

FOLLOW THE LIGHT

#BRIGHTFESTIVAL

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PRESS RELEASE
Brussels, 16 January 2023

Bright Festival unveils its programme

Bright Festival returns to Brussels from 16 to 19 February. The programme consists of three routes through several Brussels quarters and municipalities, each of which is enhanced by more than twenty original artistic installations. And there's more! During this edition, particular attention is paid to Art Nouveau. Additionally, several museums offer an off-programme during these four evenings. Time to discover the new festival installations.

Bright, the Brussels Festival of Lights, will illuminate the capital from 16 to 19 February 2023. For this new edition, this not-to-be-missed event will put several quarters under the spotlight via 3 routes: the Royal and European quarter and the municipality of Schaerbeek. The different routes will be adorned with immersive and poetic monumental works by national and international artists. What a beautiful way to brighten up these four winter evenings.

What's new?

In addition to the presence of new original installations, this year's edition also includes a route in Schaerbeek. Particular attention will be paid to the architectural Art Nouveau heritage of Brussels as well.

Multiple activities

Four evenings with an exceptional programme. Visitors of all ages will be spoilt for choice between illuminated works, night-time museum visits and guided tours. A discovery "by night" of the streets of the capital that promises a true multi-sensory experience. Here is an overview of the works that will be presented this year.

Installations per quarter

Here is a first overview of the works and installations that the public will discover during this edition. Other installations will be added to the programme in the weeks to come.

The European Quarter

ABYSS – Module (FR) – Cinquantenaire Arcades

ABYSS is a creature inspired by the ocean depths, between the legendary universe of the Nautilus and the mysterious aquatic fauna of the deep sea. Intriguing and fascinating, ABYSS plunges the spectator into the abyss, for an exploratory journey through the deep.



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The installation, made up of a set of light sources, aims to reproduce the singular aesthetics of the bioluminescence of certain aquatic beings.

Marbles - Gertjan Adema (NL) – Leopold Park

Gertjan Adema has been working as a light artist since 2018. His works have been presented at many festivals. For his kinetic installation he uses toys to create a meditative and playful atmosphere. His Marbles installation plays with repetition in geometry and with the movement of an orbiting marble. It is structured, supported by the soundscape and the light pattern drawn by the trajectory of the marble.

The Great Indecision Council – Romain Tardy (FR) - Place Jean Reyplein

Romain Tardy proposes an involuntary self-portrait of modern-day Belgian society through the most frequently entered words in Google Search and Google News. He transforms them in real time, in the public sphere, into visual and sound signals, such as visible and audible pulsations of the world, inside and outside a circle. This mesmerising, large-scale installation envelops the audience in a circle of light, sound, words and mystical computer-generated chants.

Walk Under Flowers – Illuminist (DE) - Cinquantenaire Park

German artist Peter Grotz and his team have been delighting audiences at home and abroad for over 20 years with their objects made of air and light. By constantly creating new forms and combining them, each installation becomes a unique work. Walk Under Flowers creates a new perspective, the large becomes small and vice versa. The flowers become forests and the audience is taken away from their everyday life and reality.

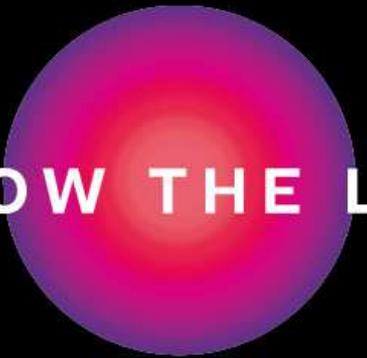
Utopia* - THÉORIZ studio (FR) - Art & History Museum

Utopia is a monumental immersive and interactive experience. The installation at the Art & History Museum is the work of French art and technology studio THÉORIZ. It invites you to a virtual world that is at once playful and contemplative. In this installation, you enter a digital world with brilliant visuals that refer to Art Nouveau patterns. The aim is to make you think interactively about the role of technology in our future society.

