

REIE FESTIVAL

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SECOND REIEFESTIVAL FLOWS THROUGH BRUGES FROM 4 TO 6 SEPTEMBER

The Reiefestival returns for its second edition from 4 to 6 September. This triennial open-air festival once again puts Bruges on the map as a cultural city, building bridges between (im)material heritage and contemporary performing arts. The theme “Flow” runs like a common thread throughout the festival, featuring around ten performances, including five premieres, as well as a fringe programme for a broad audience. Iconic and newly opened locations on and around the canals will become a vibrant and unprecedented setting for both residents of Bruges and visitors.





Heritage in Bruges is more than just a backdrop; it is a living history that enters into dialogue with themes and art forms shaping the present and the future. Through an open call, the festival invited both established and emerging talent to engage creatively and innovatively with heritage sources in line with this edition's theme, "Flow." The theme refers to the water and energy flowing through our bodies, lives, and city, but also to everything moving through Bruges' historic centre: residents, visitors, students, and new Bruges inhabitants. In this constantly evolving environment, stories and streams of thought from past and present resonate.

Dirk De fauw, mayor and chairman Brugge Plus vzw:

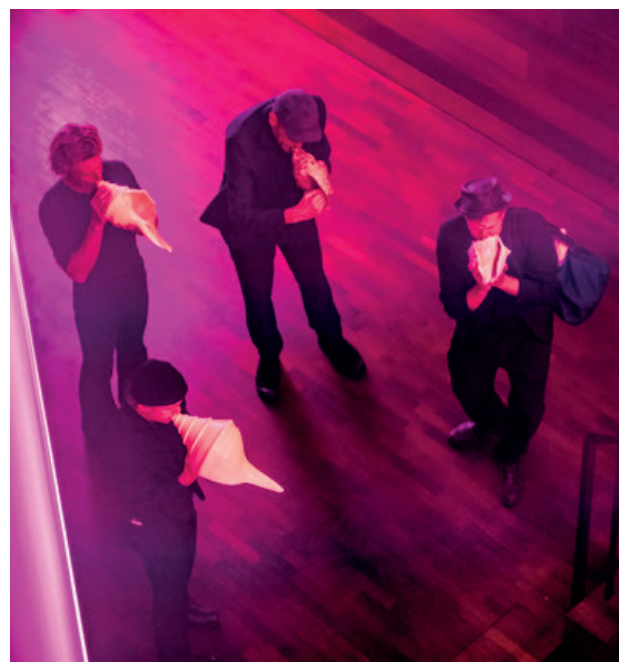
"With the second edition of the Reiefestival, we once again demonstrate how Bruges brings its rich heritage to life in a contemporary and surprising way. The theme 'Flow' reflects not only our historical connection to water, but also the dynamism of a city in motion, where residents, artists, and visitors inspire one another. This festival connects past, present, and future and reaffirms Bruges as a vibrant cultural city."

Nico Blontrock, Alderman for Culture:

"From 108 submissions, five commissioned works were selected that respond precisely to this interaction between past, present, and future. The Reiefestival thus rolls out a stage on and around the water for artists and collectives. The various artistic interventions in the open air invite residents and visitors to experience their surroundings with a renewed perspective."

Iconic locations as well as several hidden gems will open their doors for the festival. These new creations are further complemented by a number of fresh performances and a fringe programme.

Looking ahead to September, the organisation already offers a preview: **Drift**, a commissioned creation of the Reiefestival in collaboration with Concertgebouw Brugge, is a serene acoustic concert on and around Bruges' Minnewater. The musicians of **Spiral Consort** and **Tromp vzw** play seashells — ancient, natural wind instruments with a rich, breathing sound — from slowly moving boats. Together with the Bruges choir Cantores and the sounds of the city, a poetic soundscape emerges that invites the audience to slow down, pay attention, and listen deeply.





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- The second edition of the Reiefestival will take place from 4 to 6 September 2026
- The full programma will be announced on 18 May, ticket sales will start on the same day at 14:00
- More information can be found at www.reiefestival.be

PRESS CONTACT

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The Reiefestival is an initiative of the City of Bruges, organized by Brugge Plus vzw, in collaboration with Cultuurcentrum Brugge, Concertgebouw Brugge and KAAP, with the support of Brugse Zot, the National Lottery and Port of Antwerp-Bruges.

