



## PRESS INFORMATION



# INTRODUCING THE 2026/2027 PROGRAMME

**FROM THIS SUMMER THROUGH NEXT YEAR, THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME AT THE GOETHE-INSTITUT BRUSSELS FOCUSES ON QUESTIONS AROUND DEMOCRACY, STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND AI**

*Brussels, 28 May 2026* - The Goethe-Institut connects people around the world through a broad range of cultural and language programmes. We create platforms for intellectual and artistic exchange, highlighting new perspectives and future-oriented approaches to key contemporary issues. In Belgium, our work focuses on how we live together in diverse societies and how we respond to the profound technological and ecological developments currently reshaping the world.

The 2026/2027 programme in Brussels will unfold under three thematic strands, each offering a distinct lens on these conversations:

- **Le Rêve et l'Ombre** will examine democracy, its history and possible futures from a post-colonial angle.
- **The Machines Are No Longer Singing** will look at the dynamics of structural transformation with a particular focus on labour.
- **ENTRAUSCHEN - DeNoise** will centre alternative and resistant discourses around artificial intelligence.



### Le Rêve et l'Ombre

*Postcolonial Perspectives on Democracy*

How can democracy succeed when anti-democratic tendencies are on the rise? With the growing unease about democratic institutions, the question of how democracy can survive in the future becomes more

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urgent than ever. In 2026 and 2027, the Goethe-Institut Brussels will explore aesthetic and theoretical examinations of the current crisis of democracy. The focus will be on postcolonial perspectives that trace the colonial and imperial genealogies embedded in the founding myths of Western European democracies. In doing so, they open up space for narrative corrections and democratic imaginations.

The programme will include an evening with **David van Reybrouck** at the House of European History, a talk series in the framework of the exhibition “Département des Pièges” by curator **Clémentine Deliss** at Brussel’s new KANAL Centre Pompidou, and a cooperation with *Africa Is/In the Future* Festival.

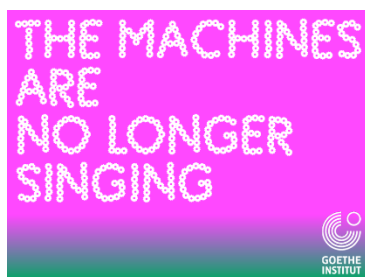
#### First events:

- **Reading by E.N. Mirembe**, current curatorial resident of Goethe-Institut Brussels at MORPHO Antwerp. In their work, Mirembe explores concepts of nation and identity, examining how artistic practice can generate new forms of relation that go beyond fixed notions of citizenship and belonging. The reading will focus on photography as a social and aesthetic practice through which ideas of kinship, intimacy, fugitivity, and collective life are imagined.

*1 July 2026, 19:00h, WIELS, Contemporary Art Centr, Avenue Van Volxemlaan 354, 1190 Brussels*

#### All programming will be announced on

[goethe.de/belgium/leereveetlombre](https://goethe.de/belgium/leereveetlombre)



#### The Machines Are No Longer Singing

*Dynamics of Structural Change*

How do we want to live and work in the future? How can we respond to technological change, globalisation and the climate crisis in a way that allows new visions of society to emerge? In 2026 and 2027, the Goethe-Institut Brussels invites you to an exchange on the conditions of living and working together, addressing the past and the future alike. Particular attention will be on themes such as work and emancipation, prosperity or labour migration. Artists and theorists open up perspectives on current transformation processes and design new ideas for our working life and social interaction.

#### First events:

- **1-day curated bus tour to Manifesta 16 Ruhr** in Gelsenkirchen, via Maastricht. Visiting sites shaped by 19<sup>th</sup> century industrialisation, the journey will explore questions of work and migration from a



contemporary perspective and through artistic interventions. In cooperation with **Recyclart Centre d'Art** (Brussels), Goethe-Institut Amsterdam and **Jan van Eyck Academy** (Maastricht) and Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

*27 June 2026, start 09:00h in Molenbeek (Brussels), return 22:00h to Brussels City Centre.*

- **Exhibition and talk with photographer Holger Herschel.** Born in East Berlin in 1959, Herschel documented the radical transformation from a socialist economy to a market-driven industrial society through his work. He will be in conversation with **Annette Schuhmann**, cultural historian and researcher at the Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung (ZZF). Organized in cooperation with *Europanetzwerk Deutsch* and the representations of Berlin and Brandenburg in Brussels.

*8 July 2026, 18:30h, Goethe-Institut Brussels, Rue Belliard 58, 1040 Brussels. **The exhibition is accessible in the foyer of Goethe-Institut Brussels from now until 30 July 2026 included.***

Further programming will include, amongst others, a cooperation with **WERKER Collective** at KANAL Centre Pompidou.

**All info and the programme will be announced on [goethe.de/belgium/machines](https://goethe.de/belgium/machines)**



### **ENTRAUSCHEN - DeNoise**

*Art and Artificial Intelligence*

Digital technologies are radically challenging our perception of reality. Generative AI shifts categories such as truthfulness, fiction and authorship, creating new aesthetics but also new insecurities. At the same time, it becomes clear that the former utopia of a

democratic internet is increasingly dominated by a few powerful actors. In 2026 and 2027, the Goethe-Institut Brussels will highlight artistic discourses that develop alternative, resistant and emancipatory visions of the future of artificial intelligence. The focus will be on changing working conditions, new forms of artistic expression and the role of AI in the age of visual disinformation.

The programme will include projects with partners such as iMAL - Art Center for Digital Cultures & Technology, Kikk Le Pavillon, *The Future of Living* Festival, Biennale de l'Image Possible 2026, EUNIC Brussels, as well as a Franco-German collaboration with Alliance Française de Bruxelles-Europe and the cultural departments of the German and French Embassies in Belgium.



**All info and the programme will be announced on**  
[goethe.de/belgium/denoise](https://www.goethe.de/belgium/denoise)

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**The Goethe-Institut Brussels**

The Goethe-Institut is the globally active cultural institution of the Federal Republic of Germany. The office in Brussels contributes to strengthening the European integration process and conveys Europe's cultural diversity at a political and strategic level. Its cultural, educational and information programmes in Belgium promote exchange and cultural engagement, as well as interest in the German language, Belgium's third national *language*.