

## Lucrecia Martel and Paulo Branco confirmed as final 2017 Qumra Masters

- *Lucrecia Martel and Paulo Branco join Asghar Farhadi, Bruno Dumont, and Rithy Panh as 2017 Qumra Masters*

**Berlin, Germany/Doha, Qatar: February 12, 2017:** Argentina's eminent filmmaker Lucrecia Martel (*The Swamp, The Holy Girl and The Headless Woman*) and internationally acclaimed producer Paulo Branco (*The Lisbon Story, Cosmopolis, Time Regained*) have been confirmed by the Doha Film Institute as the final two Masters for the third edition of Qumra taking place from March 3 to 8, 2017.

This was announced during the 2017 Berlin International Film Festival, where a strong showcase of captivating films supported by the Institute are being screened.

Lucrecia Martel and Paulo Branco join the previously announced Qumra Masters - contemporary Iranian master Asghar Farhadi; French auteur Bruno Dumont; and Cambodian creative documentarian Rithy Panh. They will mentor first and second-time filmmakers during Qumra, to support the development of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, the Arab region and around the world.

Fatma Al Remaihi, CEO of Doha Film Institute said: "Lucrecia Martel and Paulo Branco are luminaries in world cinema, who bring a unique perspective on filmmaking that will incredibly benefit emerging filmmakers who have been selected to participate in Qumra this year. The five Masters, while very different in style, are renowned for their innovative approach to filmmaking, and bring a wealth of experience to Qumra that will be invaluable for the participating filmmakers. We want to inspire and support these emerging talents in their work, and provide them with the opportunity to establish connections with some of the most important names in world cinema today."

Filmmaker and Doha Film Institute Artistic Advisor Elia Suleiman said: "The works of Lucrecia Martel and Paulo Branco have a vivid place in the history of world cinema. While Martel has brought some compelling films that stand out for their powerful themes and narrative style, Branco is the mind behind some very accomplished films of our time. Along with the other Qumra Masters, they present exciting insights on modern filmmaking, and will be an inspiration for the filmmakers participating in Qumra."

Lucrecia Martel studied at the National Experimentation Filmmaking School in Buenos Aires and made a number of short films between 1988 and 1994. Her award-winning short film 'Dead King' was part of the omnibus film 'Brief Tales I', a collection of shorts by new Argentinian filmmakers. Her debut feature 'La Cienaga' was voted the greatest Latin American film of the decade in a poll of New York film critics, and is seen as an important development in the New Argentine Cinema. All her films have been well-received at international film festivals, and has been a juror at festivals in Berlin, Cannes, Venice, Sundance and Rotterdam, among many others. Currently, Martel is in post-production with her fourth feature-length film, 'Zama', slated to premiere in 2017.

Honoured by the European Parliament as the ‘Greatest European Producers,’ Paulo Branco embodies one of the most important figures of independent production in the world. He has the largest number of films selected at the Cannes Film Festival (60 films with 36 in Official Selection) and to have competed for the Golden Palm. He is recognized for having given their first chances to numerous aspiring filmmakers who turned into immense cinematographers, offering them the opportunity to make their screen debut. He has produced over 300 films and worked with the most renowned film directors in the world including David Cronenberg, Wim Wenders, Chantal Akerman, Alain Tanner, Werner Schroeter, Olivier Assayas, Cédric Kahn, among many others.

Along with the other Qumra Masters, Paulo Branco and Lucrecia Martel will engage in a series of masterclasses and one-on-one sessions with participating Qumra projects, along with screenings and question-and-answer sessions for Doha audiences throughout the week.

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Qumra**

Directors and Producers attached to 34 projects in development and post-production are selected to participate in the event. They will include a number of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, as well as recipients of funding from the Institute’s Grants Programme. The robust programme will feature industry meetings designed to assist with propelling projects to their next stages of development, including master classes, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts. This creative exchange will take place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.

The event is organised in three main sections: The **Qumra Master Classes** are daily sessions; each led by one of the Masters. The participating filmmakers have full access to these sessions, which are also open to accredited industry guests to attend in an observational capacity.

The **Qumra Meetings** are a series of one-on-one meetings, workshops and tailored mentoring sessions between representatives from the selected projects and seasoned industry experts.

The **Qumra Screenings** are open to the public and feature projects funded by the Institute through its grants and co-financing initiatives, as well as a series of films chosen by the Qumra Masters accompanied by Q&A sessions.

The Arabic term ‘qumra’ is popularly said to be the origin of the word ‘camera’, and to have been used by the scientist, astronomer and mathematician Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham, 965-c.1040 CE), whose work in optics laid out the principles of the camera obscura.

#### **About Doha Film Institute:**

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute’s platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar’s 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.