



Hommage à Tapta

Public installation of a monumental artwork

October 2026 > March 2027

Abbey of La Cambre – Main Courtyard

To mark its centenary, La Cambre is paying tribute to one of its most striking figures, Tapta. From autumn 2026 to spring 2027, an edition of *Néoflexible* (1985), a monumental sculpture from the collection of the Maurice Verbaet Art Center, will be installed in the school's Main Courtyard. Presented in the public space at the heart of the historic site of the Abbey of La Cambre, the work celebrates both the legacy of a major artist, the history of art education in Belgium, and the ability of sculpture to transform our relation to space.

Part of a partnership between La Cambre, the Maurice Verbaet Art Center and the City of Brussels, this exceptional installation marks both the school's centenary celebrations and the 30th anniversary of the Urban Art Committee of the City of Brussels, of which Tapta was the founder and first chair. At the same time, under the title *Tapta Meets Judd*, original works from the collections of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium and the Maurice Verbaet Art Center will be presented in several areas of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, at the heart of the Old Masters Museum, as part of the 'Collection Meets' series, from 6 October 2026 to 14 March 2027.

A key figure in Belgian art of the second half of the twentieth century, Tapta (Maria Wierusz Kowalski, 1926–1997) profoundly transformed the relationship between textiles, sculpture, architecture and the public space. A former student and later a teacher at La Cambre – where from 1976 she headed the Weaving and Tapestry workshop, which she renamed 'Flexible Sculpture' – she developed a pioneering body of work that continually pushed the boundaries between disciplines, materials and scales.

Created at a time when the artist was studying more radical and monumental forms, *Néoflexible*, a 7 m long sculpture, explores the balance and flexibility of industrial materials. Installed amid the Abbey's architecture, it cuts through the space and transforms it into a place of experience.

Beyond the installation, the project will be the occasion for a programme of events and mediation sessions dedicated to sculpture, art in the public space and Tapta's pedagogical legacy. These events will further one of La Cambre's founding ambitions: to make art a space for transmission, debate and experimentation open to all audiences.

By inviting Tapta's work to take centre stage at the school, La Cambre is celebrating an artist whose career embodies the very spirit of its teaching method: formal freedom, interdisciplinary dialogue, and the constant invention of new territories for the creative process.

Partnership

La Cambre — Maurice Verbaet Art Center — City of Brussels (In Situ BXL, Urban Art Committee)

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 Burgering, graphic design — Zélie Dierckx, web design.