

Miet Warlop represents Belgium at the 2026 Venice Biennale



Together with curator Caroline Dumalin, the Brussels-based artist Miet Warlop was in the running to represent Belgium at the Venice Biennale in 2026. The Flemish Minister of Culture Caroline Gennez (Vooruit) followed the jury's advice and confirmed the selection of **IT NEVER SSST** out of 21 proposals. MORPHO and KANAL-Centre Pompidou are institutional partners of the project.

"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. I need to open a window, my house is full of excitement." - Miet Warlop

Since 2010 and her first show *Springville*, Miet Warlop has taken the world of theatre by storm. In 2022, she made a splash at the Avignon Festival with *One Song*. In this quick-fire contemporary performance about mourning and how we deal with it, she used sport as a mantra.

IT NEVER SSST will make visitors in Venice break out in dance

Following the success of *One Song*, Miet Warlop created the performance *Chant for Hope*, which premiered at the Dhaka Art Summit in 2023. In this participatory project, a group of performers cast a series of words by filling moulds on the floor with plaster. Galvanised by musician Micha Volders' electronic soundscape, the audience sang, danced and moved around the performers, investing the sculptures with new and evolving meanings.

For the Venice Biennale, Warlop takes this concept one step further with **IT NEVER SSST**, a living and musical sculpture that will be performed daily. For the music, the artist calls on DEEWEE, the label of the Dewaele brothers (Soulwax, 2manydjs). The resulting work will create an exciting interplay between the performers and the international audience of the Biennale, coming together around a central field of tension: the search for human connection in an ever-shifting world.



The title refers to the relentless rhythm of everyday life, which is confronted head-on by three spirited cheerleaders. In the transformed architecture of a traditional supporters' room, they activate themselves every day in different waves of intensity. Using animated matter and ritual techniques the cheerleaders make words palpable, doing their absurd best to evade standstill and project a zest for life into an increasingly lonely society.

From the report of the jury of eight experts:

"She is one of the most interesting artists working today. Her exciting work has earned her a meaningful place in the landscape of contemporary art. The proposal brings together many 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."

IT NEVER SSST is a project by artist Miet Warlop and curator Caroline Dumalin. It was realised with the support of KANAL-Centre Pompidou, where it will be restaged in 2027.

Artistic director Kasia Redzisz is over the moon with the news:

"I am immensely proud that KANAL is supporting Miet Warlop and the Belgian Pavilion for the 2026 Venice Biennale. Her proposal embodies the experimental spirit and bold thinking that are essential to today's contemporary art. Our long-standing collaboration reflects KANAL's commitment to interdisciplinarity and to supporting artists at watershed moments in their careers. I am grateful to the artist, the curator and the jury for their confidence in KANAL. We cannot wait to see the impact of the work at the Biennale and look forward to hosting the project in Brussels in 2027."

For more information or to request an interview with Miet Warlop or Caroline Dumalin, please contact Saskia Liénard via T +32 496 55 19 92.

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