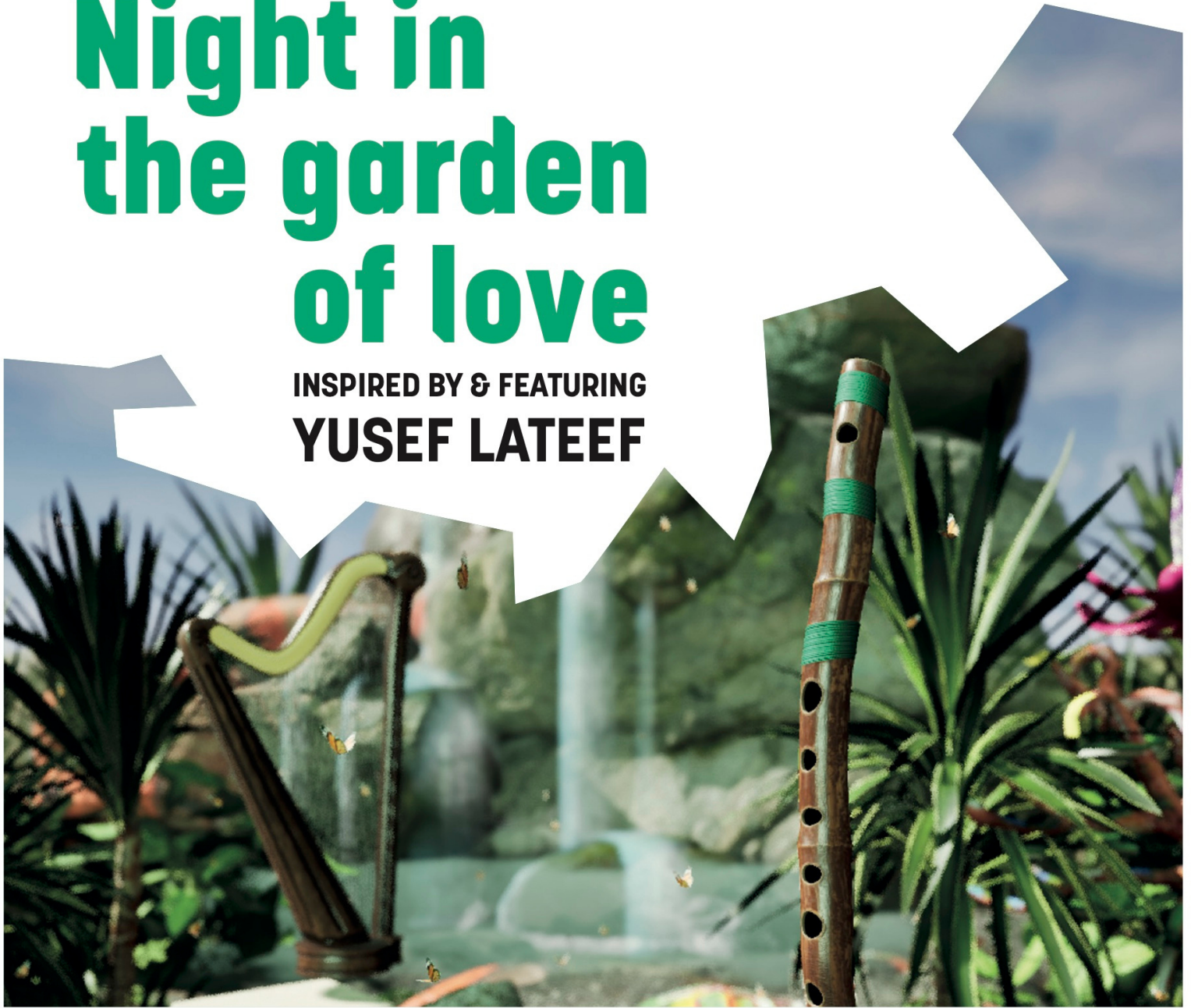


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Shezad Dawood Night in the garden of love

INSPIRED BY & FEATURING
YUSEF LATEEF



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Shezad Dawood, *Night in the Garden of Love*, 2023. VR environment, duration variable, produced by UBK Productions, co-commissioned by WIELS, Brussels and Aga Khan Museum, Toronto. Courtesy of UBK Productions.



