

Press Release
21 January 2026

Miet Warlop: IT NEVER SSST

Belgian Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia



Miet Warlop
IT NEVER SSST
May 9–November 22, 2026

Belgian Pavilion at the Biennial
Giardini della Biennale
Venice,
Italy

www.labiennale.org
www.belgianpavilion.be

The Flemish Community of Belgium is pleased to announce IT NEVER SSST by artist Miet Warlop, curated by Caroline Dumalin, as the project selected to represent Belgium at the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

The Belgian Pavilion, located in the Giardini, is the oldest national pavilion at the Biennale and was the first to be built in 1907. Since 1972, the pavilion has been alternately organised by the French and Flemish Communities of Belgium, with the Flemish Community acting as the commissioner for the Biennale Arte 2026.

By selecting Miet Warlop, the Flemish Community seeks to honour the artist's 20-year long career, while also showcasing Belgium's strong

tradition of interdisciplinarity. This presentation marks the first time that performance art will take centre stage in the Belgian pavilion.

In Venice, Warlop will present **IT NEVER SSST**, a living and musical sculpture. Performers will activate the exhibition through physical and sculptural rituals. The title refers to the relentless rhythm and discipline of life. Warlop's work explores the urgency of human connection in an increasingly hardening world, transforming the Belgian Pavilion into a space of joy, tension, and shared emotional experience.

Following an open call issued by the Flemish Minister of Culture Caroline Gennez, the selection was made by an independent jury of arts experts convened by the Flemish Community. The jury consisted of Heidi Ballet, Bert De Leenheer, Zoë Gray, Laura Hanssens, Ivo Provoost, Stéphane Symons, Pieter Vermeir, and Bert Schreurs.

The jury report reads: "Miet Warlop is one of the most interesting artists working today. Her exciting work has earned her a meaningful place in the landscape of contemporary art. Her proposal brings together several storylines (the competitive drive in our frenzied society, language, rituals, the bending of rules, ...) in an exciting dramaturgy. The rock 'n' roll spirit of this high-octane performance captures the chaotic state of the world in a real and visceral way."

Miet Warlop says "To achieve this together with a team of people and to be recognised by a brave jury is indescribable for my path as an artist. The emotions this has elicited go beyond gratitude. It is a great honour to receive the recognition of Belgium in this context."

The exhibition-performance will travel to the then newly opened Kanal-Centre Pompidou, Brussels, in the Spring of 2027:

Kasia Redzisz, Artistic Director of Kanal-Centre Pompidou says: "I am immensely proud that Kanal is supporting Miet Warlop and the Belgian Pavilion for the Biennale Arte 2026. Her proposal embodies the experimental spirit and bold thinking that is essential to today's contemporary art. We cannot wait to see the impact of the work at the Biennale and look forward to hosting the project in Brussels in 2027."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

About Miet Warlop

Miet Warlop is a performance artist whose work involves an unruly blend of disciplines, from the visual arts to the world of theatre. Through animated sculptures, tableaux vivants, and performative actions, she creates plastic experimentations with a strong scenographic approach. Recent acclaimed productions include ONE SONG (Avignon Festival, 2022), which confronted themes of mourning and resilience through the rhythm and discipline of sport and Chant for Hope, a collective choreography channelling the power of language which premiered at the Dhaka Art Summit in 2023. In 2025, her new performance INHALE DELIRIUM EXHALE, a powerful wave of dance, premiered at the Kunstenfestivaldesarts.

About Caroline Dumalin

Caroline Dumalin is an art historian, curator, and the Artistic Director of MORPHO in Antwerp. Her work centres artists and supports artistic development and experimentation through collaborative studio projects and international residency exchanges. Previously, she worked as a curator at WIELS in Brussels, where she organised solo shows by Belgian artists Hana Miletić, Sophie Podolski and Vincent Meessen. For Europalia festival, she curated the public art trail Endless Express, presented along the stations and tracks of the cross-country railway line between Ostend and Eupen.

Commissioner: Flemish Community of Belgium

Artist: Miet Warlop

Curator: Caroline Dumalin

Performers: Oscar Claus, Rahmat Emonds, Melvin Slabbinck, Wietse Tanghe

Production: Polina Filimonova, Kwinten Lavigne, Rossana Miele, Luna Riche

Venue and dates:

61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Belgian Pavilion, Giardini della Biennale

Sestiere Castello, 30122 Venice

May 9–November 22, 2026

Institutional partners: MORPHO, Kanal-Centre Pompidou, Miet Warlop/Irene Wool, KASK & ARBA-ESA (Young Curators Programme)

The exhibition travels to Kanal-Centre Pompidou, Brussels, in March–April 2027

Press enquiries

For the national press: Sarah-Claire Vermeulen at Serenai
sarah-claire@serenai.eu | T +32 474 853 637

For the international press: Alicia Lethbridge at Sam Talbot
alicia@sam-talbot.com | T +44 7837 534999

For Kanal-Centre Pompidou: David Salomonowicz
dsalomonowicz@kanal.brussels | T +32 476 307 554

Image Credits (L-R)

1. Miet Warlop, studio detail, 2025. Courtesy of the artist.
2. Miet Warlop © Alexander D'Hiet