

Beneath the Pavement, the Beach

An exhibition on the street as a space for imagination, connection and resistance

06.03–31.08.2026

We move through the street every day: on foot, by bike, by car. It's where we meet, pass each other, linger or disappear. Streets are shared spaces, open to everyone, yet shaped by rules, expectations, and power. They hold our daily routines, but also our frictions, pauses, and possibilities.

This exhibition takes its title from a slogan of the 1968 Paris uprisings: *Sous les pavés, la plage*. As students and workers lifted cobblestones to build barricades, they uncovered sand underneath. It became a rallying cry for freedom, imagination, and collective action. The ideas of the Situationists, who called for reclaiming the city through poetic, playful gestures, still resonate powerfully today.

The street remains a space of negotiation. Who belongs where? Who decides how public space is used, watched, cleaned, claimed? What happens when someone stops, speaks up, or moves differently? Streets can be tightly managed, but also wide open. They carry the noise of protest and the quiet of everyday life.

Under the Pavement, the Beach brings together artists who respond to the street with subtle gestures or bold interventions. They shift perspectives, challenge routines, and open up new ways of looking at the spaces we often take for granted. Their work invites us to pause, reconsider, and imagine what else the street might hold.

The exhibition unfolds across De Warande and stretches into the city. Works appear in and around the building, on façades, sidewalks, and unexpected corners, interrupting the familiar and asking: what lies beneath?

With works of

Lotte Van den Audenaeren, Stijn Ter Braak, Liesbeth Bussche, Toon De Clercq, Jef Cornelis, Ayrton Eble, Maarten Inghels, Aglaia Konrad, Abel Kleinblatt, Randa Maroufi, Veerle Michiels, Paulien Oltheten, Ria Pacquée, Jon Rafman, Marinella Senatore, Philémon Siesling, John Smith, Katrin Ströbel, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Ed Templeton, Johanna Vanovermeir, Juliette Van Waterloo, En Plein Public, Straatwaarde, Timecircus, Ziko D.