WIELS
presents

Xyloflor

the scent crafted by Nicolas Bonneville to
accompany the exhibition of Shezad Dawood

Night in the garden of love

In Collaboration with
ICONOFLY
OFUMUM
FIRMENICH

WIELS

Avenue Van Volxemlaan 354
B-1190 Brussels
www.wiels.org

Press release

Shezad Dawood (b. 1974) is known for his exploration of non-Western traditions that inform and intersect with established canons. Yusef Lateef (1920-2013) was an African-American composer and musician who pioneered the integration of world instruments to expand the boundaries of jazz traditions. Over time, he developed a methodology he called Autophysiopsychic music. “It is about heightened consciousness and aims to activate the physical, mental and spiritual senses simultaneously,” states Dawood. Aware of Lateef’s music since his own youth, Dawood became fascinated with Lateef’s ideas after seeing his drawings, which function as abstract musical notation, and present organic, plant-like forms.

Titled *Night in the Garden of Love* after Lateef’s 1988 novella, the exhibition features music and a selection of drawings by Lateef together with five new, interconnected works by Dawood. Dawood sees this exhibition as a dialogue between his practice and Lateef’s, like the call-and-response exchanges in musical improvisation. Dawood considers Lateef’s novella to be a forerunner of much recent cli-fi: sci-fi exploring climate issues. “There are all sorts of portals within Lateef’s novella, which moves from a dystopian future Detroit, into radical ideas of ecology and recycling,” he states. Dawood is interested in technology for its transformative potential to help us imagine new forms of togetherness.

**"It is meant to be an almost metaphysical space,
but I read Lateef's garden as a virtual space."**

—Shezad Dawood

Both Dawood and Lateef delve into the garden as an ancient and cross-cultural symbol. Dawood investigates the garden’s potential as a site of creation and optimism in the face of the climate crisis. He aims to write a poetics of environmentalism: seeing how art can awaken a new spiritual epiphany that can lead to change.

Press release (suite)

Dawood presents - for the first time outside the US - original drawings by Lateef which function as the heart of the exhibition. These works depict constellations of plants and tree-like forms that hover between figuration and abstraction.

These are accompanied by a unique new **scent**, *Xyloflor*[®], created especially for the occasion by Dawood in collaboration with Olivia Bransbourg of boutique perfume label Iconofly, Paris-based perfumer Nicolas Bonneville and fragrance house Firmenich, **bringing to life** the various plant notes of the Garden's collectively imagined ecosystem. The perfume - with hints of jasmine and brugmansia - is housed in a specially designed ceramic vase developed in collaboration with Ofumum.

Performances

Dawood has created a choreography with Brussels-based dancer Wan-Lun Yu for the character from Lateef's novella, the Mutant, who appears in the VR and in real life at regular intervals throughout the exhibition. She will perform on several Sundays during the exhibition, offering a real-life counterpart to the digital, post-human mutant.

Dates

- 17 & 27 May
- 4, 18 & 25 June
- 9 & 16 July
- 12 & 13 August

Curated by: Zoë Gray & Helena Kritis

The Scent

Xyloflor

TOP: Bergamot, Basil, Pear, Black pepper, Jasmine Sambac Nature Print (NP)

MIDDLE: Jasmine Sambac absolute, Brugmansia NP, Passiflora NP, Queen of the Night NP, Foxgloves (digitalis) Artificial Intelligence AI, Edelweiss (Lion's Foot) AI, Wishbone (Torenia Fournieri) AI, Daisybushes (Ostéospermum) AI

BASE: Cedarwood, Patchouli, Musk



Xyloflor[®] is a dreamlike bouquet created with Shezad Dawood and inspired by Yusef Lateef's imaging of the Night in the Garden of Love, bringing to life the various plant notes of the Garden's collectively imagined ecosystem. Fusing wood (xylon) and flora, the fragrance is named after an invented, mutant word - *Xyloflor*.

Not all of the plants referenced by Dawood and Lateef have a discernible scent. Therefore, using the garden's potential as a site of creation, and conceived by Perfumer Nicolas Bonneville with the help of Artificial Intelligence and Headspace technology, this scent traverses the digital and natural world. Using Firmenich's AI database, Dawood described an embodiment and association to the plants, enacting a call and response, which translated into the corresponding scent.

Headspace technology was created in the 1970s to capture the scent of flowers that could not be converted into essential oils. Their aroma is collected using a glass bell cover and injected with gas, not requiring the flowers to be cut.

In the exhibition *Xyloflor* will be presented in a large ceramic vase using bamboo reeds for capillary diffusion, releasing the scent into the night garden, immersing you within Dawood and Lateef's metaphysical space.

