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Samuel Bester

video & sound artist
artistic director
video operator
video designer

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Samuel Bester CV

Statement

I like to explore the ambiguity between reality and our conception of it. Through nuance or distortion, I amplify the interrelations between perception and emotion. Time, the senses and dreams play key roles in my work: they conjure up a language that is often metaphorical, arousing curiosity or blurring apparent meanings and triggering unexpected mental images. My work is protean and intermedial: sounds and/or images in installation or projection, in still or moving images. I seek to present a philosophical and poetic view of the world, because I'm convinced that that's what art is there for: to reveal to us things that we don't see or wouldn't have seen. A work of art has the power to shift our gaze and thereby enrich us, fill us with wonder and transform our perception. My quest is to (re)poetise the world through the visual arts.

Art direction and programming

2008-25	Co-artistic direction, programming and scenography of the Les Instants Vidéo festival (~10 exhibitions, ~40 installations, ~15 screenings, ~4 performances every year), in Marseille and internationally..
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Video operator and programmer

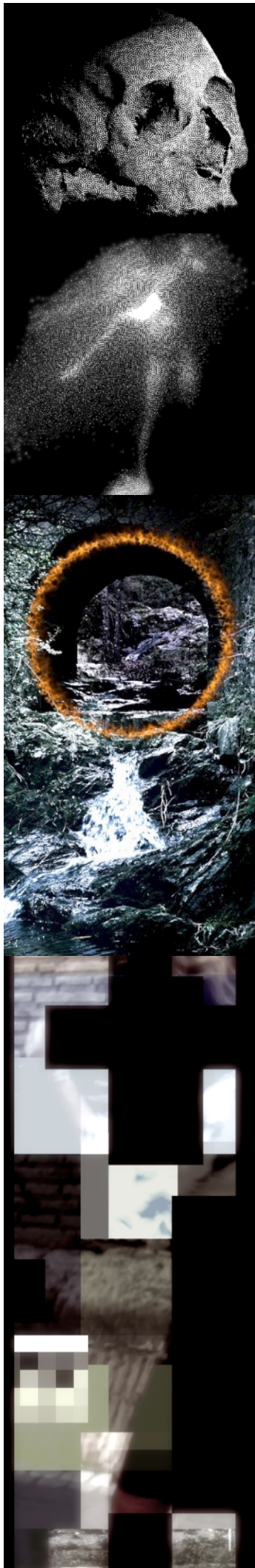
2019- ...	Video technician, operator and programmer at the Festival International d'Art Lyrique in Aix en Provence (2 month a year).
2008-25	Head of video of the Les Instants Vidéo festival

Video production

2002- ...	Production of films, reports, multi-camera recordings, trailers and composing for live performances, museums and independent authors with CUMULUS (www.cumulus.pictures).
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Video creations for museum scenography

2025	2 video creations for the Musée d'Archéologie de Marseille and the Maison Jean Vilar in Avignon.
2024	Video creations (11 productions) for the 2024 Olympics-certified exhibition Ancient Pentathlon, Pentathlon 2024 at the Marseille Archaeology Museum , located in the Vieille Charité, Marseille.
2020	Video creations (5 productions) for the temporary exhibition on Syria at the Marseille Archaeology Museum , Vieille Charité centre.
2018-21	Video creations and mapping (12 productions) for the permanent collection of the Marseille Archaeology Museum , located in the Vieille Charité, Marseille.
2016	Video creations, multi-broadcast mapping and scenography for the exhibition Le Banquet at the Marseille Archaeology Museum .



Samuel Bester CV

Video art films (selection)

***Maybe it's me* (2025) 17'13"**

Sélections : Black Cat film festival for humanity, Bolivia / Lift off session 2025, online / Social Connections in the Digital Age, Madrid / Les nuits étoilées, Marseille / Search Light International Film Festival-25, India / Cinematic Luxe Indie Showcase, online / Palena Film Festival 2026 (IT) / MAGICA AI FEST 2026, online / Visions du réel, marché du film, Nyon (CH) / The Wrong Bennial, London 2026 (installation) / film & music festival Beyond Borders, Surat (India) / Almamura Festival (online) Abu Dhabi (UAE) / Morphé film festival (online) (Ukraine)

Awards : FILMS that move 2025 "honorable mention"

