

PRE-SUMMIT TEXTS - *Paul Dujardin*

Who are you?

A born and raised citizen of Brussels and thus a Belgian, European *and* citizen of the world. As the CEO and Artistic Director of the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels I see myself first and foremost as a cultural diplomat and defender of a European cultural space and state of mind. I like to connect people from different disciplines, sectors, generations and cultural identities. BOZAR organizes programs and exhibitions on the European cultural heritage and living arts. It's a hub for many festivals, including Balkan Trafik, Brussels Electronic Arts Festival, Are you Series?

If your festival was a human being, what would it be most proud of?

She would be proud of its cross-sector thinking and the diversity of people who embody her.

Inter-national/cross-national cooperation a necessity for the arts, the artists and your audiences. Do you agree?

Completely. Cooperation with partners, be they national or international is the basis for making festivals live. Only together we can be truly ambitious in terms of narratives, audience engagement and artistic quality. Coproduction is the European model par excellence. International cooperation allows for dialogue and exchange, inspiration and discovery for everybody: the festival programmers, the artists and the audiences. It also functions as leverage in terms of funding and communication, and allows reaching other levels of artistic creation and audience engagement.

