

**1970 – 2020: 50TH ANNIVERSARY
FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 TO JUNE 2021**

For an entire season, the Higher Institute for the Study of the Language of the Plastic Arts (ISELP) is celebrating its 50th anniversary through a series of activities and by reflecting on how the public is welcomed to the institute, materialised by the transformation of the entrance. Three exhibitions, numerous meetings, scientific residences, a historical publication and many more surprises: these are some of the events that mark this jubilee.

Created in 1970 by Gita Brys-Schatan, then a young history of art doctor, with the aim of offering the public a vision of creating, ISELP first offered **conferences and meetings** with artists before investing in the stables at Egmont Palace in 1975, thus developing an exhibition policy on more innovative subjects. Fifty years later, its current director, Adrien Grimmeau, points out the need to go back to basics and to take advantage of this anniversary year to showcase the fresh inspiration brought since his appointment. A **true pivotal moment**, this celebration represents an opportunity to reflect on the history of ISELP through digitising its archives and an opportunity to reflect on the role of an art centre in the world today.

Based on the fact that contemporary art can be perceived as elitist and that ISELP's location amidst luxury boutiques can deter some from visiting, the institute launched a **call for projects** involving architects, graphic designers and artists, won by **Denicolai & Provoost**, who chose the **NORD** office and the **OSP** studio. Thanks to their complementary skills and collaboration, they have devised a year full of surprises, ending in the redesigned entrance. The new entrance hall – now accessible from le passage de Milan – will be placed right in the middle of the art centre, which fully reflects the importance of welcoming the public. Our corporate identity and style guide have also been revised, with a new logo being unveiled in October. A number of changes to the public area are also planned, reflecting an important part of ISELP's DNA.

INSPIRE, the first exhibition of the season, reflects on time and invites us to take a moment to pause at the beginning of a very packed year. The works by **Edith Dekyndt, Fabrice Samyn, Manon de Boer** and others try to escape from controlled and codified time to offer a more natural, less rational temporality. *Les Orages*, the exhibition that will close the year just after the renovation works, was conceived as a diptych to *INSPIRE*: how do the artists respond to the concrete need for action? How can we envisage the time of creation and the uncontrollable and explosive relationship to the world? **The urgency of engagement** responds to the need to slow down. Between the two exhibitions, the Italian artist Gianni Pettena will, in partnership with the curator Guillaume Désanges and La Verrière, a space in Brussels belonging to la Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, present an immersive piece which will both hide and reveal the space in another way. This being the last chance to visit the premises before they are transformed, Pettena thus provides a magnificent blank page on which the art centre's future can be written.

PRESS CONTACT

Béatrice Piérart

b.pierart@iselp.be / +32 (0)2 504 80 78

Moreover, given that the institute's rich history has never been **published**, a full inventory of these first fifty years needed to be written. For over a year, our archives have been analysed and digitised in order to offer an insight into the issues that have driven ISELP up to today. Why was it founded? How has the place evolved towards contemporary art? What kind of relationship has been maintained with the art in public space? It is only by answering these questions that it will be possible to envisage the future. Through the new architecture, but also through reallocating our priorities, such as an intense reflection on the place of art in society, the access given to the public, the encouragement of new words. Particular emphasis will be placed on this point through the creation of two **scientific residences** per year in order to give researchers the chance to deepen the connection between art and society.



USEFUL INFORMATIONS

EXHIBITION FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY FROM 11AM TO 6PM, FREE ENTRY

CONFERENCES/SCREENINGS: 6€ / 4€* - Tickets on sale on the spot, booking : accueil@iselp.be / +32 (0)2/504 80 70

* Students under 26, teachers

Free for ISELP Members, unemployed, under-18s, Article 27



ISELP - Bd de Waterloo, 31 B-1000 Bruxelles
accueil@iselp.be - www.iselp.be
+32(0)2/504 80 70

BELFIUS: BE80 0682 2824 6077
BIC: GKCCBEBB
TVA: BE 0407.918.751

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