

PRESS RELEASE

06.09.2022

TRIENNIAL BRUGES 2024 focuses on the future

Last year's edition of Triennial Bruges – 'TraumA' – was a resounding success. Despite the pandemic, over 350,000 art and architecture lovers explored the city through contemporary installations that also revealed Bruges' lesser-known paths and forgotten narratives. This three-yearly event, which has surprised Bruges residents and visitors since 2015, is now a highly-regarded player in the cultural landscape. Extensive research conducted after Triennial Bruges 2021 not only confirmed this story but also resulted in a framework for the future with fixed values and a new curatorial team.



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“Triennial Bruges has proven its formula for success. Contemporary art and architecture combined with our beautiful heritage city sheds a new light on what Bruges was, is, or can be. After three editions, this is a good moment to reflect on the future and refocus the event’s mission. The team could not be more ambitious or enthusiastic as they start work on this challenging and refreshing new edition.” – Dirk De fauw, Mayor of Bruges

Commissioned by the City of Bruges, the research reaffirmed the core values of Triennial Bruges while expressing the ambition to make the event even more sustainable and international. It will still be held every three years, for example, with a free walkable route within the city walls; additional attention will be given to accessibility and the public domain is still the creative arena. Furthermore, this new edition will focus on maximum, round-the-clock visibility. A series of monumental architectural works will once again enter into dialogue with the city – a UNESCO World Heritage site – and, on the basis of an overarching theme, encourage reflection and exploration.

“With Triennial Bruges, we aim to enhance the international appeal of our city and focus on a high-quality total experience. Together with the wave of innovation at Musea Brugge, we want to seize the Triennial moment to capitalise on and further develop our image as an art city – one that is contemporary, and not just historical.” – Nico Blontrock, Alderman for Culture

The ambition to expand the artistic event both nationally and internationally is also expressed in the appointment of a brand-new curatorial duo: Shendy Gardin (b. 1987, Bruges | BE) and Sevie Tsampalla (b. 1977, Kos | GR).

Shendy Gardin trained as an interior architect and journalist at the KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture and Literature. She swapped the drawing board for the editorial office of *A+ Architecture in Belgium*, which inspired her research into the image of architecture and its relation to the contemporary historical city. Gardin coordinated the public programme at Triennial Bruges from 2018 to 2021. She works as a freelance exhibition maker and guest author for publications, including the recently published *Beeld van de Stad* [Image of the City], and also contributes to the operation of BILDNIS_forum voor kunst.

Sevie Tsampalla is an art historian and curator. Her practice focuses on the interfaces between contemporary art and urban space. She recently completed her PhD at Liverpool John Moores University, investigating the interplay between biennials and ‘urban commoning’, or collective practices that can (re)shape the city. She has worked for S.M.A.K., Tate Liverpool and the Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, to name but a few appointments, and now lives and works in Brussels.

“In selecting Shendy Gardin and Sevie Tsampalla, we are not only guaranteeing continuity in the Triennial Bruges story but also focusing on its evolution and internationalisation. Contemporary art and architecture, the central theme of the event, will be retained and further developed. We are already looking forward to what Triennial Bruges 2024 has in store for us.” – Franky Demon, Chairman, Bruges Plus

Together with the Triennial Bruges team, they will start work on the creation of a fascinating follow-up story, one that is written both for and through the eyes of the city. Further details will be announced in April 2023.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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