

ART AT THE

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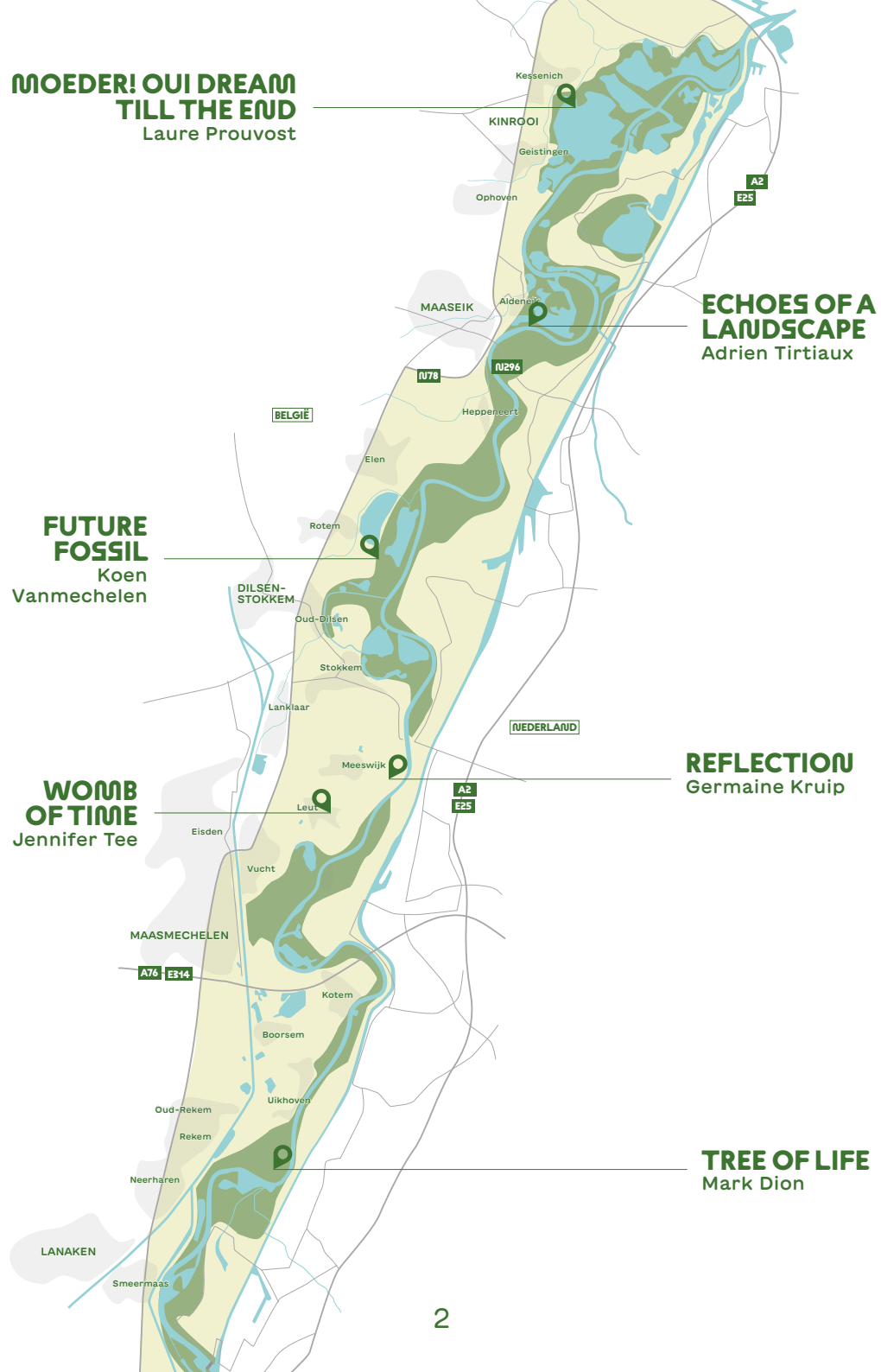


MEUSE

**MOEDER! OUI DREAM
TILL THE END**
Laure Prouvost

**FUTURE
FOSSIL**
Koen
Vanmechelen

**WOMB
OF TIME**
Jennifer Tee



WHAT IS ART AT THE MEUSE?