***NARCISSE* (2023) 12'22"**

Sélections : Lift Off Session 2024 / Five Continent International Film Festival 2023, Venezuela / Fête du court-métrage 2024, La Baleine, Marseille / Digital Gate International Film Festival, Algérie / Cycle Musicvideoart, Lille / Festival Tous Courts, Aix 2024 / Fincortex, Boyaca, Colombie / Santander Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente 2025, Colombie / Ardea Film Festival, Italie

Awards : FICOCC 2023 : Audience Award 2nd Place, Best Experimental Short Film, Special Mention Director Short Film, Best Screenplay Short Film, Best Sound Design Short Film

***XIII fragments* (2022) 11'23"**

Sélections : International streaming award, online / Lift-Off session, online / festival La Fábrica, Colombie / Future Vision, Tokyo / Santander Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente, Colombie / Fincortex, Boyaca (Colombie)

***ET APRÈS ? TOUT L'INVERSE* (2020) 5'**

Sélections : 33^{es} Instants Vidéo, Marseille / 38^e Festival Tous Courts, Aix / Creative Collective festival, Inde / Festival del cinema di Cefalu 2021 / 3^e Montenegrin film festival, en ligne / La Femme short film festival, en ligne / FilmÓptico International Art Visual and Film Festival, en ligne / 5th Indie For You Film Festival / WICA, Los Angeles / Stir and Fry Shorts! Bristol / El grito de los sin voz, Logroño (ES) / Montenegrin Online Smartphone Film Festival MOSIFF / Sahar international film festival, online / Lift Off session 2021, Hollywood / short film festival "The Unprecedented Cinema" (Estonie) / Venice Architecture Film Festival / Ojo Móvil fest, Peru / Fête du court-métrage, Gardanne

***VideOvide - Hermaphrodite* (2019) 10'**

Sélections : 31^{es} Instants Vidéo, Marseille / ShortCup film festival / Unseen Festival, Denver (USA) / Festival du Film Court en Armagnac / Galata International Frame Film Festival, Istanbul / Dumbo film festival, New York / BeBop Channel Content Festival / Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival, Inde / Diogenes 2020 Festival, Georgie / Lift-Off Sessions, Los Angeles / STAY HOME AND MAKE A MOVIE AT HOME / Festival International du Film de Nancy 2020 / 16th International Short Film Festival Detmold (D) / KINÉ, Muestra Internacional de Cortometrajes, Mexique / 20th international short film festival "The Unprecedented Cinema", Estonie / Miaz, Jalisco (Mexique) / FICMA, Mexico / Festival del cinema di Cefalu 2021 / PINK LOVE LGBT Film Festival / 12th edition of Magmart, Naples / Underwater film festival Neum / Underwater Film Festival Belgrade / Festival Revelando novos atores brasileiros, Brésil / Violeta film festival, Bogota 2023 / Trans Film Festival 2024, Montréal / P-Rec festival 2025, Brésil / Famagusta Film Festival! 2026

Awards : best experimental Galata Frame Festival 2019, Istanbul / Honorable jury mention Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2020, Inde / Winner of 12th edition of Magmart 2021, Naples / Fincortex, Boyaca (Colombie)

***The dream of the girl diver - Le rêve de la pêcheuse* (2017) 13'23"**

Sélections : 12 Months Film Festival, en ligne / 30^{es} Instants Vidéo, Marseille / 3rd Pori Film Festival, Finlande / 35^e Festival Tous Courts, Aix / Cinetoro Film Festival, Colombie / FICMA, Mexico / Université La Sapienza, Rome / CinemaZERO 2017, Trento (IT) / Hyper Hybrid, Munich / Traverse Video, Toulouse / Fish&Chips Erotic Filmfestival, Turin / Festival du Film Court, Angoulême / Short Cup film Festival, Monterray / Buddha international film festival, Pune (Inde) / Festival Silhouette 2018, Paris / Retransmission festival, Aguascalientes (Mexico) / Festival Images Contre-Nature, Marseille / Festival Alto Vicentino, Santorso (IT) / Festival de Cine de la Culata Manta films (Equateur) / festival du film de fesses, Paris / PornFilmFestival, Berlin / Videofest 2K14 bienal internacional de video y cine contemporaneo, Baja California (Mexique) / 4th IndieCapitol Awards, Washington / Festival mundial de cine extremo de Veracruz (Mexique) / Marseille Octopus Worldwide, Marseille / Exposition Gruppenbild, Brême (Allemagne) / Porny Days Film Art Festival, Zurich (Suisse) / La fête du slip, Lausanne (Suisse) / Hacker Porn Film Festival, Rome / London Porn Film Festival 2019 / Festival Silhouette 2020, Paris / Rencontres Audiovisuelles de Lille / Festival del cinema di Cefalu 2021 / Traverse Vidéo, Toulouse 2022 / 40^e Festival Tous Courts 2022 / Porny Days 2022/ Glitch festival Saint Gallen 2022 / Splash festival 2023, Marseille / Fincortex, Boyaca (Colombie) / Porn Sur Mars 2025, Marseille / Slurp Festival 2026

