

Press release
26.03.2024
BRUGES TRIENNAL
2024

**Spaces of
Possibility**

13.04 – 01.09.2024



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***Star of the Sea* – Ivan Morison (UK)**

**First work in the Bruges Triennial 2024
can already be discovered in Zeebrugge**

Bruges Triennial 2024: Spaces of Possibility officially launches on 13 April, but as a preview, one of the twelve art and architectural installations can already be discovered on the beach at Zeebrugge. *Star of the Sea* by British artist Ivan Morison is a coproduction by the Bruges Triennial 2024 and Beaufort Triennial; this is their fourth collaboration.

Monumental structure and remarkable chimneys

Designed for the beach at Zeebrugge, *Star of the Sea* attracts attention from afar thanks to its expansive volume and remarkable chimneys. Built from cylindrical tubes, triangular inspection chambers and interchangeable parts, the work refers to several architectural elements that can be recognised while walking along the Belgian coastline: a bunker, a fort, a pavilion, a sandcastle

or a playground on the beach. This alienating, monumental presence in Zeebrugge – both a port and seaside resort – explores the interaction between art, industry, nature and ecology.



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A play of light and shadow, sounds and smells

Anyone who enters *Star of the Sea* will find themselves in a tunnel. The interior spaces are filled with interplays of light and shadow, sounds and smells. Walkers are invited to explore the space: to reflect, sit, play and interact with each other and the environment. The openings offer 'periscopic' panoramas of the industrial port, the dunes, the sea, the seafront villas ... They are all part of Zeebrugge's multifaceted, contrasting landscape, which is atypical for the Belgian coast.



Star of the Sea, a barometer for change

Star of the Sea is part of artist Ivan Morison's exploration of how art interacts with the public space. Porosity and uncertainty are thus integral aspects of the creative process. The work is sited next to a section of the beach that is being reclaimed by nature and where a dune is slowly forming. *Star of the Sea* is in constant interaction with the forces of nature: wind, sand and the tidal cycle, which will gradually transform the work during the months it is on view in Zeebrugge. The concrete temple – surrounded by sand – reflects time and impermanence. *Star of the Sea* as a barometer for change.

***Star of the Sea* is a co-production with Beaufort 2024 and one of the twelve art and architecture installations that can be seen as part of Bruges Triennial 2024: Spaces of Possibility.**

This press release is also an official communication by the Beaufort Triennial.

Quotes

"Star of the Sea is a foretaste of what promises to be a fascinating programme. Bruges Triennial 2024: Spaces of Possibility explores the port and city, beach and square, and seeks new interpretations through the eyes of contemporary art and architecture. We are looking forward to getting to know Bruges from new perspectives. This artwork already sets the tone."

— Dirk De fauw, Mayor

"The 18-metre-wide pavilion creates a new meeting place on Zeebrugge's vast beach and invites exploration. Overlooking the port and sea, it is a mirror of change. 'A ruin of the future', as the artist describes it, but above all a place where time and transience will become visible. A new 'space of possibility'."

— Franky Demon, Chairman Brugge Plus

"Bruges will be the epicentre for contemporary art this spring. I am proud that this is our fourth collaboration with Beaufort and that Zeebrugge is at the crossroads of this initiative. The monumental work literally brings together different paths – or corridors – and invites play and dialogue."

— Nico Blontrock, Alderman for Culture

"In-between a sculpture and a building, Star of the Sea acts as a barometer of change. It explores entanglements between art, industry and ecology. Constructed partly with wastewater pipes, it brings hidden infrastructures onto the beach, but instead of wastewater it adds subtle connections, new human and more-than-human movements on the spatial choreographies that animate the beach and Zeebrugge."

— Sevie Tsampalla, co-curator, Bruges Triennial 2024

"Amid these movements and changes in town, beach and port, Ivan Morison's Star of the Sea will appear as a beacon for shelter and hope, a star-shaped sandcastle inspired by the spirit of a monumental temple."

— Els Wuyts, curator Beaufort24

*“Mijn interesse gaat uit naar hoe kunst in de openbare ruimte kan reageren op situaties en ik integreer hierbij poreusheid en onzekerheid als elementen van het kunstproces. In die redenering kan *Star of the Sea* worden gezien als een tempel, een portaal, niet voor de toekomst, maar voor ‘het onvoorspelbare heden’, dat mogelijkheden opent voor subtiele en spontane verbindingen.”*

— Ivan Morison, kunstenaar TRIBRU24

About Ivan Morison

Ivan Morison's (b. 1974, Istanbul, TR) practice navigates between art and architecture, theatre and activism. His work is mostly performative and grafted onto the public space, to which he responds with temporary interventions or large-scale installations. For the past twenty years, the artist has worked with Heather Peak (b. 1973, UK) on projects they describe as ‘sculptural space’ and ‘social sculpture’: site-specific installations that turn viewers into users or participants of the work and which accentuate the social relationships amongst them. Their designs start from what presents itself on site. The works collide with their surroundings or nestle into them through the use of natural materials, which over time discolour, transform or degrade into ruins of the future ...

Heather Peak and Ivan Morison represented Wales at the Biennale di Venezia with *Pleasure Island* in 2007. Art/Books recently released a monograph on their fifteen years of shared practice entitled *Love Me or Leave Me Alone: The Very Public Art of Heather and Ivan Morison* (2022).

About the Bruges Triennial 2024 *Spaces of Possibility*

From 13 April to 1 September, *Bruges Triennial 2024: Spaces of Possibility* brings contemporary art and architectural installations to the streets of the historic city centre and Zeebrugge. For its fourth edition, and in the company of twelve international artists and architects, the Bruges Triennial holds a mirror up to the dormant potential of the ever-changing city. It challenges us to think about the future of Bruges, and more broadly, cities in general.

Bruges Triennial is collaborating with four local cultural partners on this edition: Cultuurcentrum Brugge, De Republiek, Het Entrepot and Musea Brugge. They have developed a city-wide programme with *Spaces of Possibility* as the connecting thread.

About the Beaufort Triennial 2024

Beaufort was launched in 2003 and is a triennial art event that runs the entire length of the Belgian coastline. The works are sited on seafronts, beaches and amidst the dunes. Artworks from previous editions of the 'Triennial by the Sea' have already been purchased by several coastal municipalities. These remain in their original locations, while some have found a new site. The permanent Beaufort Sculpture Park is the result of this initiative and now boasts over forty artworks in the public space. It is the largest open-air exhibition in the unique setting of the Belgian coast.

The Beaufort Triennial runs from 27.03 to 03.11.2024.

Practical information

13.04 – 01.09.2024

Bruges Triennial 2024:

Spaces of Possibility

Bruges city centre and Zeebrugge

Always open, always free

triennalebrugge.be

Star of the Sea – Ivan Morison (UK)

On view from 26.03 – 03.11.2024

Zeebrugge beach

Co-production Bruges Triennial 2024
and Beaufort Triennial

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