

# BELGIAN PAVILION

# YOUNG CURATORS PROGRAMME



Curatorial Studies



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## OPEN CALL / deadline: 10.10.23

BELGIAN PAVILION | WALLONIA-BRUSSELS FEDERATION

60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

20.04 – 24.11.2024

### About

The Young Curators Programme (YCP) is designed for emerging Belgium-based curators. Beyond encouraging the interaction between Dutch and French-speaking professionals, the YCP aims to promote curatorial practice and investigation, offering exposure opportunities for young professionals in the frame of the Venice Biennale, a major and prestigious international art event.

The eight participants selected for the YCP's 2023/2024 edition will partake in bilingual duos for one of the four one-month-long terms offered during the 60th Venice Biennale. They will actively participate in the preparation and the life of the "Petticoat Government" (Denicolai & Provoost \* Antoinette Jattiot \* Nord \* Speculoos), a multidisciplinary project at the crossroads of art, architecture, design and curation, commissioned to represent Belgium in the national pavilion in the Biennale's Giardini.

In its third iteration, the YCP will integrate curatorial research and practice with mediation strategies and hands-on experience. In addition to representing the project team and acting as exhibition mediators in the pavilion in Venice, YCP participants will be part of the exhibition's research and production process.

This collaboration will start before the exhibition opening through six one-day-long meetings with the pavilion team, which will be held in Brussels throughout the school year in the months leading up to the opening. Through the collaborative and horizontal approach proposed by Denicolai & Provoost and the pavilion curatorial team, this strategy aims to broaden and develop the knowledge of The Young Curators currently enrolled in a Master or Postgraduate programme, who could undertake this step in the frame of an internship. In the meetings preceding the exhibition's opening, the YCP will

conduct research. This investigation will be targeted at the histories of the folkloric giants at the centre of the artistic project commissioned for the pavilion: their contexts and the themes linked or raised by them, such as their symbolic and political weight in the transformation of reality through fiction, and the active integration the oral dimension through storytelling.

More broadly, it will encompass the work of Denicolai & Provoost, focusing on the role of artists in the city and the vernacular. The results of this research will be rendered in the form of notes that can be used in various forms, including social media, the project documentation, the website or the catalogue produced for the exhibition. The aim is that, together with the team, Young Curator Programme

participants will develop the project's discursive possibilities, from planning to mediation and beyond.

YCP participants will have the opportunity to develop a discursive event during their stay in Venice at a venue of their choice outside the pavilion (managing the practical organisation, coordination, etc.) about their research and stories related to the "Petticoat Government".

After the Biennale, the "Petticoat Government" will be happy to imagine and develop strategies together with YCP participants, outside of the frame of the programme, for the various post-chapters of the project, including the shows in France (at Frac Dunkerque) and Belgium (at BS22 Charleroi), which will take place past its Venice episode.

### Important dates and practicalities

Applications: 11 September - 10 October 2023

Notification of selected candidates to the jury: 13 October 2023

Jury: 16 October 2023

Notification of selected candidates: 20 October 2023

Introductory meeting with the pavilion team, in Brussels: 23 October 2023, 2pm

Working meetings with the pavilion team, in Brussels: 6/11, 4/12, 15/01, 12/2, 11/03, 8/04 - 9:30am - 5pm

Pre-event training, in Col de Resia, Italy: Weekend of 09-11 March 2024

Closing meeting in Brussels: Date to be confirmed

Dates in Venice:

Opening Week (all participants): 16-20 April 2024

Term 1: 20 April - 31 May 2024 (the first term will bridge the gap between the opening week and May)

Term 2: 1 - 31 July 2024

Term 3: 1 - 31 August 2024

Term 4: 1 - 30 September 2024

## The YCP provides

- One return ticket from Brussels to Venice for one month-long term
- An allowance of €250 per week, paid under the status of volunteer work
- Accommodation in a shared apartment (with private rooms)
- Access to the Biennale venues
- A Venezia Unica City Pass, for transportation in the lagoon (tickets are of the responsibility of each participant)
- Working insurance will be provided (participants will be asked to care for their own travel and hospitalisation, as well as their civil liability insurance individually).

