

UNE CRÉATION *LILLE GRAND PALAIS*



**lille
art
up!**

Contemporary Art Fair

12 > 15 MARCH
2026

**LILLE GRAND PALAIS
LILLE - FRANCE**

PORTRAIT

Lille Art Up! A vibrant hub of contemporary creativity

Since its creation in 2008, Lille Art Up! has established itself as the **leading contemporary art fair in the region—a vibrant, open event** that brings together each year a wide range of French and European galleries, along with an enthusiastic audience of more than 30,000 visitors.

Located in the heart of the Lille metropolis, within the prestigious setting of Lille Grand Palais, the fair has grown thanks to the unwavering support of regional cultural, museum, and associative institutions, as well as its committed partners. **Its reputation has been built through this fruitful dialogue between the local territory and an international outlook.**

The uniqueness of Lille Art Up! lies in the balance between care and high standards: care for galleries and visitors, through open and welcoming spaces that foster encounters; and high standards in the selection of projects, the highlighting of artworks, and the design of a truly aesthetic experience—all supported by ambitious communication.

In 2022, under the direction of its new Artistic Director, **Marie-Françoise Bouttemy**, the fair embarked on a decisive shift: to craft, at each edition, a coherent and diverse program capable of reflecting the richness of contemporary artistic practices. Some galleries present familiar landmarks, with established artists and accessible works; others favor boldness, experimentation, and the unexpected. **Together, they shape a plural artistic landscape**, where everyone can find a personal echo and intimate resonance.

The 2026 edition marks a pivotal moment. Under the banner ***New Horizons***, **Lille Art Up! places emerging creation, research, and experimentation at its very core.** With a focused selection of 90 French and international galleries, enriched by a new section dedicated to audacity and by reimagined exhibitions, the fair asserts itself as a **true living laboratory of contemporary creation.**

Anne-Cécile HERVÉ,

Lille Art Up! Director
LILLE GRAND PALAIS

ART SELECTION COMMITTEE



Anne-Cécile HERVÉ
Lille Art Up! Fair Director



Marie-Françoise BOUTTEMY
Artistic Director



Annuschka LEUNG
Curator Interface Exhibition



Emmanuel PROVOST
Collector, Curator of
Revelation by Collectors &
Curatorial Boldness Section



Maxime DUFOUR
Photographer, collector



**Alexis
KOUZMINE-KARAVAÏEFF**
Director, Artemisia



Eddy NEBEL
Collector

2026 THEME NEW HORIZONS

More than ever, Lille Art Up! reaffirms its ambition: to offer a space for discovery, dialogue, and commitment to emerging creation. With ***New Horizons*** as its guiding theme, the fair opens up a field of reflection resolutely focused on artistic exploration, alternative aesthetics, and hybrid practices.

Driven by the new section — *Curatorial Boldness*— and reimagined exhibitions, this theme is also an invitation extended to galleries. Established galleries are called upon to reaffirm their role as cultural mediators by showcasing emerging talents; younger galleries to champion their bold vision of art; and cultural institutions to propose unexpected curatorial projects.

By embracing these new horizons, the fair turns a discerning eye toward artists who break down boundaries between disciplines, repurpose materials, and invent new forms of narrative to powerfully address contemporary issues.

Their creative energy breathes fresh momentum into the fair, reflected in the diversity of works on display—from accessible pieces for those beginning a collection to creations already sought after on the art market. This wealth allows everyone, from seasoned collectors in search of new discoveries to buyers drawn to emerging practices, to find a personal and distinctive entry point into the contemporary art scene

Marie-Françoise BOUTTEMY,

Artistic Director

A NEW CURATED SECTION

Contemporary art is not limited to recognition or familiar aesthetics. It is also what unsettles, questions, and sometimes disturbs. It is what searches, attempts, and doubts.

The 2026 edition embodies a commitment to giving greater visibility to this facet of creation—to that spirit of research which forms the very heartbeat of contemporary art. It is in this spirit that **a new sector, *Curatorial Boldness***, has been introduced, bringing together emerging and independent galleries engaged in a demanding and often experimental approach.

These galleries share a common stance: they do not seek to smooth over, seduce, or reassure. They are not guided by decorative or immediate commercial logic. Instead, they support artists at the beginning of their journey, often at the crossroads of disciplines—sculpture, video, installation, performance, textile, photography, publishing, sound...

What they present is not always understood at first glance. It must be read, listened to, experienced. These are works that take their time, and that invite the viewer to take a step aside.

EMER

This approach does not stand in opposition to that of the other exhibitors: it complements it. The goal is not to create two fairs in one, but to **bring together multiple modes of artistic presence**. To demonstrate that Lille Art Up! can embrace both immediately legible works and practices that are more conceptual, more fragile, more daring. It is an opening, not a rupture.

To ensure that this invitation remains coherent with the reality of these galleries and faithful to their artistic rigor, we have designed a format tailored to their model. The space provided allows them to present ambitious projects without compromising their curatorial choices. Conceived as an autonomous yet open ensemble, this sector will benefit from a dedicated scenography that offers a pause within the fair, while maintaining a full dialogue with the overall journey.

