

LAB[au], **laboratory for art and urbanism**



From Sense (aesthesis) to Sense (semiosis)

www.lab-au.com

LAB[au] is an artist collective founded in Brussels in 1997 by Manuel Abendroth and Jérôme Decock.

Their research investigates *colour, time and possibility* as fundamental structures of perception and experience. Operating at the intersection of conceptual art and architecture, LAB[au] formulates a linguistic approach that brings concepts from information and communication theory into the field of art.

Their work explores the relationships between language and colour, randomness and probability, and the organisation of time through systems, protocols and processes.

The name [labo]—laboratory and [bau]—construction encapsulates their approach: between written form (code) and phonetics (perception), between experimentation and realisation, and with architecture as a critical framework. For over twenty-five years, the collective has developed a transdisciplinary and collaborative practice, producing artworks, large-scale installations and public art.

Conceiving art as a form of visual philosophy, LAB[au] employs contemporary technologies and materials, situating them within a broader art-historical perspective that connects past and present modes of thinking and making.

LAB[au] has exhibited internationally in major museums and institutions, including the Louvre, MoMA, ZKM, MAAT, Casino Luxembourg and the Venice Biennale. They have realised numerous public artworks worldwide, and their work is held in public and private collections.

Solo Exhibitions, Selection ([complete list here](#))

2025: Para além da biblioteca, Biblioteca Brasileira, São Paulo, Brazil
2024: painting, writing, calculating, transcoding, DAN Galeria, São Paulo, Brazil
2024: POSSIBLES | PROBABLES, Botanique, Brussels, Belgium
2022: Zeit Zeichen, Zeichen Zeit, Kunstmuseum Heidenheim, Heidenheim, Germany

2019: If Then Else, Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg
2016: Langage codé, La Patinoire Royale / Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels, Belgium
2015: rouge, vert, bleu, blanc, Centre des arts d'Enghien-les-Bains, France
2014: zéro / un, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France
2014: writing, drawing, painting, DAM Gallery, Berlin, Germany
2014: binary waves, Le Centquatre, Paris, France
2011: Tessel, Musée de Moulage, Lyon, France
2011: framework f5x5x3, Aubette, Strasbourg, France
2010: m0t1v, Kunst-Station Sankt Peter, Cologne, Germany

Group Exhibitions, Selection ([complete list here](#))

2025: Col Tempo, Galerie Bigaignon at Rhinocerus Gallery, Rome, Italy
2025: Remarks on Colours, KBK Art Space, Brussels, Belgium
2024: Langages et Imaginaires, La Gaîté Lyrique, Paris, France
2023: The Seduction of the Bureaucrat, De Garage, Mechelen, Belgium
2022: AXIOM #1, TOPO?, Brussels, Belgium
2022: On the Lookout, Fondation CAB, Brussels, Belgium
2021: Order of Operations, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
2021: X, FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France
2021: Mika Vainio Retrospective, Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
2020: Transcoding, Société, Brussels, Belgium

2019: Imaging Cities, SongEun Art Space, Seoul, South Korea
2019: D'un soleil à l'autre, Base Sous-marine, Bordeaux, France
2018: Action <> Reaction, Kunsthall Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2018: A Brave New World, MAAT, Lisbon, Portugal
2018: Untitled (monochrome), Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York, USA
2018: TIME, Bastide Projets, Marseille, France
2017: Artists & Robots, Grand Palais World Exhibition, Astana, Kazakhstan

2017: Eutopia, Museum M, Leuven, Belgium
2016: Terminal P, La Panacée, Montpellier, France
2016: ACT, Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea
2016: Digital Abstraction, Haus der elektronischen Künste, Basel, Switzerland
2015: Prosopopées, Le Centquatre, Paris, France
2015: Fold/Unfold, Kikk Festival, Galerie Du Beffroi, Namur, Belgium
2015: Exo-Evolution, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
2015: Noir et Blanc, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France
2014: Physicality, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montréal, Canada
2014: Artist/Novelist, MoMA, New York, USA
2013: Poème Numérique, Atomium, Brussels, Belgium
2013: Noise, Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy
2012: Artificial Garden, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
2012: Space Oddity, Le Grand Hornu Image, Boussu, Belgium
2010: West Arch, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
2010: From Kinetic to Digital Art, Fondation Vasarely, Aix-en-Provence, France

