in Schauspiel Frankfurt. The honorary distinction for an artist’s life’s work was awarded twice. One award went to Lithuanian-American film pioneer Jonas Mekas for his trailblazing influence on the development of US indie film. Moreover, B3 also honored art collector Ingvild Goetz with a BEN. The jury thus highlighted Goetz’s decades of passionate commitment to contemporary art and her support for young artists. Goetz donated her prize money of EUR 10,000 spontaneously to Jonas Mekas’ Anthology Film Archives in New York.

The prize for best feature-length movie went to “Suck it up” by director Jordan Canning (CAN). In the short-film contest, the awards went to Britain’s Barney Cokeliss for his film “Night Dancing” and to Japan’s Junichi Kanai for “Cycle Cycle”. The competition for virtual/augmented reality productions, held for the first time, were won by “Dust”, a piece by Czech Andrej Boleslavsky and by “Proxima” by Mathieu Pradat. Israeli artist Ann Oren won the B3 BEN for the best project in time based and Immersive arts for her production “The World Is Mine”. Prize-winner in the Emerging Talents category was Germany’s Claudia Malecka with her short film “Escapism”.

From November 29 to December 3, over 250 regional, national and international artists and media creatives from 20 different countries discussed the significance of the moving image in the categories of art, film games and virtual reality. The five-day program featured countless outstanding premieres and more than lived up to its reputation as a hotspot of contemporary media art.

The central exhibition of the guiding theme “ON DESIRE” takes pride of place at the B3 2017. In it, 70 artists from 20 different countries reflected in their video installations, short films and

feature films, as well as in Games and Virtual and Augmented Reality projects on topics such as eroticism, solitude, sexuality, home, fleeing, and identity. The figure of no less than 16 world, European and German premieres, emphasizes the artistic importance of B3. As part of the B3 guiding exhibition, B3 Special will run thru December 20, 2017 presenting exclusively selected films from Sammlung Goetz, including pieces by William Kentridge and Rosemarie Trockel.

The guiding exhibition runs thru December 20, 2017. The current opening hours can be posted on [www.b3biennale.com](http://www.b3biennale.com).

### **Comments on B3 and the topic "ON DESIRE"**

Federico Solmi (USA/ Italy): "I am deeply impressed by the B3 Biennale – and the interest shown in my installation "The Great Farce". The invitation by B3 was a great honor. I find it marvelous that my work is precisely not being shown in a gallery, but in the public space which hundreds of people walk past every day. It is especially exciting for me to see how the people respond to it. With their concept, the B3 organizers really put their finger on the pulse of today, namely by bringing people from different areas of the moving image together."

Thorsten Unger (Germany), games expert: "The B3 program was persuasively diverse and of a very high quality. I was especially impressed by the video installation "The Great Farce" by Federico Solmi. He deliberately used games engines and thus showed how strongly technology from the world of games influences the moving image and enriches it. What becomes clear here is that we get great outcomes as soon as we think across genres and sectors."

Johannes DeYoung (USA), artist: "The B3 program was incredibly interesting and superbly organized. I am very grateful to the B3 for the hospitality and the support in the run-up to the show."

Maya Magnat (Israel), performance artist: "All the content at the B3 was great and interesting. My performance here was the best presentation I've ever managed. I'm so impressed by how people responded and what new experiences we all made together."

Erika Harrsch (Mexico), artist: "B3 Biennial is a showcase for the highest quality of moving image art pieces, some addressing extremely relevant contemporary social and political contents. Besides, B3 has created a very welcoming environment allowing all sides and participants of the art industry to bring down their boundaries and coexist in the same platform for sharing and exchange open dialogues and opportunities."

Alexander Ganz (Germany) digitization expert: "The B3 is a vibrant and courageous place for current issues in art, society and the moving image. I will certainly take part in the next B3, too."

Tony Podesta (USA), collector: "The great thing about B3 is that you meet so many extraordinary collectors and artists and see rare artworks, especially video works, and share the passion for them with others."

Jonas Mekas (Lithuania), filmmaker and B3 BEN Award winner: "I think that we creative artists and filmmaker should not try and allay people's fear of the future. In fact, we should be more concerned than ever about the future. We have fallen into slumbers! The concerns must be upheld, humanity must not lay itself to rest! We need more concerns, we need a veritable crescendo of them, to shake us awake at last!"

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