



## PRESS RELEASE

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### The Coast welcomes Beaufort 2018

**The Province of West Flanders and Westtoer have presented the sixth edition of Beaufort 2018. For this arts triennial on the sea, its curator Heidi Ballet has selected 18 domestic and foreign artists who are mounting projects in nine coastal municipalities. "Beaufort is positioning the Coast as a cultural and tourist destination. We are targeting a wide audience that can enjoy art free of charge in the unique setting of the Coast", according to Franky De Block, provincial deputy and chairman of Westtoer. The sixth edition of the arts triennial on the sea runs from 30 March to 30 September 2018.**

For the concept of the triennial, the decision was taken to emphasize Beaufort's striking and unique qualities: the setting on the seaside, the accessibility of the project, the monumentality of the artworks, the distribution along the coastline and the creation of a high-quality sculpture park.

#### **Unique tradition**

Franky De Block: "What is notable at each new edition of Beaufort is the collaboration with the nine participating coastal municipalities. In the process, we are developing a participative model that makes for great dynamism and enthusiasm among many partners. Our strategic goal is to continue promoting the Coast all year round. Beaufort is an important initiative aimed at supporting and enhancing the image of the region. With Beaufort, we are positioning the Coast over a longer period as a cultural and tourist destination".

Guido Decorte, a provincial deputy: "Beaufort has great added value for the province and the coastal region. On the occasion of the redistribution of provincial competences, the decision was made to build further on this unique tradition. Beaufort lends particular renown to the Coast. Westtoer is coordinating the entire event in terms of production and communication. The external curator designs the artistic concept".

#### **18 artists**

The artistic selection comprises a mix of 18 domestic and foreign artists: Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys (BE), Stief DeSmet (BE), Ryan Gander (UK), Iman Issa (EG), Nina Beier (DK), Edith Dekyndt (BE), Simon Dybbroe Moller (DK), Kader Attia (FR), Guillaume Bijl (BE), Basim Magdy (EG), Katja Novitskova (EE), Frederik Van Simaey (BE), Jason Dodge (US), Xu Zhen (CN), Rotor (BE), Anne Duk Hee Jordan (DE-KR), Jean-François Fourtou (FR), Leon Vranken (BE).

#### **Monuments**

Curator Heidi Ballet: "In Beaufort, the sea is presented as an uncontrollable force of nature that, at the same time, connects us to the rest of the world. Beaufort 2018 has no title, and originally it had no theme either. In the course of the preparations, two themes came to the fore, namely, monuments and ecology".

"Monuments are erected to commemorate something, but the world is constantly changing. To what extent is the message conveyed by monuments determined by the spirit of the age, and how do monuments hold up in light of those changing ideas? How do monuments give meaning to a place? How are they interpreted by local residents? Artworks in the public space are subject to the same questions", observes Heidi Ballet.

### Climate

"The reality of climate change has brought us to a crossroads today. Various artists participating in Beaufort 2018 express the changing relationships between humans and nature, and the fact that we need to show greater modesty. Our vulnerability in the face of the elements is most keenly evident on the Coast. Even if we strive to leave a lasting material legacy, as we do by erecting monuments, the seas and oceans overpower them. Beaufort 2018 is thus also an homage to the sea", concludes Heidi Ballet.

### On the margins of Beaufort 2018

A whole series of initiatives have been developed on the margins of Beaufort 2018. In coproduction with Theater aan Zee (theatre on the sea), there will be a performance by Kasper Vandenberghe. The Bruges Triennial and Play Kortrijk are also partners. In the tourist sector, hotels have put together an offer with special packages for the art triennial on the sea. Nine chefs have drawn inspiration from the artworks to present special menus. For Beaufort 2018, in collaboration with VLIZ we will be offering sweaters, T-shirts and carrier bags made of 100% organic cotton. Special activities are offered to families with children. A series of bicycle paths past the many artworks on the seaside have been drawn up for cyclists.

More info: [www.beaufort2018.be](http://www.beaufort2018.be)

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