

(re)connecting.earth (02)
Biennale de l'Art et
de la Nature Urbaine
Beyond Water
● 01.09.–01.10.2023
▶ Genève

PRESENTED BY ART-WERK

Press release 18.09.2023

A new Biennial to reconnect Geneva with its lake through the works of international artists

After two weeks and an opening weekend that included a Professional and Press Day, the public reception was as splendid as the weather for the Biennial of Art and Urban Nature *(re)connecting.earth*. The fine weather allowed both the performance of Raul Walch's sailboats and the symposium to fully embrace the theme of this second edition, *Beyond Water*. With 1,500 children enrolled in the Biennial's educational workshops and a rich programme of screenings, performances and mediation, the aim is to offer a different way of looking at the environment and to move people into action through works of art rich in content. The Biennial *(re)connecting.earth (02) - Beyond Water* runs until 01.10.2023.

The *reconnecting.earth (02) - Beyond Water* Biennial is the first Urban Art and Nature Biennial. It brings together the work of 32 artists from Switzerland and abroad, offering a different take on nature until October 1st, 2023.

This year, the Biennial will be focusing on the theme of water and the biodiversity of Lake Geneva.

For its second edition, 13 new works of art in the public space (including an 81-metre-long painting, conceptual gardens and underwater sculptures) have been facilitated by the art-werk association, which is organising the event, and the various partner institutions, including the Association pour la Sauvegarde du Léman, Pro Natura Genève and the Bains des Pâquis.

Among the highlights of the Biennial's launch, apart from a symposium bringing together international curators and museum directors, the lake choreography of four boats whose sails were painted by artist Raul Walch during his residency in Geneva prior to the Biennial made a strong impression on the Geneva public. This performance will be on show again during the closing weekend of the Biennial, on 1 October (4pm-5pm), this time with the

added bonus of a photography competition open to all to find the best shot of these sailing ships...

Bringing art to everyone in a different way

1,500 primary school children have signed up to take part in the creative workshops offered by the Biennial, while an educational pack has been sent to secondary 1 and 2 teachers to help them pass on scientific knowledge to their pupils through art.

Tours and activations of the works are organised 3 times a week by the meditation team (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings) to bring the works to life and enable activities such as snorkelling (Marie Griesmar), drawing on the water (Luis Camnitzer) or mediation on living things thanks to the works of Monica Ursina Jäger and Diana Lelonek & Denim Szram. Every Friday, free guided tours of the Biennial are organised at 6pm. Lasting around 90 minutes, these tours are an opportunity to discover some of the works in a special way. The guided tours also provide an opportunity to link up with some of the Biennial's central venues, such as the Bains des Pâquis and the Molard landing stage. Thanks to a mobility plan specially devised by the Biennial around the Mouettes genevoises, almost all the works are accessible in less than 5 minutes on foot from the various landing stages.

A rich and varied programme

Closely linking art and science, the Association pour la Sauvegarde du Léman (ASL) and Pro Natura played a major role in preparing the Biennial by working closely with a number of guest artists. For the occasion, the ASL even transformed itself into a veritable art space, welcoming some of the leading figures in environmental art (Hans Haacke, Mark Dion), while offering visitors to 2, rue des Cordiers the chance to observe microplastics just a few steps away from the speculative installation by Pinar Yoldas, whose Ecosystem of excess imagines a world where plastics have come to life.

Pro Natura Genève has made the Pointe à la Bise nature reserve available to artists Anne-Laure Franchette and Manon Briod. Here, they are presenting a bioplastic work installed on the ornithological observation tower, which offers a breathtaking view of the oldest reed bed on Lake Geneva. A discovery day for children and adults, combining art and ecology, is being organised on 16 September in this exceptional natural site.

A special activity is being organised at the Bains des Pâquis on 22 September as part of La nuit est belle! It will enable participants to explore some of the Biennial's central works in a different way, by discovering them at night, guided by a mindfulness meditation teacher in a city of Geneva exceptionally plunged into darkness to combat light pollution.

A little further from the shores of Lake Geneva, the town of Meyrin and the Exhibition Service will be transformed into a satellite venue for the Biennial. On 23 September, there will be a screening of documentary films, while Alexandre Joly's work will be on show as part of a collective exhibition on the shores of Lac des Vernes.

Upcoming Biennial events

Animation as part of La nuit est belle! - sound meditation based on the work of Diana Lelonek and Denim Szram, guided by a mindfulness teacher

22 September 2023, 21:00 - 23:00, Bains des Pâquis

Sound journeys by the artist Alexandre Joly in Meyrin

23 September 2023, 14:00 - 18:00, Lac des Vernes

Film screenings: *Two Sides of the Moon - Main basse sur l'eau - Donc, Socrate est mortel*

23 September 2023, 19:30 - 21:30, École des Vergers

Closing weekend of the Biennial

Saturday 30.09

Poetry reading by artist Heike Fiedler

30 September, 11:00, Bains des Pâquis

Activation of works by Marie Griesmar - snorkeling - and Luis Camnitzer - lake choreography

30 September, 12:00 - 15:00, Bains des Pâquis

Sunday 01.10

Performance by Raul Walch's sailing boats and photography competition open to the public

1 October, from 14:30, Bains des Pâquis and Bateau Genève

Workshop on the work of Maria Thereza Alves

1 October, 17:15 - 19:00, Débarcadère du Molard

Artists : Maria Thereza Alves • Caroline Bachmann • Flurina Badel & Jérémie Sarbach • Mauren Brodbeck • Seba Calfuqueo • Luis Camnitzer • Gabo Camnitzer & Lluís Alexandre Casanovas Blanco • Julian Charrière • Collectif Tchan-Zâca • Andreas Greiner & Takafumi Tsukamoto • Valérie Favre • Anne-Laure Franchette & Manon Briod • Marie Griesmar • Hans Haacke • Christina Hemauer & Roman Keller • Monica Ursina Jäger • Alexandre Joly • Diana Lelonek • Diana Lelonek & Denim Szram • Antje Majewski • Adrien Missika • Uriel Orlow • Carmen Perrin • Som Supaparinya • Raul Walch • Pinar Yoldas • Zheng Bo

Curator: Bernard Vienat

In collaboration with : Association pour la Sauvegarde du Léman (ASL) • Association des Usagers des Bains des Pâquis • Les Mouettes genevoises • Pro Natura Genève • Association pour le Bateau Genève • La Libellule • Festival du Film Vert • Meyrin Durable • Programme Nature en ville du Canton de Genève • La Ville de Genève • Haute-école d'art et de design (HEAD) • Service des expositions de la Ville de Meyrin • Association Anyone Can Sail.

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Contact

Further information on *(re)connecting.earth (02) - Beyond Water*, including the full list of works, map and programme, is available on the project's official website. For more information please email contact@art-werk.ch.

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