Five municipalities, one unpredictable river and six international artists. That is Art at the Meuse. This project, an initiative of Z33, House for Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture, and Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland (RLKM), resulted between 2022 and 2026 in a series of artworks in RivierPark Maasvallei, with the aim of making the unique relationship between people, nature and history visible.

Here, the Meuse calls the shots and forms both a border and a connection between Belgian and Dutch Limburg. It is a force of nature that refuses to be tamed. At the same time, people have left their mark here: deep craters created by gravel extraction recall an industrial past. Today these bodies of water, together with the wild river landscape, wide-open fields and picturesque villages, form a unique 13,000-hectare setting: RivierPark Maasvallei, an extensive landscape park along the Meuse.

Artists ventured into the landscape, listened to residents' stories and let themselves be guided by the current. The result? Six artworks that invite you to look at the landscape differently. They add new perspectives to the Meuse Valley. Sometimes rough-edged, often contemplative, but always in dialogue with the elements.

Hop on your bike, lace up your walking shoes and discover how culture and nature merge here.

TREE OF LIFE

Mark Dion

"Time flows through this landscape like the river through the valley. We are not the culmination of time - just a moment in it."

Mark Dion

Herbricht is a hamlet in a vulnerable location. Situated in the winter bed of the Meuse, it will slowly disappear over time. Residents are moving away and houses are being demolished to give the river more room again. On an artificial mound - a refuge where Konik horses and Galloway cattle shelter during high water - Mark Dion places his *Tree of Life*.

This six-metre-high tree of life is also a timeline. An unlikely company hides among its branches: from the prehistoric Mosasaurus that once swam here to the woolly mammoth of the Ice Age and the beaver of today. Sixteen creatures and symbols tell the story of a landscape that is constantly changing shape.

Dion's tree is not an idyllic image of nature, but a monument to resilience. As Herbricht gradually gives more room to the river, this beacon stands for what endures. It reminds us that the human presence here is just one chapter in a much longer history. A history that will continue to grow after

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Q LOCATION

The *Tree of Life* in Herbricht is located north of the hamlet and is easy to reach via the walking and cycling route network.

➤ ACCESS

Parking is available at one of the following RivierPark Maasvallei car parks: Colmonterveld Oud-Rekem car park (P19), Kanaalzone Oud-Rekem car park (P18) and Dorpsplein Uikhoven car park (P17). From here, follow the Art at the Meuse signage (4 km out and back).

🚶 WALKING

You can also choose a circular walk that takes you past the artwork. Take the orange walking loop (14.5 km) in the Oud-Rekem walking area.

🚲 CYCLING

The artwork is a stone's throw from the cycle route network, halfway between junctions 559 and 53. Follow the Art at the Meuse signage.

📍 NEAREST REST POINT

South of the artwork, you will find a picnic spot with a view of the river (by the boundary marker).

WOMB OF TIME

Jennifer Tee



"Womb of Time interweaves several motifs: the tree of life, the idea of birth and return, and our connection with nature and the cosmos."
Jennifer Tee

In the castle park of Leut, an artwork reveals the history of the place layer by layer. *Womb of Time* is built of brick and nestles into the ground without dominating its surroundings. The bricks preserve imprints of leaves from the park's remarkable collection of trees. It is as if the park has pressed its own fingerprint into the stones.

Beneath this lies a second layer of meaning. For decades, this was the site of a maternity clinic, a place where thousands of lives began. Jennifer Tee physically incorporated bricks from that former maternity clinic into her design. In this way, the work connects the living landscape with human memory.

The formal language also refers to transition and new beginnings. The ships' bows evoke the crossing from old to new life, while the tree of life refers to growth, connectedness and continuity.

Womb of Time thus becomes a quiet compass for what remains, what disappears and what may come into being again and again.

This artwork was made possible thanks to an additional investment by Tourism Flanders, which is giving the Leut castle estate a new purpose. The artwork is also supported by the Mondriaan Fund.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Q LOCATION

The artwork is located on the Castle domain Vilain XIII in Leut, Maasmechelen. This expansive park is an ideal setting for a walk through nature and history.