What we present are works that bear witness to a vision of the world, to a relationship with forms and ideas, to an anchoring in the present. Works **that address contemporary issues**—identity, ecology, memory, language, the body—without reducing them to slogans. Works in which the gesture and the process matter just as much as the final result.

This sector is conceived as a visible laboratory, a fertile zone of friction between artistic creation and the public. It speaks to curious collectors, to enthusiasts eager to engage with new languages, but also to visitors who, without necessarily buying, come in search of an experience, an encounter, a raw emotion. It opens the fair to other perspectives, other narratives, other practices.

Welcoming these galleries into Lille Art Up! is to affirm that contemporary art is manifold. It is to reject the notion that a single definition of art would suffice. It is to acknowledge the necessity of making room for what is still in the process of becoming—for what has not yet been sanctioned by institutions or markets, but deserves to be seen, heard, and supported.

This sector is not a passing trend. It is a breath of air, a stance. It declares that artistic creation cannot be confined to comfort or conformity. And that a fair like Lille Art Up! can—and must—be **a place where contemporary art, in all its diversity, continues to surprise, to move, and to provoke thought.**

Emmanuel PROVOST

Member of the art selection Committee
& Curator of the section « Curatorial Boldness »

GENCE...

INTERFACE

Interface is not just an exhibition but a **living platform**. Dedicated to **revealing the emerging international art scene**, it invites audiences to experience art differently—not only as an object of acquisition, but as a tool for reflection, learning, and openness. With its future-oriented vision, Interface reaffirms the importance of a curatorial space at the heart of a fair, where art stands as a critical, free, and innovative force.

Each year, **4 to 6 emerging artists** from diverse horizons and cultures are brought together, **presenting multidisciplinary practices that explore experimentation and research**. Their works—ranging from installations and performances to paintings, videos, and new media—disrupt conventions and invite viewers to cross into the unknown.

Interface thus upholds a vision of art as a field of exploration, deeply connected to contemporary debates and the diversity of creative expression.

Annushka LEUNG

Member of the art selection Committee
& Curator of « Interface »

REVELATION BY COLLECTORS

Lille Art Up! shines a light on a vital link in the chain of artistic emergence: **Collectors**. Those who, ahead of the market, detect, support, and accompany artists.

To celebrate this commitment, an unprecedented initiative will bring together **duos formed between a collector and an emerging artist, sometimes still in art school**. Each pair will present one or several works by the artist, revealing the bonds of trust, risk, and complicity that unite their journeys. Short videos will give voice to both perspectives: the one who believes, and the one who creates.

This project affirms that to **support an artist is also to help write the future of contemporary art**.

Emmanuel PROVOST

Member of the art selection Committee
& Curator of « Revelation by Collectors »



PARTNERSHIPS

Cultural Dialogues

Anchored in a region with a long-standing cultural ambition, Lille Art Up! thrives in dialogue with the area's major institutions—from the Palais des Beaux-Arts to lille3000.

Each year, the fair extends this dynamic by inviting museums, art schools, and cultural actors from the Euro-Region to broaden and enrich its vision.

They have accompanied the fair's journey :

Le Fresnoy, Lille3000, MUBA Eugène Leroy, FRAC, La Piscine Roubaix, Mus'Verre, Musée du dessin et de l'Estampe, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille, LAM, La SECU, Maison de la Photographie, La Manufacture de Roubaix, Fondation Paul Duhem, Fondation Villa Datriis, Institut Saint-Luc, LaBanque, Institut pour la Photographie, ...

Corporate Partnerships

From its very beginnings, **Lille Art Up! has succeeded in bringing together the region's economic forces.** By multiplying partnership formats, the fair offers companies the opportunity to involve their clients in a singular artistic journey.

Their commitment—grounded in shared values of innovation, creativity, and responsibility—has never faltered: for 18 editions, it has enabled nearly 4,000 high-profile guests each year to discover the vitality and diversity of the contemporary art scene

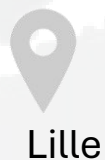
They continue to lend their support to Lille Art Up! :

Vinci, SG Crédit du Nord, Barnes, Lecocq, Sacerd'Art, Crédit Agricole, Banque Populaire, Caisse d'Épargne, EY, Sogea, KPMG, Banque Joire Pajot Martin, Aston Martin, Veuve Clicquot, Novotel...

ORGANISATION

In the heart of Lille, at the epicenter of an exceptional **catchment area of 2.2 million inhabitants from the metropolis and neighboring Belgian territories**, Lille Grand Palais stands as an emblematic venue. Designed in 1994 by architect **Rem Koolhaas**, this three-in-one building combines a Convention Center, Exhibition Hall, and Zenith Arena, bringing together accessibility, centrality, and versatility.

Each year, Lille Art Up! takes over this venue to unfold its galleries, exhibitions, and meeting spaces. Backed by recognized expertise, the Lille Grand Palais teams orchestrate logistics, scenography, communication, and hospitality to offer galleries, partners, and visitors a truly unique experience.



You would like to exhibit at Lille Art Up! 2026, please **contact** :



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A Lille Grand Palais Event