



ART & CULTURE

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Cervantes, a Prisoner in Algiers (52') – 2013 - HD

Mediterranean Dream Pictures / Directed by Jean-Michel Martinetti

Languages available: French

Broadcasters: France 3, RTVE



Celebrated as the inventor of the modern novel, Miguel de Cervantes is associated forever with his hero Don Quixote. He was captured by pirates and carried to Algiers, where he remained captive for five years. It is during this period that Cervantes, who until then was a soldier and an adventurer, began to write. Throughout his life, he never stopped discussing the horrors of captivity...

Fashioning Religion (52') – 2016 - HD

French Connection / Directed by Julie Valérie Deschênes

Languages available: French & English subtitles

Broadcasters: KTO



How are religious garbs conceived and made? In what way do they reflect the Christian cult regarding the aesthetic of the suavitas of the Church Fathers? This film delves into this passionate, yet little-known, bond between the liturgical world and the contemporary artistic world. The medieval inspirations of Filippo Sorcinelli, the rainbow of Jean-Charles de Castelbajac and the Art Deco chasubles of the Sain-Wandrille monks all embody these combined impetuses in search of beauty. Anne-Sophie is embroidering in silence for future priests, Jean and Gerard are taking care of religious Visitandine fabrics from which they know every single story...

Marguerite Yourcenar, Landscape Alchemy (52') – 2013 - HD

Les Docs du Nord / Pictanovo / Directed by Jacques Lœuille

Language available: French

Broadcasters: France 3



Famous writer, Marguerite Yourcenar is less known as a pioneer of ecology. More than a simple pattern, the landscape is a real source of inspiration for her. Her love for Flemish painting and landscape painted by Brueghel and Bosch will be at the heart of "The Abyss". From the Mount Desert Island in the United States where she lived for over 50 years, she did not cease to assert her commitment to the Environmental protection and the living world.

Mustang: The Kingdom of Peasant Painters (52') – 2015 - HD

Via Decouvertes / Directed by Corinne Glowacki

Languages available: French & English

Broadcasters: France 5, RTS, RTV Slovenija



Long closed to foreigners due to its proximity to Chinese Tibet, the treasures of the kingdom of Nepal were discovered ten years ago. Luigi Fieni, a renowned Italian painter of sacred art was put in charge of restoring the temple paintings of the capital. Faced with the enormity of the challenge, he had the idea of asking local farmers for their help. From simple farmers, he turned them into artists, as they gradually rediscovered the culture of their ancestors.

Puppets From Around The World (6x52') – 2012/2014 - HD

Acrobates Films / Directed by Jean-Robert Thomann, Marie-Laure Désidéri & Christian Argantino

Languages available: French

Broadcasters: TV5 Afrique, France 3 Corse, Rai 1

This series aims at exploring different cultures through a characteristic feature of folk art: puppets. Travel all over the world to meet those who bring these puppets to life and who strive to uphold this unique tradition in the modern age.



Episode 1: Taiwan's marionettes

This film takes you into the world of Taiwanese marionettes. Over 150 years old and still going strong, these puppets have undergone several transformations and now form a kaleidoscope of various local styles. On the island, traditional glove marionettes rub shoulders with new forms such as 'golden light' puppets.



Episode 2: The puppet opera of Palermo

Pupi or rod puppets have been popular in Sicily since the 19th century. These puppet shows are based on medieval troubadour songs; and The Song of Roland in particular. Mimo Cuticchio and his company Figli d'Arte are the last remaining masters of this dying art, which was handed down to them by their parents.



Episode 3: Togo: the puppet-master and his children

In the outlying districts of Lomé, the capital of Togo, Danaye Kanlanfei has created an area for puppets right within his home. Here, puppets he has made over the years share space with the neighbouring children. Danaye, who has been director of the National Puppet Theatre of Togo, continues to create and rehearse plays, make new puppets, exercising a craft that has been his passion since youth.



Episode 4: Burkina's puppet courtyards

Puppetry is a fairly recent development in Burkina Faso. A number of young puppeteers have revived this dying traditional art, and today about twenty troops flourish in the country. These small enterprises with limited means usually set up shop in the courtyards of family homes.



Episode 5: A journey through time with Poland's puppet artists

Puppets have always been a part of Poland's history. From symbols of the resistance to tools of propaganda, puppets have come a long way here. Today puppetry has been honed to a fine art by Poland's modern puppet artists.



Episode 6: Mali, Yaya Coulibaly puppeteer and magician

Mali is the country where puppetry was born. Yaya Coulibaly, one of the greatest living puppeteers, is the heir to an ancient tradition. With his troop Sogolon, he is one of the brightest representatives of the African culture and traditions.

Serge Lifar: A Revolution in Dance (52') – 2016 - HD

French Connection / Directed by Florent Durth & Ivan Kuzmin

Languages available: French & English

Broadcasters: M-Media, Histoire



France, renowned for its fondness for the arts, is perhaps best known for its ballet thanks to Ukrainian Serge Lifar. Despite his late start as a serious dancer at 16, Lifar found a place in ballet through his perseverance and unassailable stage presence, even working under Sergei Diaghilev, founder of the Ballets Russes. However, Lifar wasn't just limited to being a star onstage. He also rose to become an influential choreographer, a bonafide celebrity and one of the major figures in the renewal of 20th-century French ballet.

Tapestries of the Apocalypse (52') – 2011 - HD

Ana Films / Inward Productions / Directed by Rodolphe Viemont

Languages available: French & English

Broadcasters: KTO, VRT, RTS, History Channel Russia, France 3 Corse, Planete Canada



Comprising 65 scenes over 104 meters, and almost 6 meters high, the Apocalypse Tapestry of Angers has been, since its creation in the 14th century, the biggest, most phenomenal and single most important tapestry in the world, stunning onlookers throughout the centuries. It has always been an object of fascination. It tells « The Apocalypse of John », the final text of the Bible, but also tells a lot about its historical context: the Hundred Years' War, the ambitions and intrigues of Princes of that time...

The Greven Mystery (52') – 2017 - HD

Lucien / Flair Productions / Directed by Claudia Collao

Languages available: French & English

Broadcasters: OCS, LCP, Air France, Planet + Poland, RTP



Alfred Greven is still today an unsolved mystery for everyone. Who was this head of the Continental films, a French movie studio founded with Third-Reich money whose mission was one of propaganda but who ended up producing the most subversive masterpieces of French Cinema? Greven's intentional disappearance after the war and his silence until his death in 1973 maintain a certain mystery around this elusive historical figure. To date, no photos or other record of him are available. Yet the 40 films produced by Continental Films remain.