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Eurotopie will address the issues and challenges tackled by the European Union | Belgian Pavilion - La Biennale di Venezia

EDITOR: **TINA MARINAKI**

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and Roxane Le Grelle extend an invitation to pursue the construction of Europe as a political ideal. They offer a glimpse of what Europe may be and how space-makers may learn from the supranational city.

Eurotopie, the selected project for the Belgian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale of 2018, will address the issues and challenges tackled by the European Union. Despite being the E.U's principal territorial, physical and symbolic anchorage, the European Quarter in Brussels seems in no way to contribute to a collective European identity. The relationship of the European Quarter with its host city, however, is ambiguous.

According to the curators Traumnovelle and Roxane Le Grelle, Europe is the only great narrative which can effectively counter nationalism and extremism. With Eurotopie, they hope to arouse political commitment in European citizens and extend an invitation to pursue the construction of Europe as a political ideal as well as its anchorage in Brussels. They also address architects and space-makers in considering how the European democratic space can be constructed, and how it can cohabit with Brussels.



CLAIRE TROTIGNON, VOYAGE EN EUROTOPIE, 2018 © EUROTOPIE

The Venice Architecture Biennale

One of architecture's major worldwide events, the Venice Architecture Biennale takes place every second year from May to November, alternating with the Art Biennale. Exhibits take place both in the Arsenale and in the national pavilions of the Giardini. For the 2018 edition, curators Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects have called for national curators to consider their contributions as Freespace. They define Freespace as spaces which testify to the generosity and humanity which are at the roots of architectural practice.



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PHILIPPE BRAQUENIER, VOYAGE EN EUROTOPIE, 2018 © EUROTOPIE

The Belgian Pavilion



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It boasts high ceilings and beautiful natural light as well as a prime location along the major axis of the Giardini. At each edition of the Architecture Biennale, creatives from Flanders and Wallonia are alternately selected to curate the Pavilion. For this edition, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (FWB) and Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) launched an open call and selected Eurotopie to represent Belgium



