

Z33 House for Contemporary Art

Bonnefantenstraat 1

Hasselt

Belgium

Before Our Eyes

March 29–August 23, 2026

Looking is never neutral. To look – or to look away – is to take a position.

Before Our Eyes was conceived at a moment when we are confronted daily with reports of genocidal violence in Gaza and with the complicity of Western governments in the erosion of international law. Fundamental human rights are being openly violated with impunity.

How do artists respond to this moment? It may seem futile to dedicate an exhibition to such a question. After all, art cannot stop violence or directly alter political reality. But it can do something else: it can slow the gaze, sharpen attention, and confront viewers with their own position. At the same time, the relentless flow of shocking images raises urgent ethical questions. What are the implications of depicting real violence and suffering? Should art prompt the viewer to reflect, or to take action?

The works in *Before Our Eyes* rarely depict violence directly. The artists make deliberate choices about what to show and what to withhold. Their works turn the gaze back onto the viewer: does being a spectator to violence make us complicit? And how do we respond to what is unfolding before us?

With works and new commissions by Marianne Berenhaut, Ryan Cullen, Marlene Dumas, Hamishi Farah, Sirah Foighel Brutmann & Eitan Efrat, Rabih Mroué, Rosalind Nashashibi, Mohammed Sami, Luc Tuymans, Angharad Williams

Curator: Tim Roerig