➤ ACCESS

Parking is available at Dorpsplein Leut car park (P13) and the Castle Vilain XIII car park. From there, the artwork can be reached on foot via the park's stately avenues. Follow the Art at the Meuse signage.

🚶 WALKING

Several walking loops run through the castle park. The artwork is close to the red (14 km), blue (5 km), orange (10 km) and green (3.5 km) walking loops in the Leut walking area.

🚲 CYCLING

Accessible via the cycle route network. The estate lies between junctions 50 and 56. Follow the specific Art at the Meuse signage to find the work on the estate. Germaine Kruip's work is also on the dyke a little further on.

📍 NEAREST REST POINT

The castle park itself offers several benches and rest spots beneath the centuries-old trees, perfect for letting *Womb of Time* sink in.

REFLECTION

Germaine Kruip



“With Reflection, I want to create a moment in which people not only hear the history, but also experience the silence that is there now. It is a work that brings calm, but also connects – just as the ferry once did.”
Germaine Kruip

Two ten-metre-high poles cut vertically across the horizon. Between them hangs a massive, golden-coloured brass bar. It is a minimalist beacon in a place with a shared history: here, between the Flemish village of Leut and the Dutch village of Urmond, a small ferry operated for many years.

Today the ferry has disappeared, but the connection can still be felt. *Reflection* is not a static object, but an instrument you can play yourself. When you set the bar vibrating, a clear, singing tone carries across the Meuse. The sound recalls the bell once used to summon the ferry.

Three black granite benches invite you to sit down and listen. The work serves as a subtle sound bridge between the two banks and makes the shared history, language and culture of the Meuse Valley audible once more. Today, it forms a place of quiet contemplation, where sound connects visitors with the here and now.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Q LOCATION

You will find the artwork along the dyke in Meeswijk, directly opposite the terp church of Urmond.

➔ ACCESS

Accessible only on foot or by bicycle. Parking is available at one of the following RivierPark Maasvallei car parks: Dorpsplein Leut car park (P13), the Castle Vilain XIII car park or at the car ferry in Meeswijk. From there, follow the Art at the Meuse signage.

🚶 WALKING

From the village square in Leut, it is about a 2 km walk to the work; from the car ferry in Meeswijk, about 1.5 km.

You can also choose a circular walk that takes you past the artwork. Choose the blue walking loop (5 km) or the orange walking loop (10 km) in the Leut walking area.

🚲 CYCLING

Located along the dyke between cycle junctions 50 and 56.

📍 NEAREST REST POINT

The granite benches are part of the artwork and form a rest point in themselves.

FUTURE FOSSIL

Koen Vanmechelen



“Perhaps this will one day be found as a fossil from the future – a testimony to how, today, we are searching for ways to live together with the river that both carries us and tests us.”

Koen Vanmechelen

A charred willow rises from a foundation of root-threaded sandbags. The trunk bears the irregular marks of the beaver, which, like humans, tries to dam the water. In this region, sandbags are not decoration but a familiar sign of how people protect themselves when the water rises.

With *Future Fossil*, Koen Vanmechelen brings this layered relationship together in a single image. The trunk bears traces of decay, but is crowned by a monumental egg, a recurring symbol in his work that stands for hope and a new beginning. The sharp contrast between the two evokes a landscape in which humans, animals and river constantly act upon one another.

The sculpture depicts how these three forces give each other space while also setting boundaries. While the sandbags refer to human interventions, the beaver and the willow show how nature, in turn, can intervene, rearrange and reshape. This creates a field of tension in which each searches for its place. Sometimes in balance, sometimes at one another's expense. The work invites us to pause and reflect on that constant interaction, and on the possibility of a new equilibrium.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Q LOCATION

You will find the artwork along the winter dyke in Rotem (Dilsen-Stokkem), near the junction with Kempenstraat and the bicycle and pedestrian ferry.

➔ ACCESS

Parking is available at one of the following RivierPark Maasvallei car parks: Visitor Center De Wissen Stokkem car park (P10) and Kerk Elen car park (P7). From there, follow the Art at the Meuse signage.

