

THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE IN SOIGNIES

Application form and rules for 2026

Article 1

The Cultural Centre of Soignies, the Tourism Office and the Town of Soignies organise, from 10 to 29 August 2026, « the eighth International meeting of monumental sculpture », which will be held, with the collaboration of “Pole de la Pierre” (AWaP), the Hainaut quarries and the Belgian Blue Stone quarries.

This event will take the form of “Artists Residence” and will aim to make monumental artistic works from blocks of stone. This will make best use of, and bring value to, the local resources of Soignies and it will also make best use of the competences that have been developed here over time. Additionally, it will ensure the promotion of the participating artists at the event.

The works must be able to integrate into spaces with specific character, such as public places, paved places with various but coexisting destinies (parking lot, meeting space, rest areas, playgrounds, entertainment places, markets...). It is in this spirit that the work must be visible on all its sides and can be placed on the ground.

The theme chosen for this 8th edition is ‘The Passing of Time’, which opens up a wide range of artistic interpretations while fitting into the broader context of the history of the town of Soignies.

Article 2

The sculptures will be original works and will be made from blocks of blue stone from Soignies.

The artist will choose one uncut or sawn stone from the quarry according to his project. The volume of the blocks should not exceed 1 cubic meter.

The final work may be cast into one piece or may be composed of several elements, assembled, and not exceeding, all together 1 cubic meter. The work when achieved should be transportable. Other materials, such as, metal, wood, Plexiglas, glass, etc., may be integrated in the sculptures on the condition that these are provided and shaped by the artist and that the majority of the sculpture is made of the blue stone. The work will be the efforts of the individual artist and not collective work.

Article 3

The number of sculptors is limited to six. The artists will work in open outside spaces that have been prepared by the town of Soignies. Each space will be protected by an arbour.

Each sculptor will have, at their disposal, the basic equipment, such as, joint water-point, mono-phased electricity and a compressor. The sculptors will provide their own carving and finishing tools. It is hoped that a proportion of the work will be achieved manually. The term “manually” means the use of traditional tools such as, hammers, chisels, chippers and pitching tools, without the need of an outside energy supply.

The organisers will put the stone blocks in place by Monday 10th August at the latest. From 10 to 21th August, the work will take place in Soignies’ “Pole de la Pierre”. It is during this period that the sculptors will be invited to do the main part of their work, for example, rough-hewing with the electric grinder.

On Friday 21th, the blocks will be moved to the Cultural centre of Soignies in the urban centre of the city of Soignies.

During the last week, works with electric grinder, must remain provisional during this period. Each sculptor will be required to specify their needs in concrete blocks, pallets and rafters.

During the work, if manipulation of the sculptures is needed, the sculptors will coordinate their requirements with the organisers the day before. The “International meeting of monumental sculpture” will take place regardless of the prevailing weather conditions.

Article 4

A selection jury will be composed of members of the Soignies Cultural Center’s orientation council, and others designated for their competence by the Cultural Centre and Tourism Office. The jury will select the participants according to the artist’s CV, the relevance of his letter of motivation and the content of his intentions.

Those documents should be completed with a maximum of explanations, photographs, sketches and models.

The choice of the selection jury will be final and irrevocable. The candidates will be informed by letter.

Article 5

The organisers will pay for travelling costs of the artists to and from the residence (mentioned on the application form), at the rate of 0,4449€/km. The maximum amount of travel that will be refunded is limited to 1500km. The organisers will provide the sculptors meals for the duration of the event, and will provide accommodation if required by the sculptors. Additional costs such as, drinks in the accommodation, meals, transportation fees and accommodation for partners, are payable by the sculptors. A community premises with bathroom, refrigerator, stove and drinks will be at the sculptors’ disposal at the event location. Secure premises for storage of tools will be made available for the sculptors.

Article 6

For educational purposes, the organisers reserve the right to photograph the evolution of the works. These photographs may be used for public information purposes and for

promotional purpose for present or for future events. The sculptors will keep the copyright thereof.

Article 7

The artists will be required to commit themselves to work according to a pre-established schedule. They will be required to answer questions from members of the public who come in order to meet them and thereby contribute to the atmosphere of the event. However, the sculptors are required to pay particular attention to the safety and security of the public. With a prior approval of the organisers, two days of leave may be granted to sculptors. Coordination between sculptors will be necessary to ensure that at least half of the sculptors are present on the site each day. The artists will be insured in their workplace.

The organizers disclaim any liability for theft of equipment or vehicle inside and outside of the event grounds.

Article 8

Media coverage will be generated by providing dossiers to the written press, radio and television. Media coverage may be generalised or specialised at both local and national level.

The public will be informed by poster display and by invitations before the event which will introduce the artists and the 'satellite events'.

The web page www.sculptures-monumentales.eu will cover this event.

Article 9

A detailed programme of the event and the points of contact for the host quarry will be communicated to the selected sculptors. With the view to easing the preparation of the stone materials, the projects and the measurements must be communicated to the quarries by **15 May 2026** at the latest.

Article 10

The following documents must be forwarded to the Cultural centre of Soignies (Centre culturel de Soignies, Place Van Zeeland 31, B-7060 Soignies, Belgium).

- 'Application form & rules for 2026' – Completed, dated and signed.
- A sketch or any other graphic document relating to the project
- The precise dimensions of the requested block (1 m³ maximum)
- Curriculum Vitae.
- Letter of motivation.
- Minimum of 3 photographs of completed sculptures.
- Drawings or scale models of the planned project.
- A short summary of the sculptor's intentions.
- A recent photograph of the artist (which will appear on the event site).

Article 11

If selected, the candidates are required to commit themselves to leave their work at the disposal of the organiser for a period of one year, **until 29 August 2027**, unless the work is sold at the end of the event and after the work has been exposed in the town. After this date, the artists will have the opportunity to proceed with the removal of their work until **28 February 2028**. After that date, and in case of the work not being removed, the work will become the propriety of the Town of Soignies. At the end of this period, in case of removal of the work, the sculptor will be responsible for insuring the transport of his or her sculpture. In case of direct sale of the work during the event, the organiser will, under no circumstances, be responsible for the costs of the transport of the work.

Article 12

The deadline for the receipt of the candidate's completed application:
29 March 2026.

Official list of selected candidates: **15 April 2026**, will be sent to candidates by letter.

I declare that I am applying for the 8th "International Meetings of Monumental Sculpture" in Soignies and, if selected, I will commit to participate in the 8th "Meetings of Monumental Sculpture".

The application files of candidates should be sent before the deadline to:
Centre culturel de Soignies
Place Van Zeeland, 31
B- 7060 SOIGNIES

I, undersigned, resident:

Street name : n°:
City: zip (postal code):
Country (state) :
Email
Tél/Mobile
Website eventually

Date:.....

Signature