The Royal Quarter

MAPP – AlexP (NL) - Place Sainte-Gudule/Sint-Goedeleplein

MAPP stands for Mapping At Private Properties. It's a mobile, interactive video mapping system mounted on a child's pram, so it can be aimed at almost any object or wall. Participants "step into the light" and are scanned by MAPP. Within seconds of walking away, their



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silhouettes are integrated into the artwork. The MAPP scans appear among the colourful patterns of the projection.

Patterns in Nature – AV Extended/TETRO (FR) - Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudula

The mapping of the cathedral translates into five chapters, the intersections of the different motifs of nature, the trajectories and the paths that nature offers. It synthesises biology, natural history, mathematics and science in the service of art.

Dynamic Light Stripes – OLAB(PT) – Rue Baron Hortastraat

The key to OLAB's work is interaction with the spectators who engage with it. Up to 8 people can interact at the same time. With their hands, they can change the hue of the analogue light, turning the building into a constantly changing landscape for the viewers.

Menschen – Philippe Morvan (FR) – Carrefour de l'Europe/Europakruispunt

Menschen was originally presented in Leipzig in 2019 to mark the 30th anniversary of the peaceful revolution of 1989. It pays tribute to the protesters of the day. It consists of 960 torches installed in a hanging crown. Each one represents an individual. Collected in some thirty European countries, they also symbolise the cultural diversity of Europe. A collection of autonomous lamps (incl. batteries) for Ukraine will be organised around this work during the festival. Following the on-site collection, these torches will be handed over to Ukraine as a joint action of several European Light Festival cities. This project symbolises international cooperation, actively involves the local people and sends out a strong signal for freedom and human rights.

Unframed* – Design Lab (TUN) - Musical Instruments Museum

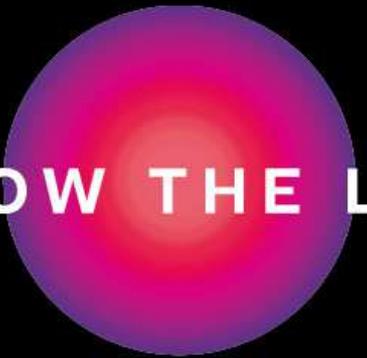
Unframed is an immersive installation. In it, visitors explore the outer limits of their perception. Inspiration is drawn from Art Nouveau to create an enigmatic universe where the invisible becomes visible. An enchanting world where depth meets transparency.

Sibelga Bright Market - Sibelga, Les Petits Riens/Spullenhulp & visit.brussels

The Sibelga Bright Market is in its second edition. Sibelga, Les Petits Riens/Spullenhulp and visit.brussels have joined forces. At this evening market visitors can have damaged lighting repaired completely free of charge or buy second-hand lighting.

Mont des Airs – Antoine Goldschmidt & LSE (BE) - Mont des Arts/Kunstberg

The Brussels artist Antoine Goldschmidt and LSE (Laser System Europe) have joined forces to create the monumental installation "Mont des Airs". This luminous work takes over the



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unique architecture of the Mont des Arts/Kunstberg to materialise its axes & perspectives by rays of light.

Reset Immersive, Whispering Lights - Reset

An immersive exhibition that invites the public to a playful plunge into digital artworks never before seen in Brussels. The exhibition is located in an unusual place. It invites you to contemplate, marvel and reflect through works in virtual reality, video mapping and a tailor-made soundscape.

Schaerbeek

Evanescent –Atelier Sisu (AUS) - Plaine Brusiliaplein

Evanescent is an adjective, meaning the quality of being fleeting or vanishing quickly; impermanence. Evanescent is an immersive, light and sound temporary environment that aims to capture the concept of ephemerality and transience is a visual form: the bubble. The artwork was inspired during the Covid-19 pandemic, when the world stopped and everything we took for granted started to disappear. Atelier Sisu endeavoured to communicate this feeling of transient beauty, and the need to live in the moment through the idea of the bubble.

