



Press Release

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The Coast presents the seventh edition of the Beaufort Triennial

The Province of West Flanders and Westtoer have unveiled the seventh edition of Beaufort 21. Curator Heidi Ballet selected a mix of foreign and domestic artists who have created 20 works of art: two in each coastal municipality. The programme is supplemented by two performances that extend over the entire coastline. "Beaufort positions the Coast as a destination for cultural tourism. We are addressing a broad public that can enjoy art, for free, in the unique setting of the Coast", says Sabien Lahaye-Battheu, Deputy of the Province of West Flanders and Chairwoman of Westtoer. The seventh edition of the Art Triennial is being held on the seacoast from 27 May to 7 November 2021.

For the new edition it was decided to highlight the special qualities of Beaufort: the marine setting, the accessibility of the project, the dispersion over the coastline and the development over time of a high-quality sculpture park.

Beaufort 21 seeks to offer a different perspective

Curator Heidi Ballet: "I am delighted to be curating Beaufort for a second time and to be able to bring the work of a group of interesting international artists to the Belgian coast. In Beaufort 21 the works enter into dialogue with the history of the coast. Not history as we generally know it, that made by people, but the history of natural processes that have occurred over vast periods of time. Human beings didn't play the leading role here but instead had to adapt themselves to things like the shifting coastline or the disappearance of the island of Testerep. This perspective of modesty fits well with the climate crisis age, and we also became familiar with it over the past year. In addition, attention is paid to other concealed story lines, such as what lies hidden at the bottom of the sea, or to voices that were suppressed in the past. As a result, the works activate a collective conscience that, almost invisibly, forms a part of our identity, so that we can look at a familiar place with different eyes."

Permanent and temporary works of art

The artistic selection consists of a mix of domestic and foreign artists. Eight works of art will remain where they are after the exhibition, thus expanding the permanent Beaufort Sculpture Park.

- De Panne: Laure Prouvost (FR) – Michael Rakowitz (USA)
- Koksijde-Oostduinkerke: Els Dietvorst (BE) – Heidi Voet (BE)
- Nieuwpoort: Goshka Macuga (PL) – Maarten Vanden Eynde (BE)
- Middelkerke-Westende: Oliver Laric (AT) – Raphaëla Vogel (DE)
- Ostend: Rosa Barba (IT) – Monokino (BE)
- Bredene: Rossella Biscotti (IT) – Nicolás Lamas (PE)
- De Haan: Maen Florin (BE) – Jimmie Durham (US)
- Blankenberge: Marguerite Humeau (FR) – Timur Si-Qin (DE)
- Zeebrugge: Sammy Baloji (DRC) in collaboration with In Flanders Fields Museum – Adrián Villar Rojas (AR) in collaboration with the Bruges Triennial
- Knokke-Heist: Jeremy Deller (UK) - Ruben Bellinkx (BE)
- Performances: Ari Benjamin Meyers (US) with Die Verdammte Spielerei (BE) – Saâdane Afif (FR)
- Nel Aerts (B) and Gerd Verhoeven (B) join forces for Beaufort 2021 and bring new work that will take form in the summer of 2021

The programme is supplemented by performances that will be spread out along the coastline. For example, during the summer a musical creation of artist Ari Benjamin Meyers is being performed in each coastal city. The ten performances are given by 'Die Verdammte Spielerei' in collaboration with local amateur groups. Saâdane Afif rounds off the list with his project 'Pirate's Who's Who'. The French artist asked other artists to write a song text about his eponymous installation. His appeal led to a series of concerts that are being performed for Beaufort at various places along the coast.

The unique experience of Beaufort 21

The Province of West Flanders is once again providing its support for this unique art project. The general public will be able to discover Beaufort without corona concerns. Visitors can admire the many works of art along the Coast during a longer period in their own bubble.

Sabien Lahaye-Battheu: "The dispersion in time and space is perfectly applicable for the Triennial on the coast. Everyone can take part: we are especially pleased that all of the coastal municipalities are participating this time, including Blankenberge. Beaufort is an important initiative for supporting and stimulating the tourist image of the entire Coast. The Triennial on the sea is distinguished by the unique experience: art in the setting of the Coast and the sea."

Bart Tommelein, Mayor of Ostend: "Art moves the world, it encourages reflection. The Beaufort coast sculpture route combines this aspect with an enjoyable walk in the sea air, a boost for our mental health. The Triennial is also a powerful artistic concept. It puts our cities and municipalities in the international spotlight and allows visitors to discover this region like never before."

More than Beaufort 21

For cyclists and walkers, routes have been worked out that go by the many works of art on the sea. Stefaan Gheysen, General Director of Westtoer: "In 2021, the Beaufort Triennial, the Bruges Triennial, the Kortrijk Triennial and the Watou Arts Festival are putting West Flanders firmly on the international map of contemporary art. Westtoer is collaborating with these partners especially in the field of communication, while Tourism Flanders is handling international promotion."

More info: www.beaufort21.be

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