## Participants are expected to

- Play a role in connecting the pavilion's management to the Biennale organisation and the project team as its representatives in Venice
- Act in the Pavilion, offering active mediation three times a week from 10am-4pm during their stay in Venice
- Manage the Pavilion's Printlab (photocopying, packaging, stock management and liaison with MOREpublishers), producing catalogues 'on demand' in situ
- Contribute to the maintenance and well-functioning of the exhibition
- Create content (text, sound, image or short video) to the YCP section of the Belgian Pavilion website at least once during their stay
- Get involved in the organisation of potential complementary events programmed during the time of the exhibition
- Write a short report about the research and experience gained at the end of their stay.
- Be available and present in Venice for the whole duration of their programme terms, as well as participate in all the training and wrapping-up meetings, accomplishing the assignments and respecting deadlines
- Organise a presentation of the work in progress for the pavilion in their respective schools (or alma mater) in early February 2024.
- The participants currently enrolled in a Master or Postgraduate programme could undertake this step as interns.

## Required profile

- A mediation approach encompassing the type of sensibility in the work of Denicolai & Provoost, interested in practices revolving around topics such as the city and the vernacular, storytelling, and the oral dimension with an attentive eye to the symbolic and political implications it entails
- Interest and curiosity in developing teamwork methods
- Ability to integrate an existing team and an ongoing process
- Availability to get involved in the process throughout the year, with the flexibility to participate in each of the six-day-long meetings to be held once per month in Brussels before the exhibition opening
- Autonomy, critical thinking and willingness to make proposals to the team
- Ability to communicate with unfamiliar contacts and lead discussions
- Good knowledge of English and acquaintance enough of the French language to follow a conversation
- Mastery of basic IT tools (word processing, Indesign, mailing, etc.) and willingness to work with Open Source tools. An introduction to these tools will be provided by the pavilion team.
- Excellent organisational and schedule management skills
- Punctuality and respect for commitments
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

## Eigibility Criteria

- You are currently enrolled on a curatorial programme with a focus on exhibition-making or curatorial studies or have graduated in the last ten years
- You are between 18 and 35 years old
- You must provide proof of residency in Belgium for a minimum of two years.

## Application Process

Please submit your application in a single PDF format no later than October 10, 2023.

Your application should include the following documents:

- A concise CV (maximum two pages)
- A motivation letter in English, expressing your thoughts on curating, mediation, and your insights into the work of Denicolai & Provoost (maximum one page).
- Specify your availability and session preference (refer to key dates for term options).
- For non-Belgian nationals, a certificate from the commune/gemeente stating that you have lived in Brussels, Wallonia or

Flanders for at least two years.  
- A copy of your ID.

Email your applications to [yyp@belgianpavilion.be](mailto:yyp@belgianpavilion.be) with the subject line "YCP 2024 Application + your name"

For additional details about "Petticoat Government" (featuring Denicolai & Provoost, Antoinette Jattiot, Nord, Speculoos), please visit [petticoatgovernment.party](http://petticoatgovernment.party)

If you have questions about the programme and application procedure, send an email to Laila Melchior at [yyp@belgianpavilion.be](mailto:yyp@belgianpavilion.be)

The Young Curators Programme is an initiative of Curatorial Studies, KASK & Conservatorium, Master en Pratiques de l'Exposition (CARE), ARBA-ESA, Direction des Arts plastiques contemporains de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Vlaamse Overheid and Bureau International de la Jeunesse (BIJ).

[www.artsplastiques.cfwb.be](http://www.artsplastiques.cfwb.be)  
[www.petticoatgovernment.party](http://www.petticoatgovernment.party)  
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