

SEADS

25.06–29.08

Sint-Janshospitaal



Mind the Artist



SEADS

IN BRIEF

This summer, the international collective SEADS will be involved in a monumental project taking place in the Sint-Janshospitaal.

SEADS stands for 'Space Ecologies Art & Design'. The collective brings together artists, scientists, engineers and activists from all over the world who think critically and future-oriented. They develop unique projects exploring the themes of ecology and technology through a participatory process. One of these projects is 'Biomodd'.

'Biomodd' is an ongoing series of temporary experiments, in which nature and technology are interwoven to create hybrid and interactive art installations.

During the project, members of the collective work together with the local population of Bruges to give new meaning to discarded pieces of technological equipment that have outlived their usefulness (so-called e-waste). Experimentation is the motor that drives this process. However, an equally important component in Biomodd are the local ecological systems (plants, bacteria, etc.). These living ecosystems are confronted by and enter into dialogue with technological designs. In this way, a fruitful interaction between ecology and technology is developed. The end result is an interactive installation that is tailor-made for the Sint-Janshospitaal. The installation will also be used as a starting point for a wider debate involving lectures, panel discussions and workshops.



SEADS & Biomodd [BRG¹³]

From 26 June 2021, the international art collective SEADS presents the most recent version of their fascinating art installation **Biomodd [BRG¹³]** in the Sint-Janshospitaal Museum.

The monumental Biomodd [BRG¹³] installation and the related Summer Program promise to be one of the most challenging and thought-provoking projects of the coming art summer!

With this installation and a fascinating summer programme of activities and events, the dynamic SEADS team asks important questions about the relationship between nature and technology and about the world of art in general, as well as revealing to visitors via computer hacking some of the dark secrets of the often obscure computer world.

SEADS stands for Space Ecologies Art and Design. The collective was founded some ten years ago by the Belgian artist Angelo Vermeulen. Vermeulen is not only an artist, but also a biologist who is passionate about space travel and gaming. In this context, in 2013 he was the NASA crew commander for the Mars mission simulation exercise on Hawaii. He has further been responsible for setting up various art projects involving numerous of participants and related artists or scientists. It was this broad concept that eventually led to the creation of SEADS.

This collective brings together artists, scientists, engineers and activists who devise and implement future-oriented experiments that inspire critical reflection. They do this worldwide with participative projects like Biomodd.

Biomodd is a contraction of **biology and modding**. Modding is the computer equivalent of taking cars to pieces and then putting them back together again, but in a different way and/or for a different purpose. During Biomodd the members of the collective and members of the local community create together an interactive work of art from the remnants of old technological devices (so-called e-waste). They do this without a preconceived plan but on the basis of an evolving collaborative vision. They dismantle redundant tech-material and reassemble it to create a new and functioning installation.

It is a **community art project** that creates new relationships between nature and technology in different cultures all around the world. Put simply, in Biomodd nature and technology are brought together in hybrid and interactive art installations. The core idea is the co-creation of experimental systems in which recycled computers and living ecosystems co-exist alongside each other in a process of mutual strengthening.

The recycled computers are connected in a network on which a custom-made computer game is played out. In this game, visitors, plants and other organisms interact with each other in an endless variety of ways. Biomodd is therefore in essence a continuous series of temporary experiments. It is developed on site at each location with the local community and has as its objective the stimulation of a critical dialogue on ideas relating to ecology, progress and our technological future.

The Biomodd installation for the Sint-Janshospitaal was created by more than 120 participants from Bruges and the SEADS network, in close collaboration with Musea Brugge. This installation is made from various construction elements, recycled from numerous art exhibitions over the last 20 years. In this way, the installation creates a bridge between the rich historic past of the city and artistic visions about the future of the world..

Summer Program

The **Biomodd [BRG¹³] installation** in the Sint-Janshospitaal will form a world of its own, serving as a living and visual beacon around which visitors can come together to reflect on a number of crucial social issues that Biomodd can inspire with regard to technology and nature.

This latter element is also central in the parallel summer program that SEADS will organise in collaboration with Musea Brugge and other local partners. In a series of activities and events (ranging from panels and discussions to workshops and talks), Biomodd will pose critical questions to visitors and residents of the city on related themes that may be important to them in the years ahead, such as ecological gardening, the effect of the climate debate on daily life or the positive impact of technology on ecology. In this way, Biomodd in Bruges seeks to create a connectedness between locals, visitors, tourists and the members of SEADS around the installation and the questions it raises.