Awards : 12 Months Film Festival 2017, online / Grand prix expérimental au 35^e Festival Tous Courts 2017, Aix / 2e prix au 5e Veracruz World Film Festival 2018, Mexique / Porny Days award 2018 / Slip d'Or 2019, festival de Lausanne (CH)

***causette* (2016) 13'23"**

Sélections : Un festival c'est trop court, Nice / 29^e Instants Video, Marseille / 3^e Tlanachana Fest, Mexico / exposition à Arcade, Aix en Provence / Bideodromo Festival, Bilbao / Festival del cinema di Cefalu 2021

Awards : compétition expérience à Un festival c'est trop court 2016, Nice

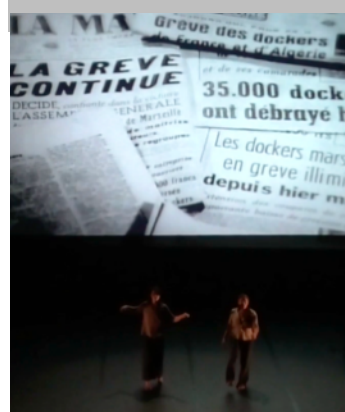
***[video]* (2016) 8'**

Sélections : 15e festival Silhouette, Paris / 29e Instants Video, Marseille / 34e festival tous courts, Aix en Provence / Fincortex, Boyaca (Colombie) / 23e festival d'art vidéo, Casablanca / 3e Tlanachana Fest, Mexico / Festival Si:n, Ramallah / El festivalico, Murcia / Kyrgyz National Fine Art Museum, Bichkek (Kirghizistan) / État d'Urgences Poétiques, Gap / Festival del cinema di Cefalu 2021 / Trenton Art All Night 2025 (USA)



SKILLS :

- Artistic direction
- Cultural programming
- Exhibition curation
- Video production
- Production
- Expertise
- Budgeting
- Sound recording
- Cameraman
- Multi-camera recording
- Video editing
- 2D animation
- 2D and 3D compositing
- Museum scenography
- Video mapping
- Video direction
- Technical coordination
- Sound composition
- Teaching
- Mediation
- Training
- Project management
- Car & motorbike licence



Samuel Bester CV

Solo exhibitions (video and photo installations)

2022	"The dream of the girl diver" exposed at festival Traverse Vidéo , Toulouse
2018	"The dream of the girl diver" exposed at Gruppenbild , Brême
2009-15	"L'autre côté " at open house Consolat , Marseille / octobre numérique 2014, Arles. Prix du jury / 2 ^e festival espacetemporaire 2011, Genève / 22 ^e Instants Vidéo , Marseille 2009.
2017	Seven silent films featuring poet Véronique Vassiliu for the urban trail Révélation de la Chroniques Biennal .
2017	"The dream of the girl diver" exposed at Arcade PACA , Aix-en-Provence
2015	"L'envol, module 3# & 4" at the féeries nocturnes , vallée de Crévoux.
2013	"L'envol, module 1,4 & 5 " at the Archives Départementales , Marseille.
2012	"L'envol, module 3 : L'éclat" at the 25 ^e Instants Vidéo , Marseille.
2012	"L'envol, module 2 : La machine" at festival Images Contre-Nature , Marseille.
2010-12	"la sieste" nuit des musées, Eu / 2 ^e festival espacetemporaire 2011, Genève / écran géant de Zuid, Amsterdam 2010 / 48h chrono, Marseille la Friche.
2011	"L'envol, module 1 : pré-visions du ciel" at the 24 ^e Instants Vidéo , Marseille and at Campagne Vidéo, Le Favril 2012
2008	film & photo exhibition at the Galerie Villa Hühn , Gevelsberg, at the galerie Länge * Breite , Sylt, at the Kamp Hüs gallery, Sylt, Allemagne.
2008	video installation for "Video Landscapes", Fordham gallery , New York.
2007	"Entre deux" co-realized with Sophie-Charlotte Gautier, 20 ^e Instants Vidéo , Marseille.
2007	solo show (45 photos et 5 films) at the galerie "Alte Post" , Sylt, Germany.
2006	installation "1 + 1 sur le fil" co-realized with Sophie Charlotte Gautier, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie , Strasbourg.

