

Press
Release
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La "S" Grand Atelier Novê Salm

27.09.2025
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For its autumn exhibition, the BPS22 welcomes the artists of **La "S" Grand Atelier, centre d'art brut & contemporain** [centre for outsider and contemporary art] located in Vielsalm, in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes. Thanks to its geographical location – outside the typical art circuits – and its need for a direct and continuous connection with its studios (drawing, painting, textiles, printmaking, graphic storytelling, ceramics, digital work, music, dance), La "S" swiftly began developing groundbreaking co-creation residency projects. In doing so, La "S" Grand Atelier has established itself over the past thirty years under the direction of Anne-Françoise Rouche as a pioneering example of sharing and interweaving; a place where talents can flourish freely, where the usual "disabled vs non-disabled" categories no longer apply, and where barriers between different art works are dismantled. In line with this decentring approach, BPS22 – whose collections already include works of so-called Art Brut, outsider, singular, or marginal art – reaffirms its commitment to both social and artistic histories, as well as to the aesthetic, sociological, and institutional upheavals that have shaped the culture of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The title of the exhibition *Novê Salm* is a play on words coined by Mr Pimpant, an artist from La "S". It references Ardennes folklores (the Witches' Sabbath of the Macralles, spell-casting witches) as well as the Walloon etymology of Vielsalm (Viel Salm meaning "old salmon"). *Novê Salm*,



or "New Salm", imagines an ideal village as envisioned by the artists of La "S" (who live with intellectual disabilities) and the guest artists in residence. Inventing a universe of creativity and collective life, the artists at La "S" reimagine the world, disregarding conventions and standards of performance or perfection. Taking as its starting point this symbolic concept of a new village where a collective spirit is at work, the exhibition offers a narrative journey through all of the BPS22 spaces.

On the edges of this Land of Salm, where forest legends and beliefs permeate the imagination of its founders, the artists reflect on the forest region surrounding the La "S" studios, a setting that often influences its works and collaborations. Plunged into semi-darkness, the museum's first room is thus designed as a natural, mystical environment, filled with obstacles that these artists take on and creatively transform. Following this come themes such as human fragility, resilience in the face of illness and disability, and the power of creative cooperation. There is also the highly pertinent question of the different forms of language (verbal, non-verbal, invented, adapted, etc.) that lie at the heart of these exchanges and artistic output.

Beneath the glass roof of the BPS22, the exhibition explores the core of the La "S" studios – spaces of sharing, where all the obsessions and desires that drive each individual come together: love, the body, vehicles, the individual house, the banquet, cinema, Johnny Hallyday, and more. All these themes are explored through such varied media as graphic works, three-dimensional pieces, installations, sound pieces, videos, 3D animation and digital creations, musical performances, and publications. Whether or not they have a mental disability, the artists experiment with every possible medium and address everything that fuels art and life!

Artists

Sarah Albert, Rita Arimont, Jean-Michel Bansart, Richard Bawin, Vincen Beeckman, Sara Bichão, Marie Bodson, Nicolas Chuard, Nicolas Clément, Robin Cools, Pascal Cornélis, Axel Cornil, Michiel De Jaeger, Sébastien Delahaye, Laura Delvaux, Éric Derochette, Simon Dureux, Elg, Gabriel Evrard, Anaïd Ferté, Emeric Florence, Jérémy Fransolet, Irène Gérard, Régis Guyaux, Alexandre Heck, Jean Leclercq, Gilles Lejeune, Pascal Leyder, Violaine Lochu, Léon Louis, Axel Luyckfasseel, Philippe Marien, Barbara Massart, Aurélie Mazaudier, Benoît Monjoie, Rémy Pierlot, Monsieur Pimpant, Émilie Raoul, Marcel Schmitz, Anaïs Schram, Dominique Théate, Laszlo Umbreit, Thierry Van Hasselt, Christian Vansteenput, Alexandre Vigneron and Nora Wagner.

Curators

Dorothee Duvivier, Noël Le Roux
and Anne-Françoise Rouche



La "S" Grand Atelier

Beginning as a creative workshop founded in 1992 in Vielsalm by Anne-Françoise Rouche, La "S" Grand Atelier has patiently built its cultural and social mission on the values of respect and recognition for artists with mental disabilities. La "S" also hosts contemporary artists in residence for co-creation projects with its "disabled" artists. Initially recognised as a *Centre d'Expression et de Créativité* [Centre of Expression and Creativity] (2001) for its amateur artistic activities, La "S" Grand Atelier subsequently broadened and intensified its practice with a view to full professional legitimacy. In 2019, it received official recognition as a *centre d'art brut & contemporain* [centre for outsider and contemporary art] by the *Direction des Arts Plastiques Contemporains du Ministère de la Culture de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles* [Contemporary Visual Arts department of the Ministry of Culture of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation].

Press visit

Friday 26.09.2025 - 11:00

Registration: CARACAScom

+ 32 2 560 21 22 or info@caracascom.com

Top

Jean Leclercq,

Untitled, mixed technique on paper, 2021

©Muriel Thies / La "S" Grand Atelier

Left

Michiel De Jaeger, Laura Delvaux and Anaïd Férté

Untitled, 2022

©Michiel De Jaeger / La "S" Grand Atelier

Cover

Violaine Lochu

MOIOT (screenshot), video, 2024

©Violaine Lochu and Makoto C. Friedman

/ La "S" Grand Atelier

Visuals

Available for download via [Google Drive BPS22](#)

Mandatory credit = File name

Contacts

Press: CARACAScom

+32 2 560 21 22 | +32 471 81 25 58 | info@caracascom.com

Press and communication: BPS22 - Romain VERBEKE

+32 71 27 29 88 | +32 470 80 59 41 | romain.verbeke@bps22.be

Upcoming programme

Chantal Maes / Bachelot & Caron

February > Avril 2026

Collections

June > August 2026

Anita Molinero

October > December 2026

BPS22

Musée d'art de la Province de Hainaut

Campus Charleroi Métropole

22 Boulevard Solvay, 6000 Charleroi - Belgium

+32 71 27 29 71

info@bps22.be

bps22.be

Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, 24, 25 and 31.12 and 01.01.

Closed during exhibitions's set up.

Prices

Adults: €6

Seniors: €4

Students and jobseekers: €3

Article 27 ticket: €1.25

Free for children under 12 and on the first Sunday of each month.



Thank you to the National Lottery players!
Thanks to them, the National Lottery is supporting the production of the Novè Salm exhibition.

With the support of the French Embassy in Belgium and the Institut français. As part of EXTRA, a program that supports French contemporary creation in Belgium.