Biomodd - © Stad Brugge, Matthias Desmet



Biomodd - © Angelo Vermeulen

Summer Program

– Opening Night Biomodd [BRG¹³]

Where?: Sint-Janshospitaal

When?: 25 June 2021, 19.00–22.00, price 12 euros (free for residents of Bruges).

What?: After almost a month of building together, the SEADS collective and all the volunteers who took part will finally present their project Biomodd [BRG¹³]. The installation was constructed from living ecosystems, e-waste and recycled construction elements previously used by Musea Brugge. Biomodd [BRG¹³] creates a bridge between the rich historic past of the city and artistic visions of SEADS about the future of the world.

During this nocturne, the members of SEADS and the volunteers will take you into their fusion of biology and technology. You will learn more – straight from the horse's mouth, as it were – about the different parts of the installation and you can try your hand at the specially developed computer game that has been integrated into Biomodd.

After visiting the installation, you can enjoy an ecologically responsible drink. Neil Haesebrouck and Rodrigo Fraga are the DJs for the evening and will provide the necessary musical ambiance.

– As Above/So Below

Where?: ZOOM via FaceBook Musea Brugge, live from the Sint-Janshospitaal.

When?: 30 June 2021, from 18.15.

What?: In the shadow of Biomodd, scientists, artists and activist will engage in debate in the 'As Above/So Below' panel.

The organisation and moderation of the debate will be hands of SEADS. The discussions will be streamed live via Facebook Live and You Tube Musea Brugge for the global SEADS network.

Synopsis of the panel discussions:

The ground under our feet, although often associated with dirt and decay, is the basis of all life. It is a place of creative chaos, where the four fundamental elements – earth, water, fire and air – all meet and interact on each other.

In recent decades, systematic deforestation, industrialised agriculture and geopolitical conflicts have resulted in previously unseen levels of soil erosion throughout the world.

Community initiatives for a transition to sustainability (eco-villages / transition cities / permaculture initiatives), community developed art installations, analogue space missions and the investigation of life beyond our planet, and subsidiary space

research have all yielded a considerable amount of knowledge and technology relating to the productive and regenerative capacity of soil in unfavourable circumstances. Disrupted terrestrial ecosystems and life-threatening conditions in space: these are extreme contexts that force us to reconsider the accepted relationships between living organisms, people and their environment, and to develop new configurations. This discussion is a dialogue between artists, scientists, activists and social entrepreneurs about a regenerative approach to the relationship between people and ground on which they live.

Details of all speakers, biographies and themes are available via our website.

– The Climate Poets X Biomodd [BRG¹³]

Where?: Garden of the Gezellehuis

When?: 15 and 16 July 2021, 20.00, price 12 euros

What?: The Climate Poets is a fast-growing movement of Flemish and Dutch wordsmiths. Through their poetry they strive to achieve a climate-friendly world. Musea Brugge has invited them to read from their works on 16 July in the garden of the Gezellehuis.

The international SEADS collective, working in collaboration with local players from Bruges, has constructed Biomodd [BRG¹³], a monumental art installation in which technology and ecology are moulded into a single entity.

The Climate Poets' collective has also worked on the construction of this work of art. Together with SEADS and the local volunteers, they search for themes that are able to unite all the participants. The Climate Poets are Sylvie Marie, Pieter Van de Walle, Jee Kast, Karin Lachmising and Hannah Timmermans.

On 16 July, they will present their interpretations and impressions in five performances in the garden of the Gezellehuis. It is no coincidence that this will take place alongside the work of art created by Héctor Zamora for the Bruges Triennial, which had a similar theme. SEADS member Pieter Steyaert will add visual power to their words using laser mapping.

The ticket gives entrance to both the performance and to the Biomodd [BRG¹³] site in the Sint-Janshospitaal.

Who?: The Climate Poets are Sylvie Marie, Pieter Van de Walle, Jee Kast, Karin Lachmising and Hannah Timmermans.

– Tinkerlab

Family workshops SEADS

Where?: Small Attic, Sint-Janshospitaal

When?: From 1 July 2021, continuously and free of charge, with workshops and assisted working on fixed dates (more info on the website), for which the price is 3 euros.

What?:

In the attic of the Sint-Janshospitaal you can find Biomodd, an installation in which the artists have combined technology and ecology. The technology makes the plants grow and vice versa. This work of art has grown slowly, without any fixed plan, but with many new ideas.

Do you also have lots of ideas and like to use your head and hands? For inventive people like you we have built a Tinkerlab, where you can find everything you need to start building and experimenting for yourself.

On Wednesday afternoon there is always someone there from SEADS to help you on your way. On Sundays there is a workshop. Don't forget to register in advance: www.museabrugge.be.

