



GROSSE KLAPPE 2021

11th European Film Award for Political Documentary Film for Children and Young People

Sponsored by the Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb

Dans le silence d'une mer abyssale (BE 2021) by Juliette Klinke

Statement of the jury

The winner of the GROSSE KLAPPE 2021 breaks the silence. A silence that marks a recurring theme in film history.

The award-winning film deals with forgotten and deliberately ignored female pioneers of film. Numerous actresses, directors and screenwriters are given a voice. Who made the first ever fictional film? Who invented the first boompole of all time?

These courageous and innovative women are given the justice they would have deserved long ago, which, however, was denied by the male-dominated historiography.

Juliette Klinke accentuates this theme with remarkably elaborate archival material combined with a poetic but clearly structured narrative style. The result is a film that makes viewers question their own knowledge and encourages them to reflect on their own social constructs.

We hope that the award for "Dans le silence d'une mer abyssale / In the silence of an abyssal sea" will bring forgotten female filmmakers into the focus of public attention and young female directors will not be overlooked like their pioneers.

**Special mention
for
Seahorse (DE 2020) by Nele Dehnenkamp**

In addition to the award-winning film, another work convinced us during our discussions: "Seahorse" by Nele Dehnenkamp. Therefore, we would like to confer a special mention to the film.

"Seahorse" deals with the escape story of the protagonist Hanan and the processing of her related fear of water. It is remarkable that she confronts her traumatic experiences independently through her work as a swimming teacher.

By unifying time and place, the director manages to break down the complex subject matter of the film in an authentic way. This creates a personal point of access for the audience.

We were particularly impressed by the director's respectful treatment of Hanan's story. The interaction with the protagonist allows the audience to reflect on their own behavioral patterns towards people with traumatic experiences. Hanan encourages us, like her, to take our lives in our hands and never give up.