🚶 WALKING

The artwork is a short distance from the red (13.5 km) and blue (4.6 km) walking routes in the Stokkem walking area, and on the long-distance walking route of RivierPark Maasvallei.

🚲 CYCLING

Directly on the cycle route network, north of cycle junction 46. Accessible from the Dutch bank via the Grevenbicht-Rotem bicycle and pedestrian ferry (during the operating season).

📍 NEAREST REST POINT

The nearest rest points can be found along the winter dyke and at the nearby Visitor Center De Wissen in Dilsen-Stokkem.

DILSEN-STOKKEM

ECHOES OF A LANDSCAPE

Adrien Tirtiaux



"I was going back and forth along the river, trying to find where the sculpture would come and what it could be and suddenly I realized I was always looking at these church towers to orient myself in the landscape and somehow they became the topic of the work."

Adrien Tirtiaux

Three church towers, but not as you know them. In Maaseik, three monumental spires lie, stand and point like beacons on the dyke. They are echoes of Aldeneik, Maaseik and Roosteren in the Netherlands, reduced to their essence in concrete, brick and steel.

This work, *Echoes of a Landscape*, restores a broken connection. Maaseik originated on the Meuse, but over time the city developed increasingly away from the river. These sculptures form a new landmark on the Meuse, connecting the city's past with its present. One tower drills upside down into the ground, pointing towards

the gravel that was excavated here. When you stand inside it, you are alone with the sky above you. A second lies lengthwise and invites you to climb onto it and take in the landscape. The third? It points like a giant megaphone towards the other side, towards the Netherlands.

The materials tell the story of the valley: the concrete is mixed with gravel from the river, the bricks fired in the city itself. It is a monumental reminder of what binds us: a living river, a shared past and a voice that carries across the water.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Q LOCATION

You will find the artwork on Klauwenhofweg, in Maaseik (between the Meuse and the Heerenlaak lake).

➔ ACCESS

Parking is available in the blue zone: Bleumerpoort Maaseik (near the roundabout). Then follow the Art at the Meuse signage.

🚶 WALKING

The artwork is a stone's throw from the yellow (10 km) and red (14 km) walking loops in the Aldeneik walking area.

🚲 CYCLING

Cyclists head to cycle junction 24 and from there follow the Art at the Meuse signage to the artwork.

