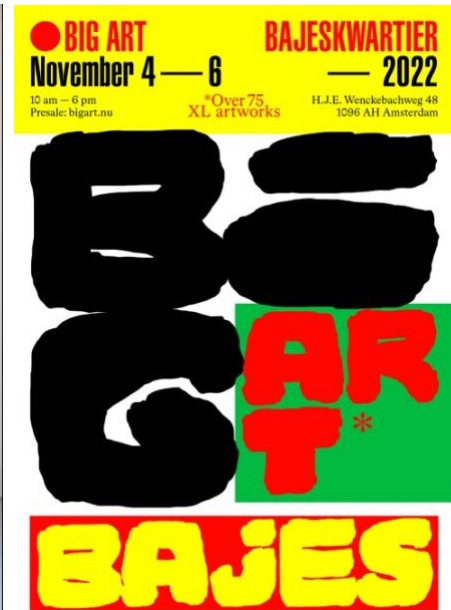


Friday 4th - Sunday 6th November 2022

Famous prison opens doors for BIG ART

XL art fair returns to Amsterdam's Bajeskwartier

The former Bijlmerbajes will reopen to the public on the first weekend of November for the BIG ART fair. The Main Building or 'Hoofdgebouw' of the old prison complex will form the backdrop for large sculptures, drawings, light artworks, paintings, photography and art installations. In the coming years, the Bajeskwartier area will be the greenest district of the city, with the 'Hoofdgebouw' as its beating creative heart. OMA architects have redesigned the 5,000m² building which will provide space for creative makers and cultural initiatives in the future.



Left: art installation by Angelica Falkeling. Right: campaign design by Dirk Laucke

A Clean Slate

The building is completely empty so artists have free rein. They are allowed to paint, draw and build inside the old prison building. It is precisely this freedom that makes BIG ART different from other art fairs, here artists are given the space to experiment and create new work on the spot. Clifton Mahangoe will show an interactive installation and Adele Renault will take the walls of the building as the starting point for a large mural. Sjaak Kooij, Raafat Ballan and Peter de Boer will create a huge collaborative artwork on location. Bianca Runge and Frédérique Spigt are also preparing new work. Lucas Sloom will literally light up the darkest spaces with an installation of twisted wooden lamp posts. In the old offices, Jessica van Deursen will present an immersive installation, and a new video work by Tara Fallaux will be shown. Although the building has been completely gutted, you can still find traces of the former prison in various places.



Left: colorful wall work by Jannemarein Renault via Galerie Bart. Right: installation art by Clifton Mahangoe

Freedom of Movement

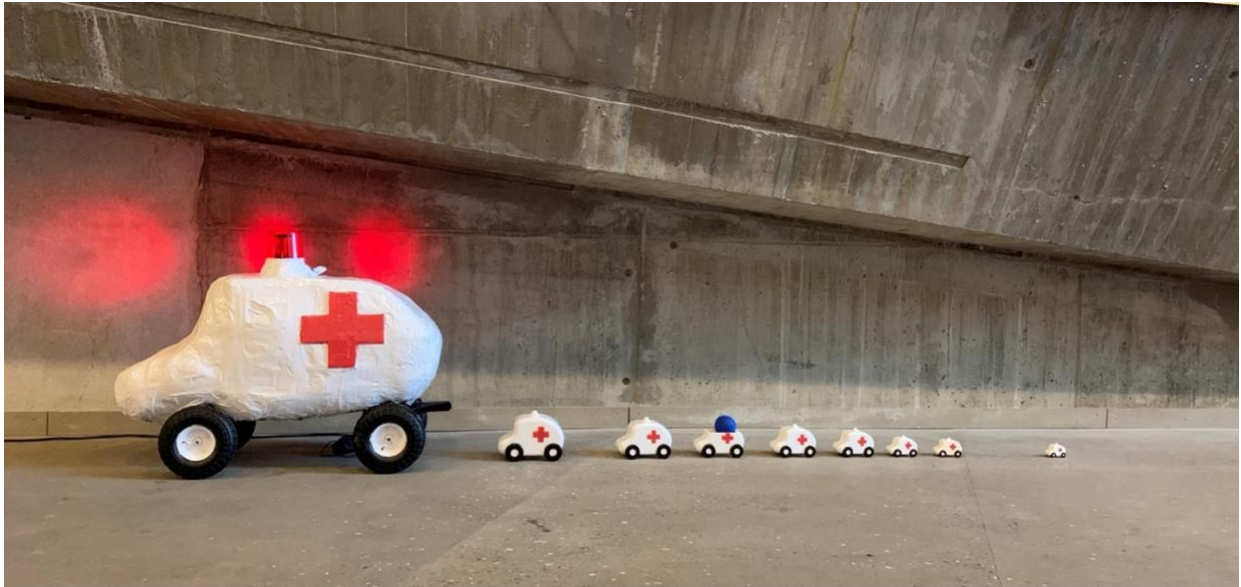
The Main Building used to function as the 'engine room' of the prison. The central kitchen was located here and it is the place where the detainees arrived. Now visitors are welcomed by artists. Director and curator Anne van der Zwaag explains: "The location really appeals to the imagination. Many participating artists are touched by the history and atmosphere of this extraordinary place." Dropstuff will present a contemporary version of the old pipe organ at the front of the building. The work which features a pumping mechanism is a reference to water waste. Roosje Verschoor showcases a unique shop for fries on the square in front of the building. Her art installation is on the one hand inspired by the historical 1917 Potato Riots, but at the same time refers to what's been called the contemporary Dutch 'pataf' generation. In addition to homemade fries, you can also buy a series of precious bronze potatoes. Opposite BIG ART, Brouwerij De Eeuwige Jeugd will move in this autumn to open a brewpub here with the appropriate name 'Levenslang', meaning 'lifetime'.



Left: large mural by Adele Renault via Vroom&Varossieau. Right: ceramic sculpture by Myrte van der Molen

Creative Cluster

The former Bijlmerbajes is familiar territory for BIG ART. The art platform also settled there in 2018, when the detention center was still completely intact. Only the Main Building remained closed to the public back then. This part of the old prison is now being opened up especially for BIG ART. In the future, the Main Building, together with the former prayer house and one of the prison towers, will form the core of the Bajeskwartier. A completely energy-neutral neighborhood will be created in the coming years, designed by eleven Dutch architectural firms. 1,350 homes will be built here alongside space for creative entrepreneurs, restaurants, a hotel, a high school and student housing. During the transformation, 98% of the materials from the former Bijlmer prison will be reused to a high standard. Cell doors will function as bridge railings for example and bars will be given a new life as pergolas in the dozens of public gardens that the area will soon have. Bajeskwartier is a development of AM, AT Capital and Schrodgers Capital Real Estate.



Meters-long art installation by Danish artist Soren Nellemann

BIG ART Bajeskwartier

Bajeskwartier | H.J.E. Wenckebachweg 48 | Amsterdam

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th November 2022 | Open 10:00 - 18:00

Tickets are available online and at the door and cost € 12.50, children under 12 are free

www.bigart.nu

Bajeskwartier is located near the ring and 15 minutes by bike from the center of Amsterdam. The location is also easy to reach by public transport; Bajeskwartier is located right next to Spaklerweg metro station.

PERS PREVIEW

Thursday 3rd November at 3pm

RSVP: press@bigart.nu



Left: new work by Aletta Bos. Right: reuse of old materials in the future gardens of the Bajeskwartier

Not for publication

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