

# Young Curators Programme:



## Open Call

**DEADLINE  
NOVEMBER 2,  
2025**

# Young Curators Programme: Open Call

## About YCP

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 development, offering an exceptional work and exposure opportunity for young professionals in the frame of the Venice Biennale, a major and prestigious international art event. The six participants selected for the YCP's 2026 edition will partake in bilingual duos for one of the programme terms offered during the 61st Venice Biennale. They will actively participate in the mediation and the life of *IT NEVER SSST* by Miet Warlop, a multidisciplinary project at the crossroads of performance, music and visual art, commissioned to represent Belgium in the national pavilion in the Biennale's Giardini.

In its fourth iteration, the YCP will integrate curatorial research 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 live unfolding over its seven months' run. To create a dedicated time and space for preparatory reflection, as well as for mentorship and capacity building, four supportive sessions will precede the programme.

## About the Pre-Programme

The preparatory sessions at MORPHO, Antwerp will take place every Thursday on a weekly basis in February 2026. Here, different possible manners of engagement with the artist, performers and the pavilion audience will be discussed and developed together with the participants. Mentorship sessions will be provided among others by Eliel Jones and Stefaan Willems from KANAL-Centre Pompidou, where the performance exhibition will travel afterwards. They will delve into the specificities of curating and mediating live art, respectively. Caroline Dumalin, curator of the Belgian Pavilion and artistic director of MORPHO, will focus on the key aspects of project management, cultivating partnerships and fund-raising, in dialogue with Martin Bailly from KANAL. Other guest speakers will be invited in relation to the young curators' interests.

During the Biennale, participants will be connected with MORPHO's international partner in Venice, the recently founded Scuola Piccola Zattere, who will welcome the young curators for studio visits with their artists-in-residence. Other opportunities for collaboration or networking outside of the frame of the programme can be conceived together with YCP participants.

## Important dates and practicalities

### Selection procedure:

- Application period: October 2 – November 2, 2025
- Notification of the shortlisted candidates: November 10, 2025
- Jury interviews with the shortlisted candidates: November 13, 2025
- Notification of the results: by November 20, 2025
- Introductory gathering with the selected curators: November 28, 2025

### Pre-programme in Antwerp:

- Week 1: 5 February 2026
- Week 2: 12 February 2026
- Week 3: 19 February 2026
- Week 4: 26 February 2026

### Dates in Venice:

- Opening Week (all participants): 5 - 10 May 2026
- Term 1 (7 weeks): 12 May - 29 June 2026 (follows straight after the opening week)
- Term 2 (9 weeks): 30 June - 31 August 2026
- Term 3 (12 weeks): 1 September - 23 November 2026

## YCP provides

- One return ticket from Brussels to Venice for one 7-week-long term;
- A remuneration payable by invoice or via Amplo (Social Office for Artists); for this edition, the wage remains to be confirmed because of an ongoing effort by the partners of securing a budget that can guarantee a fair starter pay scale;
- 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 the responsibility of each participant);
- The programme will provide occupational accident insurance for the duration of the curator's stay. Participants are expected to arrange their own travel insurance (covering hospitalisation and medical costs) as well as civil liability insurance.

## Eligibility criteria

- You have graduated in the last ten years from a curatorial programme in Belgium with a focus on exhibition-making or curatorial studies;
- Current students may only apply for Term 3, provided they graduate; by July 2026. They are not eligible for Terms 1 and 2;
- You are between 18 and 35 years old;
- You must provide proof of residency in Belgium for a minimum of two years.

## Participants are expected to

- Be available and present in Venice for the whole duration of their programme terms, as well as participate in the pre-programme in Antwerp;
- Play a role in connecting the daily life of the performance to the pavilion's visitors and team as its representatives in Venice;
- Offer active mediation in the pavilion approximately three times a week from 11am-4pm (May-September) or 10am-3pm (October-November) during their stay in Venice;
- Contribute to the maintenance and well-functioning of the exhibition together with pavilion manager Giulio Piovesan. This might include occasionally assisting in light performative actions or organisational tasks;
- Create content (text, sound, image or short video) to the YCP section of the Belgian Pavilion website or project instagram at least once during their stay;
- Write a short report or organise an event (at MORPHO or in their alma mater) about their research related to the histories, presents and possible futures of the Belgian pavilion following their stay.

## Required profile

- Interest in mediation in relation to live arts, specifically how visual art can intersect with music and performance;
- Curiosity in developing teamwork methods;
- Positive energy, critical thinking and the drive to make it your own;
- Good knowledge of English;
- Punctuality and respect for commitments;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

## Application Process

Please submit your application in a single PDF format no later than November 2, 2025, midnight.

Your application should include the following documents:

- A concise CV (maximum two pages);
- A motivation letter in English, expressing your thoughts on live art, curating, mediation (maximum one page);
- Specify your availability and preferred term;
- 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; Email it to [ycp@belgianpavilion.be](mailto:ycp@belgianpavilion.be) with the subject line "YCP 2026 Application + your name"

For more information about Miet Warlop: [mietwarlop.com](http://mietwarlop.com)  
Press release: [kanal.brussels/en/news/miet-warlop-venice-biennale-2026](https://kanal.brussels/en/news/miet-warlop-venice-biennale-2026)

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

## Jury

- Caroline Dumalin, Artistic Director MORPHO and curator Belgian Pavilion 2026
- Eliel Jones, Curator Performance and Time-based Media, KANAL-Centre Pompidou and teacher at Curatorial Studies at KASK & Conservatorium
- Antoinette Jattiot, Curator La Loge (Brussels) and Belgian Pavilion 2024; teacher at the Master en pratiques de l'exposition (CARE) at ArBA
- Laila Melchior, Coordinator Young Curators Programme

The Young Curators Programme is an initiative of Curatorial Studies, KASK & Conservatorium, KASK & Conservatorium, the school of arts of HOGENT and howest; Master en Pratiques de l'Exposition (CARE), ARBA-ESA; Vlaamse overheid, Direction des Arts visuels de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles and Bureau International de la Jeunesse (BIJ). The 2026 edition is organised in collaboration with MORPHO and KANAL-Centre Pompidou.

[www.belgianpavilion.be](http://www.belgianpavilion.be)  
[www.curatorialstudies.be](http://www.curatorialstudies.be)  
[www.arba-esa.be](http://www.arba-esa.be)

[www.vlaanderen.be/cjm](http://www.vlaanderen.be/cjm)  
[creationartistique.cfwb.be/arts-visuels](http://creationartistique.cfwb.be/arts-visuels)