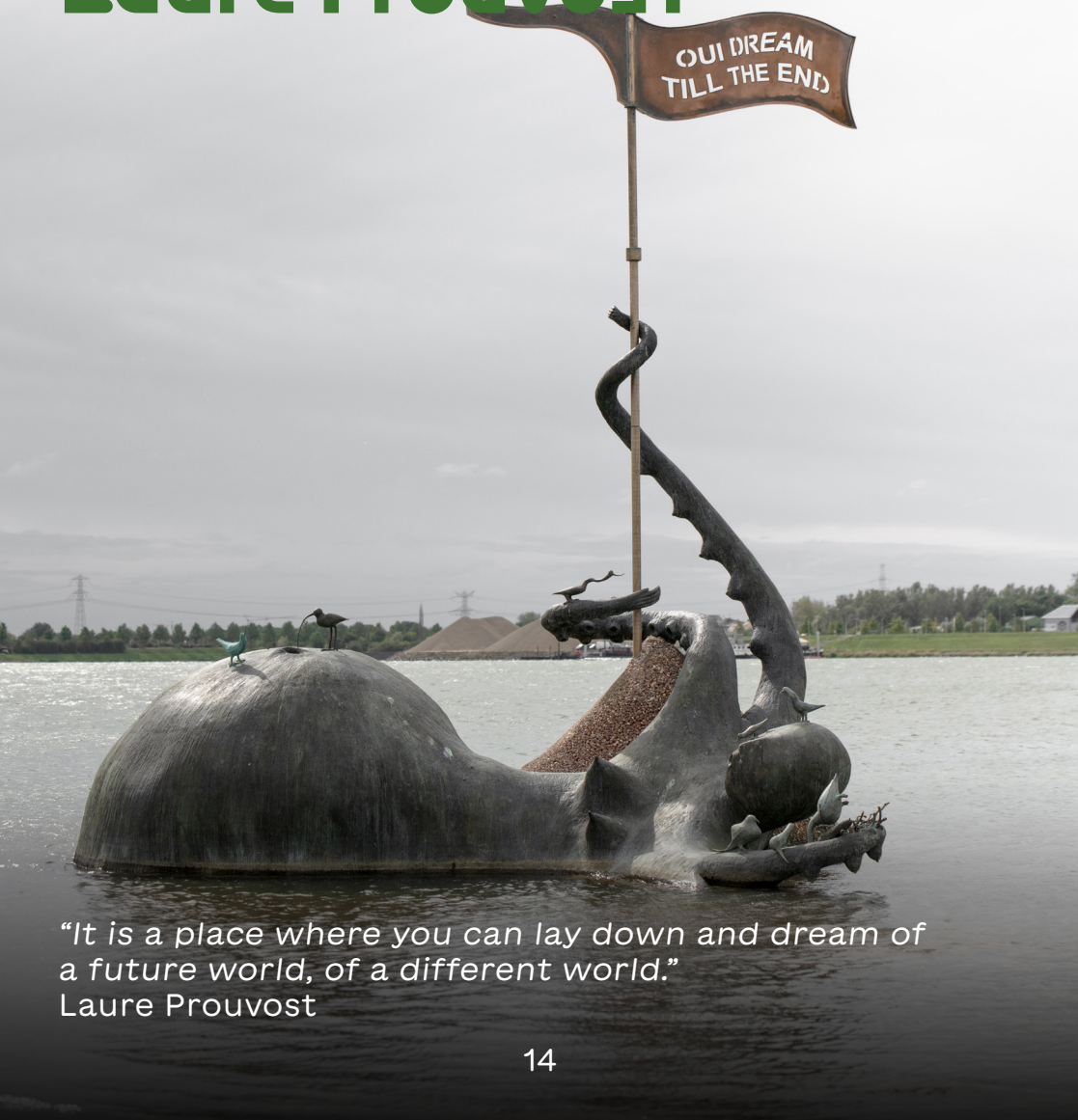
📍 NEAREST REST POINT

Walk along the shore of the lake to near Heerenlaakweg. A pleasant picnic spot with barbecue is located directly opposite the artwork.

MAASEIK

MOEDER! OUI DREAM TILL THE END

Laure Prouvost



“It is a place where you can lay down and dream of a future world, of a different world.”
Laure Prouvost

At the edge of a quiet gravel lake, a monumental figure rises from the water. *Moeder! Oui dream till the end* depicts Mother Meuse, as locals call her, as a hybrid being: half woman, half underwater creature. With a pregnant belly and tentacles on which bronze birds nest, she nestles against a mound of Meuse gravel. A flag bearing the words ‘Oui dream till the end’ is firmly planted in the gravel. At high water, sometimes only that flag remains visible.

This lake was created by large-scale extraction, but has since become a place where nature and tranquillity can flourish once again. In this way, the work refers to all that the Meuse has made possible over time: agriculture, trade, gravel extraction and, today, recreation and tourism. It is a landscape of change and continuity, of fortune and adversity.

The site also lies close to the most north-easterly tip of Kinrooi, a place sometimes symbolically called the ‘end of Belgium’. Here, where languages, landscapes and history flow into one another, the work invites us to keep dreaming together.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



Q LOCATION

Moeder! Oui dream till the end is located at the Bastion in Kinrooi.

➤ ACCESS

Parking is available at the Bastion, from where the artwork is visible.

🚶 WALKING

Start from car park 3 or 4 in the Kessenich en de Drie Eigen walking area. From there, follow the Art at the Meuse signage. You can also choose a circular walk that takes you past the work. From car park 3, this is the red walking loop (11.8 km); from car park 4, the purple walking loop (6.1 km).

🚲 CYCLING

Accessible between cycle junctions 21 and 22. Follow the Art at the Meuse signage.

📍 NEAREST REST POINT

There is plenty of seating, both along the dyke with a view of the work and at the Bastion itself.



MARK DION
VS

Mark Dion, born in 1961 in New Bedford (US), lives and works in Copake, New York. He explores how we understand nature and history, often through playful installations such as his well-known cabinets of curiosities. His work balances between science and imagination and has been exhibited worldwide, including in London and New York.

