

FEU FORET

MAJA-AJMIA YDE ZELLAMA / COLLECTIF KRASNYI
FATIMA-ZOHRA AIT EL MAÂTI / NIDHAL CHAMEKH
BAOBAB VAN DE TERANGA / CODE ROUGE

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MAXIMA

RUE DU MONTENEGRO 144

1190 FOREST



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FEU2FORÉT brings together a number of artists to reimagine 30 years of revolt in Brussels through different burning aesthetics.

Artists: Maja-Ajmia Yde Zellama, Collectif Krasnyi, Fatima-Zohra Ait El Maâti, Nidhal Chamekh, Baobab van de Teranga and Code Rouge.

30 years ago today, Belgium cloaked itself in a "Black" Sunday. After youth set fire to several suburbs of the capital, a repressed racist discourse recaptured the country. The anger lingering at the root of these revolts has never really been answered. The questions raised then, are still red hot today. Together with various Brussels artists, the exhibition 'FEU2FORÉT' reimagines 30 years of revolt through various burning aesthetics. 1991 is a key year in the history of Brussels. The revolts of Forest are not only followed by "Black" Sunday. In the same year, the first recorded soul falls victim to police brutality (#JUSTICEPOURTOUS) and the sound of Brussels hip-hop breaks through to the general public, with the album Bruxelles Rap Convention. By working around the forgotten smoldering fire of 1991, we hope to strengthen the sparks that flew off various Brussels neighborhoods, to confront the challenges we apparently still face today.

An exhibition cooked with love in the Kitchen by Naima M. and Joachim Ben Yakoub, in collaboration with Code Rouge and Artistory. With the support of Sint Lucas Antwerp, Maxima, Zinnema and Pianofabriek Citylab. Graphic design by @Yema.Visuals. Photo from Code Rouge.

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MES MOTS MOLOTOV

Code Rouge, 2021

5 photos + soundscape + video clip

Forest is the town where he was born, where he spent his childhood and adolescence, and it is with great pleasure that Code Rouge returned to the source, helped by the collective ArtiStory. Since a little more than a year, he is back and really present in the Saint-Antoine neighborhood for a new and deep collaboration with the collective formed around the young rapper Lewart. Through a series of photos, a sound montage and a video clip, Code Rouge launches his molotov words that explode into a sensitive meditation on the coincidence, perhaps not so fortuitous, of the Forest revolts and "Black" Sunday in the same year, precisely 30 years ago today.

Code Rouge is a rapper and filmmaker from Brussels. In 2008 he released his first album 'Pour la couleur de nos yeux', just after the murder of Joe Van Holsbeeck at the Central Station in Brussels. Since then video clips have followed linking Brussels to the world (in collaboration with Emel Mathlouthi (Tunisia), Maya Safar (Syria), Arona (Senegal) and Sonando En La Habana (Cuba)). He also developed a cinematographic praxis and directed several short films such as 'Le Jour qui vient', 'Mes mots' and 'Les cris restent'.

THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK

BABEL, Instructieve Omroep, 1991

Video installation, 2 screens

The Forest revolts were not as spontaneous as many people think. Nor were they built in one day. They were the result of an accumulation of injustices inflicted on the children of immigrant workers in Brussels since the 1960s. For FEU2FORÉT, we translated a 1991 reportage from Arabic and Moroccan Darija made by Mohamed Bouchataoui for Babel, a VRT series targeting North African newcomers. This historical reportage shows how one too violent identity check can be the drop that made the vase overflow. The report includes a testimony from Rachid Redouan, the first witness to the spark that ignited the fire.

Forest 9121

Krasnyi Collective, 2021

4 illustrated photographs

Re-appropriation of public space, speaking out until recently suffocated words, disillusionment in the face of massive police repression,... For this series, the collective Krasnyi strolled in the streets of Forest in search of lost stories of the 1991 revolts. Photographs of contemporary places are captured and interpreted by two illustrators. In this way they hope to disclose an important part of our history. The photographs were taken by Karim Bricki in today's Forest. The illustrations are by Manu Scordia and Thibaut Dramaix, who together propose a pictorial reconstruction of the revolts that marked the history of Brussels.

Krasnyi is a collective made up of people who are passionate about images. Sharing the same commitment to social movements, the founding members decided to unite, with militant and socially committed work as their main axis. The political, social, economic and environmental revolts that our society is going through convince them of the urgency to be on the ground and to document the different forms of present and past resistance. They propose to give a voice to social actors and those left behind, victims of a system that sometimes pushes them into misery, sometimes into revolt. The image that touches us and unites us, is the image as a weapon for social change.

