

Press release

Geneva, January 16, 2018

A POSTER SIGNED BY LI WEI

"The 2018 edition of the FIFDH is embodied by a committed artist who takes flight!" said Isabelle Gattiker, Festival Director. "Li Wei, who refuses the confinement imposed by the Chinese government's official line, is the author of the 16th edition poster which touches on the themes of freedom, surprise and resistance. Through Li Wei, we wanted to pay tribute to artists who defy gravity, while ignoring vertigo. We refuse to be nailed to the ground and want to reveal a world in motion, inspire to change our point of view and never hesitate to rise above". To quote Li Wei: "I cannot help but think about what a society brings to its people: a turbulent, unstable world, a lack of security. But I prefer to think about society through its people. A people who aspire to be free." His work is an appeal to all freedoms: "freedom of thought, freedom of religion, freedom of the body".

Artist of honour: the illustrator Guy Delisle

Each year, the Festival hosts an artist of honour. For this edition, the FIFDH invited **Guy Delisle** for an artist residency in collaboration with the Geneva graphic novel and illustration programme École supérieure de bande dessinée et d'illustration de Genève (ESBDI), the Municipality of Meyrin, the Fondation Meyrinoise du Casino and the CAIRN. His next work will be partly created in Geneva!

The author, renowned and lauded worldwide (*Pyongyang, Chronicles of Jerusalem, Escape*), will take up residence in the region between January and March 2018. He will participate in a workshop with students from the ESBDI on comics journalism, in the region of Meyrin. An exceptional way to highlight Geneva, the cradle of Toepffer, first modern comics creator, and the workplace of Zep, Chappatte, Tirabosco, Wazem, Albertine and Frederik Peeters.

An exhibition will be dedicated to this project during the FIFDH and **Guy Delisle** will give a public Masterclass, in partnership with Payot Librairie.

The writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie at the Festival

She is one of the major writers in contemporary literature, author of *Purple Hibiscus* and the best seller *Americanah*. Her essay *We should all be feminists* was sampled by Beyoncé. The Nigerian writer **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** will be present at the FIFDH for an exceptional event, organized in partnership with Gallimard Editions. Fifteen women of all ages and backgrounds will read, in their language, passages from her latest book, *Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions*. The author will read and translate one of the chapters in her own mother tongue: Igbo. The event will be staged by Geneva resident **Nalini Menamkat**, followed by a meeting with **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** moderated by **Sylvain Bourmeau** (France Culture).



SAVE THE DATE!

The 16th edition of the FIFDH will be held in more than 50 venues in Greater Geneva, the Canton of Vaud, Sion and Bienne from **March 9 to 18, 2018**.

The FIFDH is one of the most important events dedicated to cinema and human rights around the world. In addition to 3 film competitions, the festival offers about twenty high-profile debates every year, bringing together more than 250 guests. The festival is held in the heart of Geneva, the international capital of human rights, parallel to the main session of the UN Human Rights Council. The full program will be revealed on February 20th.

We look forward to welcoming you at the **PRESS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST** at 11 am at the Fonction: Cinéma, 16, rue du Général Dufour (Geneva).

CONTACTS

Pierre-Yves Walder
Media Development Manager
py.walder@fifdh.org
+41 78 836 72 39

Luisa Ballin
Media Relations
l.ballin@fifdh.org
+41 79 649 71 45

 twitter.com/fifdh

 facebook.com/droits.humains

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