JENNIFER TEE
NL

Jennifer Tee, born in 1973, lives and works in Amsterdam. Her work combines sculpture and performance. She explores rituals, identity and spirituality. She has exhibited internationally, including at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and the São Paulo Biennial, and won the Amsterdam Art Prize (2020).



GERMAINE KRUIP
NL

Germaine Kruip, born in 1970 in the Netherlands, lives and works between Brussels, Amsterdam and London. Her work explores time, space and perception through minimal interventions and light. She has exhibited internationally, including at the Biennale of Sydney and the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam.



KOEN VANMECHELEN
BE

Koen Vanmechelen, born in 1965 in Belgium, works from his studio in Genk. He connects art with science and explores themes such as biodiversity and identity. His work has been shown worldwide, including at the Uffizi and the Venice Biennale, and he has received several international awards.



ADRIEN TIRTIAUX
BE

Adrien Tirtiaux, born in 1980 in Brussels, lives and works in Antwerp. His work starts from architecture and responds to the social and political context of a place. He creates installations and public art projects in Belgium and abroad, with presentations including at Bozar and Manifesta.



LAURE PROUVOST
FR

Laure Prouvost, born in 1978 in Croix-Lille, France, has been living and working in Brussels for many years. She creates immersive installations with video, language and image that play with memory and the senses. Prouvost won the Turner Prize (2013) and represented France at the Venice Biennale (2019).

PRACTICAL

The artworks of Art at the Meuse are not simply by the roadside; sometimes you have to search a little for them. They invite you to explore RivierPark Maasvallei on foot or by bicycle.

FIND YOUR WAY



ON FOOT

Park at one of the RivierPark Maasvallei car parks in the Meuse villages and look for the hexagonal Art at the Meuse walking signage. It will guide you by the shortest route to the work. Want to make a loop? Check the overview board at the car park. You will find all routes at wandeleninlimburg.be.



Around the artworks, art pebbles are also scattered across the landscape. They contain fun tasks to do with children.



BY BICYCLE

Follow the familiar cycle junctions and look out for the light blue signposts. There are 3 Art at the Meuse cycling routes. You will find them at www.kunstaandemaas.be.



GO PREPARED; RIVIERPARK IS A VAST AND WILD AREA. THIS MEANS:

FOOTWEAR

In summer, light walking shoes are often enough, but once autumn sets in, you need sturdy, mud-resistant hiking shoes. Some paths can be muddy.

SUPPLIES

The Meuse villages are welcoming, but facilities are not always close by between the artworks. Bring water.

ACCESSIBILITY

Art at the Meuse takes place in the open landscape. As a result, accessibility differs by location: some artworks are easy to reach along paved roads or dyke paths, while others require sturdy footwear or assistance on unpaved paths, gravel or grassland. Check the practical information for each artwork and the accessibility information in advance at kunstaandemaas.be.

THE CROSSING

In season, take one of the foot or bicycle ferries. It is the slowest, but most beautiful, way to cross the border. No worries: in winter you can also cross by car ferry or bridge.

FACE TO FACE

The large grazers – Koniks and Galloways – set the rhythm in the nature reserves. Keep your distance, but enjoy their undisturbed presence.

ROAMING

In certain zones, you are free to leave the paths. Search for gravel banks, follow your curiosity and discover what the landscape reveals along the way.

COLOPHON

Art at the Meuse is an initiative of Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture (Hasselt) and Regionaal Landschap Kempen & Maasland (RLKM).

The project receives financial support from Flanders, specifically Tourism Flanders and the Cultural Infrastructure Fund (FoCI), the Mondriaan Fund, De Vlaamse Waterweg and five Maasland municipalities: Kinrooi, Maaseik, Dilsen-Stokkem, Maasmechelen and Lanaken. Text and editing: Z33 and Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw

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MORE INFORMATION

kunstaandemaas.be

#ARTATTHEMEUSE

Plan your route and let yourself be inspired by the art and nature along the Meuse. Share your experiences with us on social media using the hashtag #ArtAtTheMeuse.



Z33

RIVIERPARK
MAASVALLEI