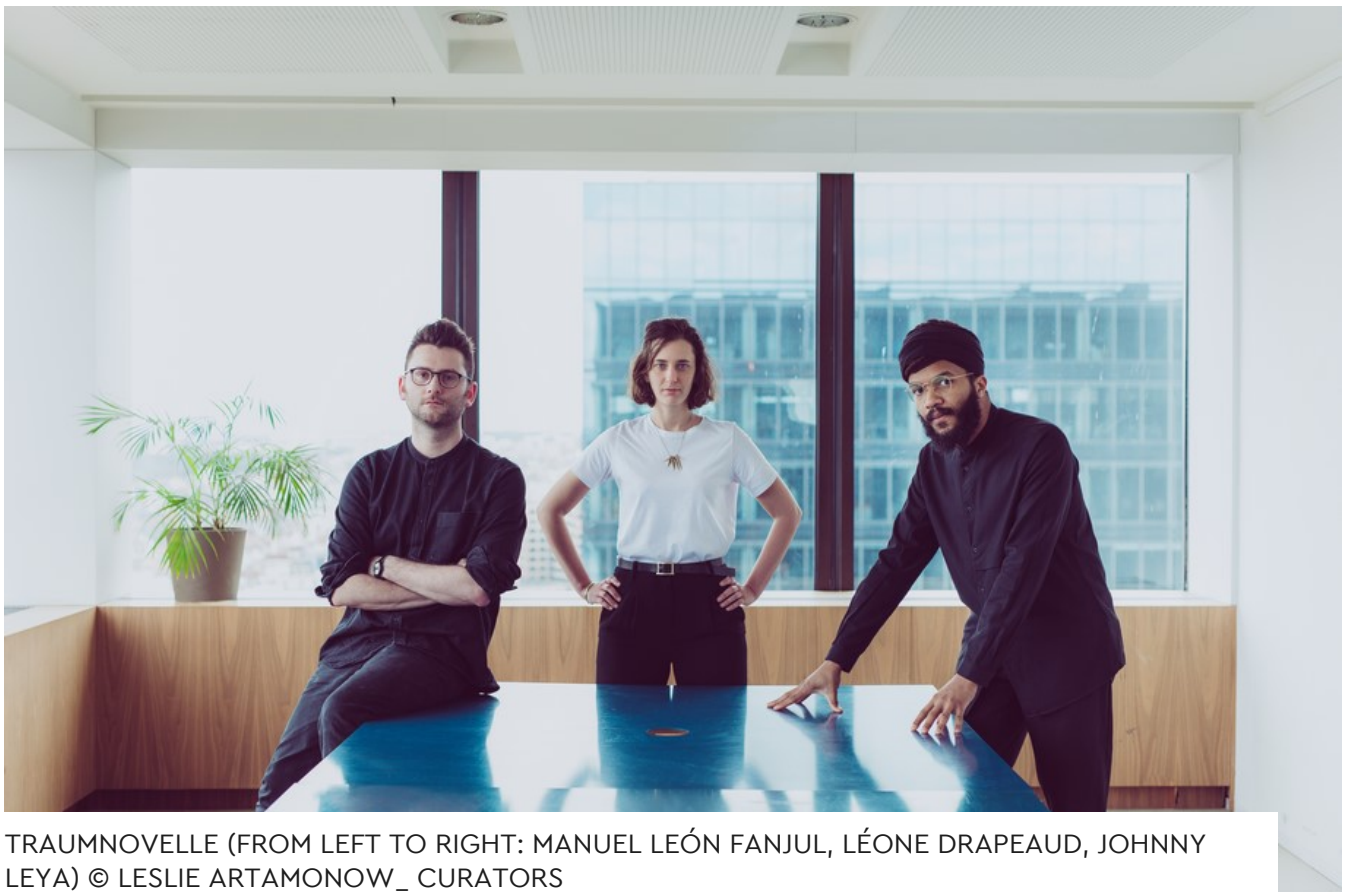
TRAUMNOVELLE & ROXANE LE GRELLE, PAVILION OF EUROTOPIE, 2018 © EUROTOPIE

A Young and Multifaceted Team

Traumnovelle, a young architecture research office, initiated the project. Traumnovelle, which defines itself as a militant faction, uses architecture and fiction as analytical, critical and subversive tools to emphasize contemporary issues and dissect their resolutions. Its three members, Léone Drapeaud (born in 1987, graduated in 2015),



u Architecture ULB La Cambre-Floria in Brussels. They are working with Sébastien Lacomblez, artist and designer, as artistic director. They have gathered a multidisciplinary creative team including photographer Philippe Braquenier, philosopher Bruce Bégout, artist Claire Trotignon and graphist 6'56" (Jurgen Maelfeyt). The curators hereby underline their desire to foster interdependent approaches and methods and to open fields of exploration at the crossroads between disciplines.



TRAUMNOVELLE (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MANUEL LEÓN FANJUL, LÉONE DRAPEAUD, JOHNNY LEYA) © LESLIE ARTAMONOW_ CURATORS



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ROXANE LE GRELLE_CURATOR



for Europe and for Brussels. Although the European Quarter can be considered as the spatial expression of the European political system, it is, for reasons such as history, morphology, finance and security, impervious to citizen empowerment. By accepting the role of hostess of the common venture called Europe, Brussels has de facto accepted the responsibility for its spatial anchorage. Eurotopie therefore offers to create the European Quarter's lacking civic space within the Belgian Pavilion itself, and thus to entice visitors to ponder, discuss, debate and, ultimately, to commit to constructing Europe.

Commissionner Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (initiative de la Cellule architecture), en collaboration avec Wallonie-Bruxelles International

Curators Traumnovelle & Roxane Le Grelle

With Bruce Bégout, Philippe Braquenier, Sébastien Lacomblez, Dennis Pohl, Claire Trotignon and 6'56" (Jurgen Maelfeyt)

read more about La Biennale di Venezia 2018 [here!](#)

SOURCE: texts and images via **TRAUMNOVELLE**



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