



CROSSING EUROPE

filmfestival linz // 27 april – 02 mai 2022

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Best Fiction Film

€5.000,- powered by Linz Kultur

Aga Woszczyńska for CICHĄ ZIEMIĄ / SILENT LAND (PL/IT/CZ 2021)

JURY STATEMENT

Everyone of us knew that this was the winning film; the only thing we had to discuss was *why*. And here's what came up. Aga Woszczyńska's *Silent Land* is an impressive, subtle debut that achieves everything that cinema can do. It has an excellent cast, efficient cinematography and an imaginative sound design. *Silent Land* is a timely, deeply gripping study of relationship and alienation that forces the viewer to tolerate ambiguities. The horror lies in ourselves and our reluctance to act on behalf of others. The film shows rarely explored, dark corners of human nature. Europe, in this view, is a complex space of individuals that merely co-exist. It is scary because we recognise it immediately; the characters are trapped within their own behaviour shaped by economic and social factors. In this world, there is no black-and-white but only multiple shades of grey. There's no simple exit, no cheap solution, no tendency to moralise, no forced attempt to comment on bigger issues. Bartosz Świniarski's cinematography is minimalistic and atmospheric. No shot is superfluous, there's an eerie perfection of film language. Woszczyńska only shows us what has to be seen. It is a unique mix of hyperreal and magical. *Silent Land* is larger than life and yet rooted in the experience of what it means to live in a globalised Europe.

Competition Fiction Jury 2022

Isabel Jacobs (GB/DE)

Jakob Kijas (DE)

Uģis Olte (LV)