Tinkering?

What?: This English term basically means learning as you work, through a continuous process of experimentation and discovery. You can build a marble run, carry out tests with our wind turbine, construct a cardboard city or... just do whatever you feel like! In the inspirational environment of the Tinkerlab you learn with each other and from each other.

On Wednesday, you can start your own experimenting in the Tinkerlab. From 14.00 to 17.00 there is someone there to help you on your way.



© Musea Brugge, Sarah Bauwens

You must, however, have a ticket for the museum, available via www.museabrugge.be.

On Sunday afternoon, the whole family can take part.

– Movie: MOOOV x Biomodd [BRG¹³]

Where?: Sint-Janshospitaal

When?: Thursday, 19 August 2021 at 20.00, 8 and 6 euros

As part of the project 'Mind the Artist', Musea Brugge gives a number of cultural organisations carte blanche to interact with the city's rich collection of art and artefacts in a multi-disciplinary way. MOOOV has been offered this platform for the summer months and has decided to include the Biomodd [BRG¹³] installation in its scope.

Especially for this exhibition by the SEADS collective and inspired by the theme of their art installation, Platform – the young people of MOOOV – have chosen to screen the film 'Little Joe', which will be shown in the same location where Biomodd [BRG¹³] can also be seen and discovered.

FILM: 'Little Joe' (Jessica Hausner, 2019, 105 minutes).

CONTENT: Alice is a dedicated scientist. She has developed a very special crimson-red rose, not only for its beauty, but also for its therapeutic value: if it is kept at the ideal temperature, well fed and regularly spoken to, the plant makes its owner happy. A carefully stylised thought experiment.

– An Evening With... Dirk Draulans en SEADS

Where?: Large Attic, Sint-Janshospitaal



Take-over MOOOV ©SMN, MOOOV

When?: Thursday, 26 August 2021, 20.00, ticket info to be announced soon.

What: In the slipstream of the 'Mind the Artist' festival, Musea Brugge presents 'An evening with...'. On three evenings the museum will invite a guest to one of its locations for a thought-provoking discussion. A small audience will enter into dialogue with the guest on the themes that connect them during that single intimate moment.

On the first of the three evenings, biologist and Knack editor Dirk Draulans will be the guest in the attic of the Sint-Janshospitaal of Musea Brugge. Together with SEADS, he explores the meaning of the Biomodd project. They go in search of themes, ideas and points for discussion relating to climate change, ecology, biology and technology, and the ways in which they can strengthen each other (or not).

During 'An evening with...' you can take part in this fascinating discussion as a member of the small audience, adding your input to the dialogue with Draulans and SEADS. A unique experience in a fantastic setting!

– Playtime in Biomodd [BRG¹³]

Where?: Small Attic, Sint-Janshospitaal

When?: 21 August 2021 at 14.00, 5 euros (tickets available soon)

The international collective SEADS are the guests of Musea Brugge. With Biomodd [BRG¹³] they bring nature and technology together in an art installation. Old recycled computers are connected to ecosystems, plants and organisms via a custom-made computer game. In this way, the player can literally interact with this living work

of art.

SEADS and Musea Brugge invite you to participate in a game modding workshop. During this workshop, we will work together on the Biomodd game and learn how to adapt or mod it both visually and in terms of gameplay. We end the workshop with a tournament where we can test and play each other's version of the game. Playtime and fun guaranteed!

The workshop lasts a maximum of 2.5 hours.

No prior knowledge is required, but a healthy interest in technology is recommended. Entry level from 12 years.

Please bring your own laptop.

– Biomodd & 'Caring for tomorrow'

The City of Bruges wants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. That is why the city has committed itself to the so-called Covenant of Mayors 2020-2030. This covenant is a European initiative in which cities voluntarily commit to reducing local CO2 emissions by increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in their territory.

The 'Caring for tomorrow, starting today' project was initiated. This project focuses on communication and awareness-raising, as well as participation and action to efficiently and effectively reduce CO2 in our city. The ultimate goal is the 2030 climate plan, which will be drawn up and implemented together with many residents of Bruges.

This summer, 'Caring for tomorrow' is joining forces with the exhibition 'Biomodd [BRG¹³]' by the international collective SEADS. Biomodd



Playtime – foto Musea Brugge

[BRG¹³] is a socially engaged work of art in which ecology and technology take centre stage. In this way we want to connect people from Bruges around themes such as ecology, circular economy and sustainable energy sources. More info on the format will follow soon.

