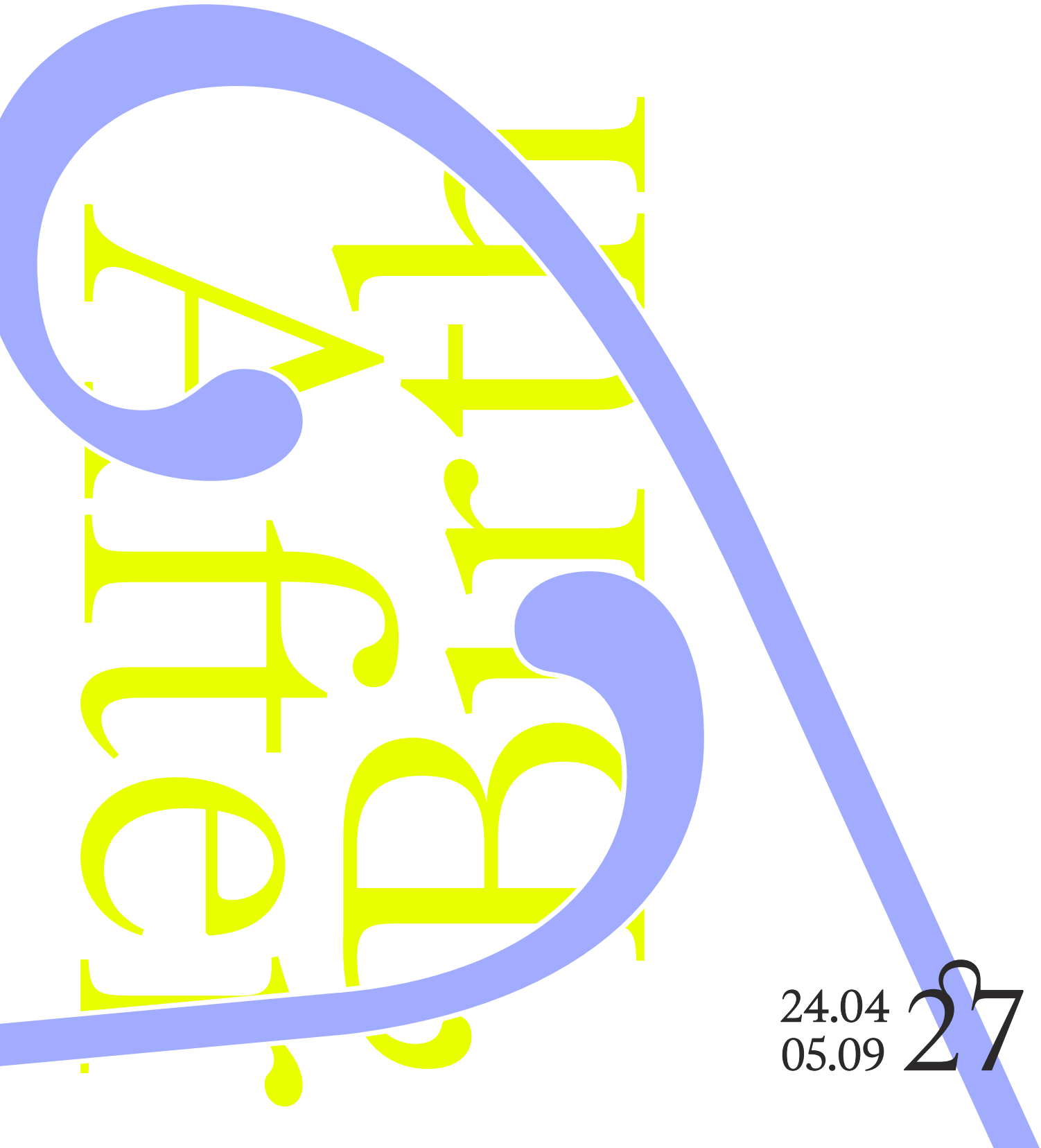
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Bruges Triennial Announces Participating Artists and Architects

24.04—5.09.2027

In a world that is increasingly divided, the fifth edition of Bruges Triennial, taking place from 24 April to 5 September 2027, celebrates the life that connects us. Bruges Triennial is a triennial event for contemporary art and architecture in public space that takes place in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bruges. Under the title *After Birth: Structures of Togetherness*, TRIBRU27 explores how ceremonies and customs give expression to our shared existence. Five chapters bring art and architecture into dialogue across various locations in Bruges and Zeebrugge. Monumental interventions draw on the city's history, spaces and stories. Artists and architects including Sammy Baloji, Kapwani Kiwanga, Tarik Kiswanson, TAKK, PLAN COMÚN, Theaster Gates and Laura Muyldermans will contribute to this edition. Collaborations with Musea Brugge, CC Brugge, Concertgebouw Brugge and COPPA, among others, firmly embed TRIBRU27 within the cultural fabric of Bruges and beyond.

Bruges Triennal previously announced that, for the first time, it would work with an international curatorial duo. Ulrika Flink and Helen Rix Runting each bring their own practices at the intersection of visual art and architecture to their work. With *After Birth: Structures of Togetherness,* they investigate the defining moments in human life when people come together to comfort each other, celebrate and dream. *"Those moments we spend together deserve to be honoured, especially in a world that is increasingly oriented towards individualism.",* say Flink and Runting.

"With TRIBRU27, Bruges once again becomes a place where art literally stands among people. This edition invites visitors to look differently at familiar squares, streets and public spaces, but also at the ways in which we use them together. That is fitting for a city that not only preserves its heritage, but continues to share, question and activate it."

Dirk De fauw, Mayor of Bruges and Chair of Brugge Plus

"A city that hosts a triennial of contemporary visual art and architecture is generally also known as an open, forward-looking and enterprising city. This triennial event is therefore perfectly in line with the

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image we wish to project as a city. We are therefore happy to allocate the necessary resources to it."