Limbes – Nico Neefs (BE) – Saint-Servais Church

Limbes is an immersive and contemplative installation that questions our relationship to time, cycles and our presence. In the image, bodies levitate at different rates, like a suspended, eternal ballet. Limbes is fed by theories, thoughts and musings on time. A sort of visual polyrhythm, the installation is constantly in motion. The flow of images is modulated by Thomas Vaquié's musical composition.

GreenArt Project – collective piece (BE, FR & GR) – Ecole n°1 School

French and Greek artists with mental disabilities and students from primary school n°1 in Schaerbeek have been working together. They have shared their vision through cross-artistic challenges and collaborative work. Exchanges between the students and the artists took place over a period of 3 months. The sgraffiti by Privat Livemont that decorate Schaerbeek's municipal school n°1 served as a thread for the works.

GreenArt Project is a joint creation by the artists of ESAT Ferme de Chosal (France), the Margarita organisation (Greece), non-profit organisation Patrimoine à roulettes and the 2nd and 5th year primary pupils of municipal school n°1 in Schaerbeek. GreenArt Project is funded by the European Union's Creative Europe programme.



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For iTernity - Katja Heitmann (DE)- Place Lehon

For iTernity is an audiovisual installation inspired by Mikhail Fokine's famous solo ballet "Death of the Swan". The swan has been uploaded to the cloud, where it is now "everywhere" and can dance forever. You can only see it through the screens. For iTernity is inspired by the virtual world where our data is ubiquitous and our profile pictures never age.

The music you hear is Mozart's "Requiem", sung by Californian youtuber Trisha Paytas. Trisha was falsely claimed to be dead on Wikipedia and had made it the subject of one of her videos. Now she's singing her own requiem thanks to For iTernity.

Wheels of light - Bike for Brussels (BE) - Josaphat Park

Within the context of Bike for Brussels, Brussels Mobility is presenting 'Wheels of light' as part of Bright Festival. It's an interactive installation that consists of 12 luminous trees connected to the bike counters. This project is a collaboration between Brussels Mobility and students from the Erasmus Brussels University of Applied Sciences and Arts (EhB), with a unique style added by Brussels designers CTRL + ALT.

Digital Modern Art - Tyrell, Matthieu Beghin, Ofer Smilansky, MagicStreet (BE) - Brusilia Tower

Digital Modern Art brings together Digital Art, Art Nouveau and Modernist architecture. This monumental laser work, projected on the Brusilia Tower, is the result of a collaboration between 4 Brussels artists.

Heritage Metaverse* - Zoan (FIN) - Ecole n°1 School

The audience is immersed in the digital version of the city of Turku in 1827. The former capital of Finland was destroyed by a great fire in the 19th century, but comes back to life thanks to the latest XR technologies and the Heritage Metaverse platform. The artistic team at Zoan, an XR studio in Helsinki, Finland, provides digital solutions to heritage institutions around the world.

** The light works Utopia, Unframed and Heritage Metaverse are the 3 winners of the 2022 HERITAGE LIX competition held by visit.brussels. They are produced by XR4heritage. The HERITAGE LIX competition is a European programme that helps to launch creators of immersive heritage experiences. These works are an invitation to revisit the past, question the present and imagine the future.*

For several years, Bright Festival has been committed to reduce its environmental impact. In order to achieve this goal, the festival has set up various initiatives:



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- the choice of artists who - for the most part - have an eco-responsible approach;
- the selection of projects which use lighting that is energy-efficient or produced by renewable sources;
- the festival is easily accessible by public transport and encourages the use of active mobility and walking to take in the routes.

Since 2021, the Bright Festival has been financing low-carbon projects to neutralise its emissions that could not be reduced (e.g. a [hydropower project](#) and a [forest protection project](#)).

More information and regular updates of the programme on <https://bright.brussels>

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