RAPSPEL

Maja-Ajmia Yde Zellama, 2021

Performance + interactive installation

You may not have noticed, but Rap Game has recently become one of the most popular diversions in French hip hop. Between cult scenes, backstage secrets and out-of-control guests, Rap Game tests your rap culture. Now it's Maja-Ajmia Yde Zellama's turn to challenge us in Brussels. First a performance, second an interactive installation, this unique proposition will allow you to shine as the first champion of the Brussels Rapspele.

Maja-Ajmia Yde Zellama, also known as Tartelet-Harissa, is a filmmaker and one of the founding members of Bledarte, a feminist collective of women of color based in Brussels, which seeks to empower young people with an immigrant background through art and culture. Her work as a director and for Bledarte is linked to the themes of masculinity, identity, community and love. She made her debut with the short film 'Okht Elmarhoum'.

LE FILET II: Our Boys Cry Too

Fatima-Zohra Ait El Maâti, 2021

Video installation, 3 screens

"They are like fish, we are just throwing out the net". These words of a Brussels police chief form the catalyst for the audiovisual installation series 'Le Filet'. In this second video installation, 'Le Filet II: Our Boys Cry Too', Fatima-Zohra Ait El Maâti faces the stories of a dozen young people gathered in Anderlecht to demand justice for Adil. The experience projected through this immersive installation aims to make visible the historicity of still present police brutality, linking in time different revolted bodies through different municipalities in Brussels. This archival work facilitates a reflection on bodies, their representation and their relationship to masculinity.

Fatima-Zohra Ait El Maâti is the driving force behind the feminist collective Imazi.Reine. She raises awareness through social media and creates a safe space for women and non-binary people to come together. She made her film debut with the documentary 'My Grandmother is not a Feminist' which addresses the issue of representation of Muslim women in mainstream feminist discourse.

ROUGE RUE. LES PAVÉS DE LA TERRE

Baobab van de Teranga, 2021

Cartography + Video

Would revolt be a response to situations of confinement, enclavement and surveillance? Could it be understood as an overflowing strategy, bypassing devices of surveillance? Through a postcolonial perspective, Baobab van de Teranga weaves a red thread between urban development, gentrification and police violence in Brussels. By linking different hotspots in the city in a variety of visual, cartographic and sound languages, 'Les Pavés de la Terre' wants to pay tribute to every single person who has lost her life following police control since 1991.

Baobab van de Teranga is a poly form and polyphonic being, committed to transforming reality through cultural, technical and borderless cooperation. Baobab van de Teranga footprints are embedded in a trajectory crossing informal practices from the Global South. Baobab methods propose to open up and dig into reflections on metropolitan biases, self-organized initiatives and advocacy towards spatial justice.

DE QUOI RÊVENT LES MARTYRS 2, dessin n° 10

Nidhal Chamekh, 2013

Enlarged drawing on paper

"A look at the Tunisian uprising, is a look at a world that has lost its center and is artificially trying to order and unify its pieces." This is how Nidhal Chamekh presents his project 'De Quoi Rêvent les Martyrs?' inspired by a poem by philosopher Slah Daoudi. How would an image of a Tunisian revolt radiate among other images of revolt in Brussels? By printing one of the striking drawings of Nidhal Chamekh's oeuvre in large format, we are proposing to already unify two pieces of one world in relation that could together enlighten us on the edifice of a too often fragmented planetary revolt. Nidhal Chamekh works and lives between Paris and Tunis. His work is situated at the crossroads of the biographical and the political, the lived and the historical, the event and the archive. From drawings to installations, from photography to videos, Nidhal Chamekh's works dissect the constitution of our contemporary identity. His work has been exhibited at the Aïchi Triennial, the Venice Biennale, the Yinchuan Biennale, and the Dakar Biennale, among others, and have been shown in Tunis during the exhibitions of the Politiques collective.

IMPRO (A BRUSSELS SUMMER)

Ten Weyngaerde, Jos de Gruyter, 1998

Video

Who doesn't want to become a boxing champion, a filmmaker or a rapper? In 'Impro. A Brussels Summer', a short film made by a group of enthusiasts from Forest, nobody is left out. Thanks to the driving force of Big Faco, dreams come true one by one. Despite the critical situation in our chaotic world, different life stories, dreams and desires intersect. Supported by the 5 pillars of hip-hop and together with the artist Jos De Gruyter, the whole neighbourhood improvised a performance of what was ultimately just a regular Brussels summer day.

A film by Ten Weyngaerde, in collaboration with the Centre for Equal Chances and the Fight against Racism and Art 23 of the King Baudouin Foundation. Ten Weyngaert is one of 22 community centres in Brussels, an open house in Forest where meeting, development and creativity are central.