Pascal Ennaert, Alderman for Finance

Five Chapters Across Bruges and Zeebrugge

An architectural exploration of Bruges and Zeebrugge forms the basis of five chapters: *The Arrival* focuses on birth and renewal, *The Registration* examines registration and belonging, *The Herd* explores coexistence with other life forms, *The Feast* centres on eating and celebrating together and *The Ceremony* reflects on rituals and remembrance. Together, these chapters form the exhibition's narrative thread, taking the places, stories and history of Bruges as their starting point.

TRIBRU27 moves away from the formula of one artwork at one location. At several sites, multiple interventions will come together and enter into dialogue with one another. The participating artists and architects will present installations, performances and other artistic contributions. Lectures, partner events and public gatherings will further enrich the programme, often in collaboration with local cultural partners.

The first chapter, *The Arrival* comprises four installations, two of which are located in Zeebrugge. Their seaside setting symbolically refers to the breaking of waters and birth, the chapter's central theme. Two works, including a project co-curated and presented together with Beaufort Triennial, will be on view in Zeebrugge from 23 March onwards. Egyptian artist **Mahmoud Khaled** stages an unexpected romance between a truck driver and the setting sun, while Japanese architecture duo **PAN- PROJECTS** presents new work centred on bathing and containment.

The chapter *The Feast* celebrates food and togetherness in all its forms: from long tables shared among friends to dance floors where bodies connect. Here, food is not merely about nourishment, but about celebration. Belgian architect **Laura Muyldermans** draws inspiration from Bruges' festive traditions and plays with conventional expectations surrounding communal dining. Catalan architecture studio **TAKK** nd Dutch designer **Afaina de Jong** likewise explore how eating, celebrating and sharing shape communities.

Collaborations and beyond

TRIBRU27 is itself a celebration of everyone who contributes to Bruges' cultural life, from truck drivers in Zeebrugge to visitors who only briefly stop in the city. Dialogue and collaboration are more central than ever to this edition of Bruges Triennial, which also reflects on the impact a major arts festival can generate in public space, among residents and visitors, and within the city's cultural infrastructure.

This local anchoring is reflected in the public programme. CC Brugge presents a response exhibition featuring local artists, Concertgebouw Brugge invites its Maker **Victor Guaita** to create a new work for two violas in dialogue with TAKK's installation,

Het Entrepot organises a Summer School culminating in an exhibition at De Tank, and De Republiek hosts a Letters to the City project inspired by the themes of TRIBRU.

Cactus Muziekcentrum and Musea Brugge are also among the partners. The new arts venue **BRUSK** will serve as the festival hub, hosting interventions by **Theaster Gates**, **Sandi Hilal** (DAAR) and **Sammy Baloji** within *The Registration*. both inside and around the building. All artworks are free to visit and accessible seven days a week. Even BRUSK's usually ticketed main hall will exceptionally be open daily, allowing a broad audience to experience Gates' work. Visitors will find festival information, join guided tours, or relax at Bar BRUSK. Together, TRIBRU and the new arts hall are laying the foundations for a sustainable partnership that will continue to develop in future editions.

"Bruges Triennial has become an established fixture in our city's cultural landscape. With TRIBRU27, we place a strong emphasis on collaboration: with Bruges-based cultural partners, but also with artists and organisations from Belgium and abroad. In this way, the festival continues to evolve as a platform for contemporary art and architecture in public space, while strengthening Bruges' position as a city of contemporary art."

Nico Blontrock, Alderman for Culture

At the same time, Bruges Triennial looks beyond the city's boundaries. The dynamic partnership with Beaufort Triennial, initiated in 2018, continues within COPPA, the new platform for contemporary art in public space. Together with Beaufort Triennial, Kortrijk Triennial and Artsfestival Watou, Bruges Triennial contributes to a new cultural profile for West Flanders: four festivals, four distinct stories.

"Bruges is internationally renowned for its heritage, but it also strives to be a city that gives space to contemporary culture. Through Bruges Triennial and our collaboration within COPPA, we reinforce that ambition. By working together with other leading art initiatives in Flanders, we strengthen Bruges' national and international profile as a cultural city and continuously offer visitors new reasons to discover Bruges."

Minou Esquenet, Alderman for Tourism

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Bruges Triennial connects contemporary visual art and architecture with the unique UNESCO World Heritage setting of the city of Bruges. Every three years, an artistic team invites national and international artists and architects to develop and present new site-specific works for the city. Over the course of five months, the open-air exhibition unfolds throughout Bruges' historic city centre and Zeebrugge, offering artistic responses to themes linked to the future challenges facing Bruges and cities worldwide.

Since 2015, Bruges Triennial has built upon a series of visual arts triennials organised in 1968, 1971 and 1974. While the earlier editions focused on contemporary Belgian art, the relaunch in 2015 introduced architecture as a second pillar of the programme. Since then, the event has taken place in public space, remains free of charge and is accessible seven days a week.

In 2027, Bruges Triennial presents its fifth edition and, for the first time, is led by a fully international curatorial team: Ulrika Flink and Helen Rix Runting. Their expertise is complemented by the artistic team consisting of Alan Quireyns (Artistic Coordinator, Brugge Plus), Isabelle Speybrouck (Project Manager, Bruges Triennial) and Steven Slos (Cultural Policy Coordinator, City of Bruges).

From 2027 onwards, Bruges Triennial will be part of COPPA, the new platform for contemporary art in public space. Together with Beaufort Triennial, Kortrijk Triennial and Artsfestival Watou, it presents a new cultural narrative for West Flanders. More information can be found at coppa.eu.

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