



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



UNIMED Award 2022 for cultural diversity and freedom of artistic expression

79° Venice International Film Festival

During the 79° edition of the Venice International Film Festival, an international jury of 17 students coming from UNIMED associated universities will assign the “**UNIMED Award 2022**” to the movie which conveys more 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 6th edition, results from the collaboration between la Biennale of Venice and UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union, an association of 149 universities from 24 countries of the Mediterranean area.

UNIMED aims to develop university research and education in the Euro-Mediterranean region in order to contribute to scientific, cultural, social and economic cooperation. Since its foundation, UNIMED has always been committed to use education as a global force and a mutual understanding vehicle.

For that purpose, the UNIMED award promotes the understanding between peoples of different cultures and religious beliefs, it fights racism and discrimination, revealing the complex causes of violence and demonstrating the successful mastering of conflicts. The aim of the UNIMED award is to encourage cultural exchanges, highlight the value of cultural diversity and promote freedom of artistic expression.

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.

Last edition, the international jury of university students who attended the 78° Venice International Film Festival conferred the UNIMED Award 2021 to the movie **“E’stata la mano di Dio”** by **Paolo Sorrentino**.

The jury motivated its choice as follows:

“This movie is a tender and intimate tale about the sparkle that lights life up, about overcoming difficulties and hiding weaknesses. Fabietto, a younger alter-ego of the director himself, is a lonely boy who has no friends. His character develops through two different stages of the adult age: weep and the first sexual intercourse. Weeping is related to introversion, to hiding feelings and not showing any other sign of weakness, besides self-isolation, grief and the beginning of the maturation process. Sex, on the other hand, represents Fabio’s obsession for the female body, which is shown through his curious, intrusive yet honest eyes. A coming of age novel dominated by characters and settings: each episode is a jigsaw piece, a fraction of Fabio’s life that will guide him through a self-analysis process and help him find his professional vocation. Naples’ many landscapes suggest a wide world waiting to be loved and discovered, where miracles can happen at any time. Maradona represents the real miracle, capable of changing the socio-cultural environment and its condition of isolation”.

The winning movies of the previous editions are: "La Villa" by Robert Guédiguian (2017); "A Tramway in Jerusalem" by Amos Gitai (2018); "Ema" by Pablo Larrain (2019); and "Quo Vadis Aida" by Jasmila Žbanić (2020).

The final ceremony will be held on **September 9th, 2022 at 4 pm** at the Italian Pavillon in Venice.



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The Award will be created by the artist Maurizio Radici and kindly offered by PDG Arte Communications, curator of several external pavilions of the Biennale Arte.



The UNIMED 2022 Award is made with a metal core, plaster, gauze and linen, in addition to pure gold and copper leaf. The artist, Maurizio Radici, was born in the province of Brescia in 1958. He graduated in graphics and architecture and in the 1980s he attended the Academy of Carrara and of Fine Arts in Bergamo, having the opportunity to be taught by well-known Italian masters, including Italo Ghilardi. From an early age, his world was particularly attentive to art and painting techniques and certainly his father, who was a very successful colorist chemist, transmitted to his son a deep knowledge of the subject. Radici is an artist who has made painting his full-time job. Since he was a boy, he devoted himself to painting and sculpture and gained a great deal of experience in advertising graphics as an artistic director.

He has made countless exhibitions in Italian and international museums and galleries: Milan, Stuttgart, New York, Bergamo, Rimini, Macerata, Ancona, Bologna, Brescia, Naples, Genoa, Cagliari, Venice, London, Amsterdam, Rome, Collinas, Gambettola (Cesena Forlì).

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

Rome, 30 August 2022