– Biomodd [DRP]

Biomodd as a concept is not a closed entity for SEADS. The collective itself is constantly changing in composition and constantly in motion. Everything builds on previous realisations. In concrete terms you can say that the Biomodd concept is 'open source'. Anyone who wants to may use the building blocks to build a Biomodd according to the spirit of the concept..

This is what the youngsters of Het Dorp (The Village) are planning to do. Het Dorp is the new creative hotspot in Bruges built by a group of young people on the outdoor site of Het Entrepot & Jeugdhuis Comma. It includes a cosy summer bar and a place where more than 60 young people can build, organise and be creative.

Spurred on by Musea Brugge, a group of young people from Het Dorp are planning Biomodd [DRP], an installation developed according to the principles of Biomodd [BRG¹³] but with their own interpretation and functioning, aimed at young people in Bruges.

More information on the development and activities will follow soon.

In cooperation with Het Entrepot, Foodwave & Jong Volk

Biomodd in numbers

- The **SEADS collective** received the International Award for Public Art (Eurasia region) in 2019 for the Biodiversity Tower in Willebroek, another community art project. In 2019 and 2020, SEADS twice sent the Engines or Éternity art project to the International Space Station ISS.
- The **Biomodd project** exists since 2007. This version in Bruges is the 33rd version worldwide. You can find an overview on www.museabrugge.be/seads
- This version is the most **monumental** we have ever built, both in size and number of participants. We estimate that we will eventually clock in at around 150 participants, including SEADS members, citizens of Bruges, partner organisations, employees of CC and Musea Brugge.
- **Special mention** for participants from the Climate Poets, Oranje, Refu Interim (with whom SEADS has already collaborated this year for another art project for the SteM Zwijgershoek in Sint-Niklaas, Pangea Dialogues).
- For the integration of Biomodd into the **Bruges context**, we worked in two ways:
 - › The installation is entirely made up of recycled materials from 20 years of exhibitions at Musea Brugge and Cultuurcentrum Brugge.
 - › An installation was created that enters into a structural and visual dialogue with the medieval roof. The formal language refers to the use of polygons in computer graphics, and thus refers to the game culture that is a source of inspiration for Biomodd.
- **Recycled materials:**
 - › a total of more than 30 computers, both from Musea Brugge and SEADS
 - › approximately 400 running metres of beams, including those recovered from old wall panels
 - › printed wall plates from past expositions
 - › Piles of crates to transport works of art, from the Volkskundemuseum, Cultuurcentrum Brugge, ...
 - › Steel and inox frames that have been used to support works by Bosch, Van Eyck and others.
 - › plexi plates and dust covers
 - › various objects such as rolling tables, speakers, etc.

Practical information on the exhibition

Title	SEADS
Location	Sint-Janshospitaal, Mariastraat 38, 8000 Brugge
Dates	from 25 June until 29 August 2021
Opening times	from Tuesday to Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Mondays.
Tickets	€ 12 € 10 (red.) [permanent exhibition included] - via www.museabrugge.be/tickets free up to 12 years and Bruges inhabitants
Info	Exhibition and Summer program: www.mindtheartist.be SEADS: https://seads.network/ Biomodd: https://seads.network/hyperproject/biomodd

IMAGES IN HIGH RESOLUTION

Images to promote this exhibition/museum can be downloaded via the following link:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/museabrugge/albums>

Please mention the correct credits to be found with each photo.

MORE INFO

All arrangements can be made via the press officer of Musea Brugge,
tom.deschacht@brugge.be or t +32 50 47 23 81.

REQUEST

We collect every possible review of our museums and events. Therefore we would like to ask you to send a copy of any article you publish, or a link to the relevant broadcast, to tom.deschacht@brugge.be.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest.

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Mind the Artist

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11.12.2020 — 13.03.2022

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Mind the Artist

Nele Van Canneyt

Delphine Lecompte

SEADS

Sanam Khatibi

Strook

Pieter Chanterie

Tille Pepermans

Line Boogaerts

to be continued...

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The exhibition 'SEADS' is the fourth one in the festival series 'Mind the Artist' by Musea Brugge.

The unexpectedly long duration of the corona crisis has turned the entire cultural sector on its head. Artists are hit especially hard. With 'Mind the Artist' Musea Brugge intends to invest for a year in the remarkably versatile and creative talent that our country possesses. Musea Brugge connects artists from every possible discipline – including photographers, authors, visual artists or musicians – with its existing museum collections. A number of artistic centres have even programmed a takeover in one or more museum locations.

Discover everything you need to know about this inspirational dialogue between contemporary art and old(er) art on www.mindtheartist.be