Video creations for live performances (selection)

2022	Video creation for the concert-show "L'arbalète Magique" with Musicatreize .
2021	Real-time video creation for the dance performance "D'une rive à l'autre" with the collectif Skalen , at rotatives de la Marseillaise
2018	Video creation for the theatre company Le Facteur indépendant from Julie Villeneuve.
2018	Video creation for the concert "Chanter l'icône" with Musicatreize .
2016	Live video creation for CHRONIQUES biennale des imaginaires numériques , Opéra de Marseille
2015	Video creations for the show "Chto" with the company Écrire un mouvement
2015	Video creations for the concert with Jean-Marc Monterra & Ohmodron , Hyères
2012-13	Real-time video creation for dance performances "the waves" with collectif Skalen .
2010	Video creation for the concert of the Nuits d'hiver , Vieille Charité Marseille.
2010	Video creation for the Nissenenmondaï concert, closing event of the Marseille festival .
2008-12	Real-time video creations for the dance performances "If I...", "Les Instants_e", "Ex_pose" with collectif Skalen .
2002-7	Video creations for dance performances "Entre le ciel et l'eau", "L'heure de célébrer", "Fantaisies", "Le Rendez-Vous" with compagnie Commun Instant .

Languages spoken and written:

- Native speaker of French
- Native speaker of German
- Fluent in English

Specific computer languages:

- Final Cut Pro
- Motion
- Blender
- Reaper
- Madmapper
- Millumin
- Q-Lab
- Affinity
- Brightsign
- Isadora
- Hype
- Keynote
- Suite Office
- DCP o matic
- Sketchup

Training courses provided

2022 - ?	Video teacher for DNMADE (National Diploma in Art and Design) students at Blaise Pascal High School, Marseille ~60 hours/year
2020	Workshop at IMMS with art teachers, Marseille
2019	Lecture at La Vieille Charité on "Architectural projection (video mapping) in the service of the dramaturgy of a trompe l'oeil restoration".
2016	Presentation at the University of Avignon with Alain Batifoulrier for the seminar "Serving the museum, serving the artwork"
2009	Lecture at the Performing Arts Department , University of Provence

Training courses completed

2014-24	Electroacoustics class taught by Maxime Barthelémy and then Terence Meunier, Cité de la Musique , Marseille
2006-20	Training: compositing on Motion , m2i, Aix-en-Provence / mapping on MadMapper with Mike Latona, Montpellier / 3D broadcasting on Disguise at the Aix Opera Festival / broadcasting for live performances on Millumin with Seconde Nature - Zinc with Cyril Meroni, Marseille / real-time digital technology (Max MSP , Isadora , etc.) at the TNS, Strasbourg / compositing on Shake at Videodesign, Paris
2002	Training in documentary writing, Eurodoc Script , Vals les Bains and Malaga
1998	Higher National Diploma in Plastic Expression (DNSEP) at the School of Decorative Arts in Strasbourg (now H.E.A.D), specialising in video art with Jean-François Guiton
1995-7	Workshops with Robert Cahen , Jill Scott (ZKM), Johannes Schmidt-Schnitsermann, Pascal Doumange (Radio France), Thierry Blandet and Pierre Bohrer
93-96	National Diploma in Fine Arts (DNAP) with honours from the Strasbourg School of Decorative Arts : Video Art option
90-93	Baccalaureate in Applied Arts (F12), Nîmes, honours.



images taken from my video creations (films & installations)