



The Ostrava Kamera Oko Festival will offer two visions of the future

2. 9. 2020, Ostrava 25.-27. 9. *the festival weekend Ostrava Kamera Oko will take place in Ostrava, the first block of a shortened form of the international cinematography festival, which has decided to adapt its program to the current global pandemic.*

As a result of the global pandemic, the organizing team of this year's 12th edition of the Ostrava Kamera Oko International Cinematography Festival decided to take an unconventional approach to its program. The festival week will be divided into two smaller blocks, the first of which will take place on **25-27 September at the PLATO Gallery and Etáž Cinema in Dolní Vítkovice**. The time of the second block is yet to be announced. The situation is not only reflected in the changed form, but also in the program itself. Audiences can look forward to a **unique audiovisual night**, a screening of **the summer cinema** in Vítkovice and a **series of competition films** highlighting countries significantly affected by the epidemic.

Gabriela Knýblová, the festival director, comments on the program line-up: "We would like to offer the audience two different visions of the future that may come about through our program during these weekends. Dystopian and positive. It is possible to see them as two opposing possibilities, as well as two successive phases, while it is not yet entirely certain when and under what conditions the second one, bringing a positive resolution, will take place."

Dystopian onset

The first weekend of the festival will be in the spirit of dystopia. Ostrava Kamera Oko will offer an opening audiovisual night full of electronic music, dark visuals, and other sensory delights in cooperation with the Prague music label **Genot Centre** on Friday 25 September at the PLATO Gallery. The event is tailored to the space and the theme and will last until the early hours of the morning. In addition to the members of the Genot Centre, the musician **Lišaj** will also perform during the evening with his new set based exclusively on his own field recordings. At the very end, the participants will sit down for shared breakfast, which will be prepared by Lucie Králíková, founder of the art-ecological platform **Efemér**. Only 50 visitors will be allowed exclusive access to the Friday night program.

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Film screenings in cinema Etáž

Saturday and Sunday's program will then move to the Dolní Vítkovice area, specifically to the newly opened **Etáž** cinema.

"In response to a number of suspended 'A' festivals and silencing of cinema distribution, we have decided to change the concept of presenting films in competition and to give space in the special edition of this year's Official Selection to older works by authors such as Radu Jude, Santiago Racaj, and Kleber Mendonça Filho, who have already been presented at Ostrava Kamera Oko in the past. However, we will present their works in a new, original, and novel perspective. The Official Selection will also reflect filmmakers from countries significantly affected by the coronavirus, such as Spain and Brazil", said Jakub Felcman, founder of the festival and dramaturge of the main competition. Although it is partly a selection of older films supplemented by current works, their curatorial selection and presentation, according to Felcman, become a new premiere.

However, the selection also includes several new films, among which a six-hour film by Russian director Ilya Khrzhanovsky and German cinematographer Jürgen Jürges **DAU** resonates strongly. **Degeneration**. This is the final 13th episode of the DAU epic, which inaccurately simulates the socialist dictatorship in the Soviet Union. The entire series began filming 15 years ago in the faithfully reconstructed streets of Moscow and the grounds of the Soviet research institute run by Nobel Prize winner Lev Landau (nicknamed Dau). Actors and non-actors were filmed day and night, hundreds of hours of often sexually and violently explicit material were shot, and tens of thousands of people participated in the project. It is a powerful authentic experience of a stylized "reality-show" for the brave, which premiered at this year's Berlinale and was met with considerable controversy.

Saturday's screening at the Etáž summer cinema will feature the Japanese film **Kontora**, a family film that pays tribute to the young Japanese soldiers of the Second World War and poetically portrays silence as a response to trauma. The black-and-white film with a distinctive authorial handwriting by Estonian cinematographer Max Golomidov won the Tallinn International Film Festival at the end of last year and its screening in the Czech Republic will be quite unique.



The second part

The date of the second festival weekend is yet to be announced. However, we can already confirm the names of two performers who will be presented to the audience as part of the program. These are music producer Ondřej Mikula, who goes by the name **Aid Kid**, a talented Czech music producer and DJ, the recipient of the Vinyl Award for Discovery of the Year, and visual artist **Pavel Karafiát**, who combines mathematical methods of generative design, nature simulation and field recording in his work. These two artists join forces in an audiovisual project that is created in real time in each location and features a distinctive color stylization.

The organizing team of Ostrava Kamera Oko is carefully mapping the situation in the region and will react to its development when setting the second date.

For more information or to arrange press accreditation, please contact PR manager Klára Šebestová at sebestova@kameraoko.com

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