A limited series of artist signed edition soliflor and scent will be available to purchase.

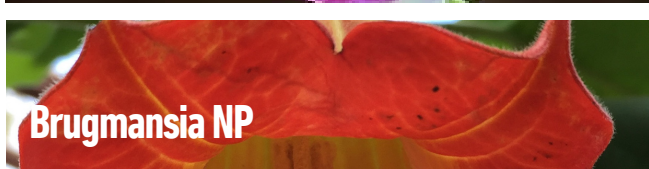
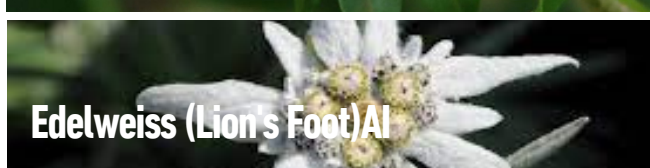
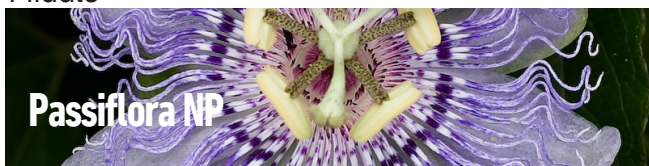
The Fragrance

Notes

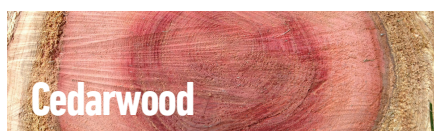
Top



Middle



Base



The Soliflore

Xyloflor

A limited series of artist signed edition soliflore and scent will be available to purchase, under the label Iconofly.

Its unique shape and colors have been designed by Shezad Dawood.

Each ceramic has been hand made by Ofumum.

This soliflore has many intents. To create your own bouquet or to revive the scent of the exhibition. To prolong the exhibition at home definitely.

As a fragrance diffuser, the soliflore is made to scent large spaces and operates based on a simple plant capillary action diffusion process. It is fragile yet meant to be durable and can be recharged with the scent provided.



(Soliflores in progress)

The Artist

Shezad Dawood



Shezad Dawood was born in 1974 in London, where he lives and works. He trained at Central St Martin's and the Royal College of Art before undertaking a PhD at Leeds Metropolitan University. Dawood is a Senior Research Fellow in Experimental Media at the University of Westminster.

Selected solo exhibitions include: Barakat Contemporary, Seoul (2023); Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai (2021); Kai Art Center, Tallinn (2020); New Art Exchange, Nottingham (2020); The Bluecoat, Liverpool (2019); MOCA, Toronto (2019); FriezeLIVE, London (2019); Kunstverein, Munich (2019); Rubin Museum of Art, New York (2018); Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice (2017); Pioneer Works, Brooklyn (2015); Parasol Unit, London (2014).

Selected group exhibitions include: Folkestone Triennial (2021); Guggenheim, New York (2021); Southbank Centre, London (2020-21); WIELS, Brussels (2020); Manifesta 13 (2020); Lahore Biennial (2020); Dhaka Art Summit (2020); Sharjah Biennial 14, (2019); Gwangju Biennale, (2018); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2016); MOMA, New York (2015); Taipei Biennial (2014); Marrakech Biennial (2014); MACBA Barcelona (2014); Busan Biennale (2010); Tate Triennial, London (2009); Venice Biennale (2009).

The Perfumer

Nicolas Bonneville



Nicolas Bonneville fell in love with fragrances when he was 13 during a trip to Grasse. From then on, he returned there regularly to learn everything about the world of perfumery, including extractions and distillations. He chose to train with a Grasse perfumer, Jacques Maurel, who recommended the Jean Carles method of perfumery to him. Passionate about natural raw materials, he still takes his holidays there to coincide with the harvest period of the plants and flowers used in perfumery.

And in much the same spirit he travels to India to follow the harvest of Jasmine Sambac, to Italy for Mandarin and Bergamot, to Florence for Iris, and to Tunisia to experience the harvesting of Orange Blossom. He loves being inspired by natural ingredients – and even grows them himself in Paris: Tuberose, Osmanthus, Rose Centifolia, Jasmin Grandiflorum, and Mimosa.

From his parents – culinary chefs – he has inherited a strong appreciation for artisanship and craftsmanship. An admirer of all creativity, he could have become a glass blower, a cabinetmaker, or an architect. At the center of each of these creative worlds is the importance of mastering the art of combining materials; for Nicholas, this is also the way he envisions fragrance construction.

