

## Press release

Geneva, January 16, 2020

### **A PLANET ON FIRE: FIFDH UNVEILS ITS 2020 POSTER**

**The end of the world or the end of a world? The FIFDH unveils its poster for the 2020 edition, responding to an era of revolts and marked by the climate emergency. From March 6<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> in Geneva, the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival will bring together those who are taking action today to rethink our future. A place for debate and artistic creation, the FIFDH will honor the great visual artist and designer Ernest Pignon-Ernest, a pioneer of *street art*.**

*"Today, all over the world, fires are igniting, emphasizes Isabelle Gattiker, director of the FIFDH. Ravaging fires and climate mobilization, massive demonstrations and social revolts: a wind rises, sweeping with it pasts which no longer pass. The 2020 FIFDH will bring together those who, amidst a world in turmoil, rethink our certainties, imagine a fairer world and are working to build our future."*

Charlie Hamilton James, the author of this image, is a photojournalist passionate about the environment. His passion for otters took him to the Shetland Islands in Scotland, where he took this striking photo of farmer Ian Walterson lighting heather fires, necessary to preserve the region's unique habitat.

### **ERNEST PIGNON-ERNEST, HONORED ARTIST OF THE 2020 FIFDH**

***"I've done only this for 50 years: calling humankind to action"***.

Does Ernest Pignon-Ernest, pioneer of *street art* and precursor to Banksy and JR need an introduction? With a unique blend of resistance and poetry, he has covered the walls of big cities with his ephemeral images since 1966, with a predilection for poets (Pier Paolo Pasolini, Rimbaud, Mahmoud Darwich, Jean Genet), martyrs (the Paris Commune, demonstrators against the Algerian War, detainees), and the forgotten (migrants and people in precarity). From Soweto to Paris, Naples to Ramallah, Nice to Rome, the walls recall his drawings.

Investing in places and capturing the atmosphere, he grasps *"all that is seen at once: space, light, colors and, simultaneously, everything that cannot be seen or is no longer seen: history, buried memories"*. For 50 years, his work has been exhibited in the largest international museums.

In partnership with the Municipality of Meyrin, Ernest Pignon-Ernest will carry out an artistic residency from January to March at the FIFDH, in collaboration with the Haitian writer Lyonel Trouillot.

## CONTACTS

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### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Press Conference**

**Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m**

Fonction : Cinéma, 16, rue du Général Dufour, Genève.

Please confirm your attendance at [presse@fifdh.org](mailto:presse@fifdh.org)



Durban, Soweto – 2002, picture by Ernest Pignon-Ernest, UNE PIETA SUD-AFRICAINE

### **ABOUT THE FIFDH**

The FIFDH is the most important international event dedicated to cinema and human rights. The 18<sup>th</sup> edition will take place from March 6<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> in 65 locations in Greater Geneva and French-speaking Switzerland. During more than 200 events, the Festival brings together filmmakers, activists, artists, journalists, experts and diplomats to discuss their points of view with the general public and to question the world.