

You are invited to *Behave* | 2 July 2016



Neville Gabie KISCO ironworks China 2016

Behave

Press and professional launch - 11.30pm, July 2nd 2016 Public opening - 6pm, July 2nd 2016 **A series of installations, interventions and performances: the culmination of a programme of international artists' residencies in Belval, Luxembourg.** Shimon Attie **USA**, Darya von Berner **ES**, William Engelen **DE**, Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil **LU**, Alessandro De Francesco **BE**, Neville Gabie **UK**, Jan Kopp **FR**, Giuseppe Licari **NL**, David Rickard **UK**

Belval in south-western Luxembourg is the site of a large steelworks which closed in 1997. The area is now being redeveloped turning the brownfield site into a large scientific and cultural centre, including the science faculty of the University of Luxembourg. The former steelworks have been largely preserved whilst new buildings are being constructed in and around its industrial edifice. The Fonds Belval, the governmental institution responsible for the redevelopment of Belval, established a long-term cultural strategy called Public Art Experience which engages the public through a series of high profile artist's residencies. Stephanie Delcroix and Michael Pinsky were selected as the first artistic directors for this programme.

Behave, the inaugural programme of artist's residencies, reflects on possible ways of being together and questions the "order of things" in the specific context of the regeneration of this partially closed steel factory. By isolating

the words *be* and **have**, the title suggests that this emerging district oscillates between the material/industrial and the immaterial/intellectual world. During the residency period, the artists have produced a hugely diverse body of work in response to the site and the programme concept. Engaging with both the history of Belval and its current fledgling society, the artists have created films, sonic environments, computer-controlled sculptures, operas, Heavy Metal guitar ensembles, poetry, monumental wall-works, photographic lightboxes and architectural-scale casts.

Shimon Attie worked closely for a three-month period with Syrian refugees living in Luxembourg to create a project filmed in a former casino. Unfolding as a series of slow moving tableaux around a roulette table, the film reflects on the extraordinary gambles migrants are forced to take in times of crisis.

Darya von Berner produced *YO_Land*, an interpretation of Piotr Ilitch Tchaïkovski's opera *Iolanta*, op. 69. Set as a promenade performance in and around the furnaces, this moralistic tale, about a blind princess who doesn't know she is blind, interrogates the power structures which are at play in any 'kingdom' whether present in historical palaces or within new developments.

William Engelen created site-specific compositions for music ensembles to play across the Belval site. Using his own particular form of visual graphic notation, the scores, which resemble architectural master-plans, enable the musicians to navigate their own routes through the compositions.

Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil constructed kinetic sculptures cast from industrial relics which they discovered in and around Belval. Each assemblage, formed from fragments of enormous cogs and wheels, move and interact with each other.

Alessandro De Francesco interviewed people living and working in Belval and explored archive material to form the basis of *Three Poetic Engines*, which consists of a publication with poems, conversations, engravings and a sound installation within one of the redundant furnaces.

Neville Gabie travelled to China to track down one of Belval's furnaces which was dismantled and sold to a Chinese company in the nineties. With the recordings of the furnace, its surroundings and its working community, he has created a sonic environment for the void it left in Belval.

Jan Kopp meticulously replicated the shadows cast from one of the furnaces on to an immense silo sited within the steelworks. The painted shadows interact with the actual shadows, coming into perfect alignment twice a year.

Giuseppe Licari collected slag stones from local quarries and displayed has them as a planetary installation of precious gems. Throughout this process of Anthropocene archeology, he photographically documented the sites and scientifically analysed the soil to create a series of ambiguously sublime

images.

David Rickard created a public sculpture with aluminum collected from local communities in Belval, who in turn became shareholders in the work. In the future, the sculpture will be re-melted and cast into a series of small objects for redistribution back to the local shareholders.

A substantial catalogue, documenting the artworks and the artists' residencies, will be published in September 2016.

Location Avenue du Rock'n'Roll / Place des Hauts Fourneaux Belval
L-4361 Esch-sur-Alzette
Luxembourg
<https://goo.gl/maps/PDKKoLqiqCs>
Nearest train station - Belval-Université

Opening dates and hours:

2nd July 2016 - 1st October 2016

Wednesday - Friday 12pm - 7pm

Saturday 10am - 6pm

Sunday 2pm - 6pm

For more information and the programme of events go to **Behave**