The Fragrance House

Firmenich



Firmenich is the world's largest privately-owned fragrance and taste company.

About their Nature Prints & AI lab used by their perfumer Nicolas Bonneville to create *Xyloflor*:

Nature Prints is a proprietary Firmenich collection of fragrance materials developed through method of headspace capture. NaturePrint® utilizes SPME (solid phase micro-extraction), a syringe-like instrument possessing a porous material that absorbs the volatile components of nature's breath (headspace above the flower).

SPME allows for intimate analysis in the field while avoiding destruction of the plant and preserving nature.

Following the capture, the fiber is analyzed with GCMS (Gas Chromatography & Mass Spectrography) to allow reconstitution of the aroma profile through a combination of natural identical and synthetic raw materials.

Firmenich invested in AI back in 2018 when they opened the d-lab™@EPFL, a unique innovation hub where they internally develop their AI capabilities to anticipate the evolution of conscious perfumery. This is beneficial as they develop the most relevant AI models to support their perfumers create superior fragrances to delight consumers. Their leadership in AI has been recognized by experts in the field when the d-lab™ won the award of Digital Innovation of the year at the Digital Economy Award 2021 in Zurich Switzerland.

The Ceramists

OFUMUM



Manon Hudson and Alexandre Piffaut have founded a ceramic workshop in the Alpes de Haute Provence, bringing together different skills, capable of producing on a human scale, objects charged with an emotional experience.

From the design to the realization of their ceramics, through modeling, the materials involved are precious.

All ceramics and scented objects are produced in small series, numbered.

The Editor

ICONOFLY



Since the creation of her ICONOFLY magazine in 2006, French born NY based entrepreneur Olivia Bransbourg has carved out a unique platform for perfumers together with artists, writers & designers. A unique vessel for pluridisciplinary editions, ICONOFLY serves today as a boutique perfume label.

ICONOFLY's first fragrance ATTACHE MOI (Perfumers Christine Nagel & Benoist Lapouza) debuted in 2009 at Le Bon Marché in a bracelet-shaped flask designed by Serge Mansau. It was followed by 55 in 2013 (Perfumer Patricia Choux), Fragrance Foundation USA finalist in the Perfume Extraordinaire category and in 2015 by IT WAS A TIME THAT WAS A TIME (Perfumer Nicolas Bonneville) created for the eponym exhibition by Shezad Dawood at Pioneer Works, NY. In 2016 Olivia Bransbourg brought together Perfumer Shyamala Maisondieu and Artist Marie-Luce Nadal for ICI & LA who encapsulated clouds in the perfume bottles. In 2017, the NY Design Fashion Week featured all her creations in an olfactive capsule on Times Square and she had her first solo show at LMAK Gallery in New York. In 2020, her brand SOUS LE MANTEAU, based on ancient love potions, received the Newcomer Award of the Fragrance Foundation UK and Indie Brand of the Year Finalist in 2022.

This summer 2023, she will collaborate with AZ Factory (Richemont Group) and also launch PERSONNE, the scent of the Odyssey crafted by Perfumer Alexandre Helwani. PERSONNE is the continuity of the Jardins Promis project, initiated by Laurent Derobert at the request of the Ministry of Culture for their Mondes Nouveaux initiative. It offers a botanical reading of the Odyssey based on the plants mentioned by Homer. From this plural collaboration, mixing visual artists, musicians, botanists and intellectuals, an informal collective was formed. PERSONNE the perfume-saga, was born.

Xyloflor marks her second collaboration with Shezad Dawood and Nicolas Bonneville.

WIELS



As one of the leading institutions for contemporary art in Europe WIELS presents temporary exhibitions by national and international artists, both emerging and more established. WIELS is a site of creation and dialogue, in which art and architecture form the basis for a discussion about current events and issues, not only through the exhibition programme, but also through hosting complementary activities.

WIELS

Avenue Van Volxemlaan 354

B-1190 Brussels

www.wiels.org

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR PRESS

Press conference and visit

11:00 Wednesday 17 May 2023

Public opening

18:00 Wednesday 17 May 2023

Contact

Fran Bombeke
Fran@wiels.org
+32494907166

Rachel John
RachelJ@suttoncomms.com
+447808 039 664

Opening Hours

Tuesday > Sunday, 11:00-18:00
Every 1st Wednesday of the month
open until 21:00