2009: Young Belgian Painters Award, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
2009: Holy Fire, iMAL, Brussels, Belgium
2008: Emoção Artificial, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil
2007: Architecture of the Night, Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam, NL
2006: Neo Beginners, Witte de With, Tent Gallery, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2003: Urban Lab, Bauhaus Dessau, Dessau, Germany
2003: Polygon Den[c]ity, New Museum, New York, USA
2002: Les Cinémas du futur, Le Pass, Mons, Belgium
2000: La Beauté, Clos des Trams, Avignon, France
2000: TransArchitectures 02/03, Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam, NL

Public Artworks, Selection (complete list)

- 2028: Source of Uncertainty, Podiumkunstengebouw, Leuven, Belgium
- 2026: listen to the Universe, RTT Building, Kortrijk, Belgium
- 2026: fLux, Union Station, Toronto, Canada
- 2024: XXXXXXXX, Stadtbibliothek Heidenheim, Germany
- 2019: Zäit Wuert, Casino Luxembourg, Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg
- 2019: Palimpsest, Wijkpark De Porre, Ghent, Belgium
- 2016: 365, Quai 10 and La Vigie, Charleroi, Belgium
- 2016: Lux Aeternae, AZF Memorial, Toulouse, France

Permanent Artworks in Private and Corporate Collections, Selection

- 2025: What colours tell us about ...?, Collection Cloudseven, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021: yes, no: perhaps, Hager Stiftung, Blieskastell, Germany
- 2017: origamiSquare 59 squares, Linklaters, Madrid, Spain
- 2017: origamiCeiling 160 Rhombi, Reynaerts, Duffel, Belgium
- 2017: origamiCeiling 20 squares 54 kites, Collection Cosnova, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2017: origamiPenrose 71 kites and darts, Collection Aegon, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
- 2016: origamiSquare 192 squares, Linklaters, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016: SwarmDots, Collection Fidelity, Luxembourg
- 2015: chronoPrints, Collection Zebrastraat, Ghent, Belgium

Additional works are held in private collections worldwide.

Artworks in Institutions, Selection

- 2024: tonerchromeS, MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain, Montpellier, France
- 2021: PI, Cryptology Museum, Moscow, Russia
- 2018: 2 x 540 kHz, Mika Vainio + LAb[au], Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
- 2016: EOD02, Frederik De Wilde + LAb[au], ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2006: pixFlow02, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil

Monographs and Exhibition Catalogues, Selection

[\(complete list of publications here\)](#)

2024: POSSIBLES | PROBABLES, exhibition catalogue

Botanique and Galerie La Patinoire Royale Bach

2019: If Then Else, exhibition catalogue

Casino Luxembourg Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg

2016: Calculations, Permutations, Notations, exhibition catalogue

The Major Gallery, London, UK

2015: Concepts, Modes, Systems, exhibition catalogue,

Centre des arts Enghien-les-Bains, France – ISBN 978-2-916639-38-3

2010: MetaDesign, Monograph

Les Presses du réel, Dijon, France, 2010 - ISBN 978-2-84066-404-8

2010: m0t1f, exhibition catalogue

Kunst-Station Sankt Peter, Cologne, Germany

Festivals [\(complete list here\)](#)

Selected festivals include:

Ososphere (Strasbourg), CTM (Berlin), Today'sArt (The Hague), Scopitone (Nantes), Luminato (Toronto), Nemo (Paris), Kikk (Namur), Elektra (Montréal), Sónar (Barcelona), among many others ...

Art Fairs [\(complete list here\)](#)

Selected art fairs include:

Art Basel, Art Basel Miami Beach, SP-Arte, ARCO, Art Brussels, BRAFA, FIAC, Art Vienna, Offscreen ...

2023: Solo Booth with Galerie La Patinoire Royale Bach (Brussels)

Offscreen, Grand Garage Haussmann, Paris, France

2016: Solo Booth with Galerie Denise René (Paris)

Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium.