

13.10.2020

“A thing of beauty
is a joy forever
Its loveliness increases;
it will never
Pass into nothingness;
but still will keep
A bower quiet for us,
and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams,
and health,
and quiet breathing.”

- *John Keats*

MINDBLOWERS

VUB & KVS



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Scientists and artists are the visionaries of society - they stick their necks out. Once again KVS and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) organise Mindblowers and give the stage over to their voices and heartbeats. To be expected: Performances at the crossroads of art, culture and reflection.

This, our fourth, edition, with beauty as its theme, will be even more surprising than previous editions. Not least because of the strange times we find ourselves in... What is beauty? What do we find beautiful, and how can beauty influence and improve our lives? **Thierry Boutemy's** Garden of Eden and Jean Paul van Bendegem's exploration of Pythagoras' theorem on the piano are but two of the highlights in this not-to-be-missed event.

Everything takes place on the outdoor square behind KVS, and this year's academics and artists, more than ever, test the edges of their practice and challenge you, the audience. Tasting, smelling, hearing, seeing – all your senses will be stimulated. To mark the occasion, the square is decorated by Brussels and world-renowned floral artist Thierry Boutemy. He created a week-long installation of trees and flowers especially for the occasion.

ILSE SMOLDERS

Professor and Expert in drugs and pharmacology Ilse Smolders transports you to the world of the ethical brain, beauty, pleasure and art.

FREE DE BACKER & PETER DE CUPERE

Professor of social sciences Free De Backer and artist-researcher Peter de Cupere discuss the idea and meaning of beauty.

YASSIN MRABTIFI

Dancer and choreographer Yassin Mrabtifi investigates the beauty of the dancing body versus the city.

JEAN CHARLES ZAQUINE, SAYURI NAGOYA & FREDERIK HILDEBRAND

Brussels-based pâtissier Jean-Charles Zaquine (Maison Zack) will immerse you in the beauty of your senses and the four seasons. Sayuri Nagoya and Frederik Hildebrand will accompany the specially-commissioned pastries on pianoforte and viola da gamba.

LAURENT DE SUTTER & KOEN VANMECHELEN

Philosopher and professor Laurent de Sutter and artist Koen Vanmechelen discuss the political, the strange, and (post-)corona society.

AMIRA DAUDI

Graphic and poster designer Amira Daoudi talks about what beauty means for her, and how it defines her life.

JEAN PAUL VAN BENDEGEM

Professor Jean Paul Van Bendegem (no less!) unravels the secrets of Pythagoras' theorem... on the piano.

LISETTE MA NEZA

Lisette Ma Neza was Belgium's national slam champion and European runner-up, in 2017. Lisette turns dense topics into poetry, raising awareness. and proposing solutions.

MC'S CARMEN MAZIYN & ANOUK HAENEN

