



Unione delle Università del Mediterraneo
Mediterranean Universities Union
Union des Universités de la Méditerranée
إتحاد الجامعات المتوسطية



UNIMED Award 2019 for cultural diversity and freedom of artistic expression

76° Venice International Film Festival

During the 76° edition of the Venice International Film Festival, an international jury of 16 students coming from UNIMED associated universities assigned the “**UNIMED Award 2019**” to the movie which best conveys the values of cultural diversity, promotes freedom of artistic expression and encourages cultural exchanges.

The UNIMED award, collateral prize of the Venice International Film Festival and now at its 3rd edition, results from the collaboration between UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union, an association of 124 universities from 23 countries of the Mediterranean area, la Biennale of Venice and the University of International Studies of Rome – UNINT.

UNIMED aims to develop university research and education in the Euro-Mediterranean region in order to contribute to scientific, cultural, social and economic cooperation.

The award was created in memory of Prof. Franco Rizzi, former Secretary General and founder of UNIMED, for his life-long commitment to cooperation among Euro-Mediterranean universities.

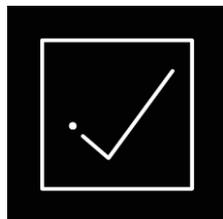
The international jury of university students who attended the 76° Venice International Film Festival conferred the **UNIMED Award 2019** to the movie “**Ema**” by **Pablo Larraín**, for its artistic value and its ability to depict the current themes of integration and multiculturalism.

The jury motivated its choice as follows:

“This movie sheds light on cultural diversity and integration in an unconventional way with technically and aesthetically bold choices. It is a contemporary postmodern concert-film that pushes the boundaries of love, sex and body beyond ethics and social prejudices. Ema is an antihero who, alongside traffic lights and age-old statues, burns down our usual perception of traditional family and gender on screen. Instead, she fights to reconstruct relationships on the basis of unconditional love, freedom and body expression with harsh contrasts between poetry, life and dance.”

The final ceremony took place on **September 6th, 2019 at 5 p.m.** at the Excelsior Hotel in Venice. Prof. Francisco Matte Bon, UNIMED President and Prof. Antonio Falduto, in charge of the initiative, participated in the ceremony.

The Award resulted from a successful collaboration with international artists. It was created by two artists, Michele Iodice (Italy) and Aleksandar Gligorjevich (Serbia) with the collaboration of the young curator Natasha Radojevic, the Drina Gallery and PDG Arte Communications.



Natasha Radojevic is partner of the Drina Gallery and founder of Logic Art Space. Her work focuses on the creation and strengthening of cultural relationships between Balkans and Italy.

Aleksandar Gligorijevich was born in Belgrade in 1962. He obtained his degree at Santa Monica College' Sculpture Department in 1991 and since then he showed his masterpieces during a large number of independent exhibitions in the USA, Switzerland and Serbia.

Michele Iodice was born in Naples in 1956. He is an artist and a Mibact functionary at the Certosa and Museum of San Martino, Naples. He is author of many works, staging, installations and decorations. Moreover, he realised theatre set designs, parties' structures and design objects.

“A work for a work” aims to combine the main nature of the **UNIMED Award 2019** which is cultural diversity and freedom of artistic expression. It is a work made by three artists, Alexandar Gligorijevich (Serbia), Michele Iodice (Italy) and the curator Nataša Radojević (Serbia).

It is a complex goal which wants to convey the Award meaning. It requires attention, a material and abstract strictness. It is a team work which leaves different signs: realisation, conception, belonging, definition of shapes, purity and beauty, passion and knowledge but especially participation to a worthy initiative.

The sculpture is made up of different parts of a plane, symbol of human and cultural link enriched with “pictorial elements”.

For further information on the initiative, please contact unimed@uni-med.net or have a look at www.uni-med.net.

Rome, 9th September 2019