



Dessiner la scène

Exhibition

24.09 -> 23.10.26

425 – Louizalaan, 425 – 1000 Brussels

"Dessiner la scène " highlights the essential contribution of women scenographers to the history of the performing arts in Belgium from 1927 to the present day. Drawing on archives, models and previously unpublished materials, the exhibition sheds light on the careers of women creators who have long been overlooked and interprets scenography through the lens of gender.

Echoing the history of La Cambre – the first art and design school in Brussels to open its doors to women in 1927 – the exhibition “Dessiner la scène” is part of a critical genealogy that examines the place of women in the discipline of stage design. It presents a close examination of their contributions, which were at once decisive yet insufficiently integrated into the narratives of the performing arts and spatial design.

Conceived as a manifesto-exhibition by curator Annabel Vergne, “Dessiner la scène” gathers historical archives, models, working documents and a series of interviews with women scenographers conducted between 2023 and 2025 by Milena Forest and Clémence Thiery, both alumni of ENSAV La Cambre. Structured thematically, the exhibition highlights the realities of the profession and the challenges faced by these creators: invisibilization, structural inequalities and the balance between creative work and family life as well as artistic commitment, collaboration and transmission.

While the creative processes in scenography and costume design do not differ according to gender, “Dessiner la scène” bears witness to the greater perseverance women have had to demonstrate for the uniqueness and value of their work to be recognized.

Lastly, “Dessiner la scène” calls for the creation of a genuine ‘matrimony’ of scenography in Belgium. By encouraging archives to be deposited and by promoting works, it contributes to the writing of a more balanced and inclusive history of the performing arts.

Curator & set design: Annabel Vergne, Milena Forest

Research: Maïa Camus, Milena Forest, Élisabeth Gérard, Clémence Thiery, Annabel Vergne

Sound design: Corinne Ricuort

Sound mix & mastering: Jeanne Debarsy

Sound installation: Maxence Obein

Lighting design: Jérôme Dejean et Léa Vandooren

Exhibition management: Léa Vandooren

Concept and production: Écarlate la compagnie and the FAME festival as part of the HerStories (Corinne Pelé, Oriana Italiano, Elsa Poisot, Camille Khoury)

Scientific supervision: Véronique Lemaire et Nancy Delhalle

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Graphic design support: Aline Baudet, Tom Burgering

Production of facsimiles and publications: Emma Corbique

Artworks management intern: Noa Seyrac

100! La Cambre

Benoît Hennaut, director – Kevin Saladé, deputy director – Hélène Perreau, administrator – Sabrina Lefrançois, communications manager – Hélène Ruttiens, Centenary coordinator Régine Carpentier, research and archival work – Sophie Carrée PR, press relations – Tom Burgerin , graphic design – Zélie Dierckx, web design

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Educational partnership: La Cambre, national higher school of visual arts

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