

Lili Sels VanBavaerts

based in Ghent, Belgium

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Lili Sels VanBavaerts (birth name Ellen Vanderstraeten) is a multidisciplinary performer and object explorer based in Ghent (BE). She is fascinated by the multiformity of textiles, everyday abundant materials and minor gestures associated with care.

Lili creates art installations—tactile habitats for focused, sensory-rich, and interactive performances. Her practice is woven relationally and in situ through long-term engagements in semi-public spaces such as hospital gardens, libraries, cafeterias, small parks, and public squares.

She develops this work in collaboration with cultural and care institutions, co-creating with artists from various disciplines, as well as with patients, staff, local residents and curious passersby.

In her current research, she explores lightness in her textile creations, allowing them to become more dynamic: moving shelters, houses without walls, a second skin. Creations in which we do not have to be afraid of stillness and can experience the authenticity of ourselves in our own body.

At present, she leads three collaborative projects—Spa for Spirits, Huskrooms, and Celestial Bodies—supported by cultural organizations including workspacebrussels, VIERNULVIER, De Koer, Radical House, and BUDA Arts, as well as care partners such as the Dr. Guislain Museum and KAOS. The projects are funded by national and international partners, including Flanders State of the Art, the Flemish Community, and the City of Ghent.

EDUCATION

2022, MA Creative Producing, Das Arts (Amsterdam University of the Arts), Amsterdam (NL)

2018 - 2019, MFA Performing Arts, Listaháskóli Íslands (Iceland University of the Arts), Reykjavik (IS)

2014 - 2017, BA Theatre Directing, RITCS (Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema and Sound), Brussels (BE)

TEACHING

2026, teaching at GuestFest - Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp (BE)

teaching bachelor students of the Drama department

2019 - 2020, Senselab, Concordia University, Montréal (CA)

conducting a series of workshops with a specific focus on individuals on the spectrum

2019, Romeo Gongora, UQAM University, Montréal (CA)

assistant for the Cultural Diversity Lab with bachelor students in fine arts

GRANTS

2024 - 2026, individual research grant by Flanders State of the Arts, Belgium

2023, individual research grant by Flanders State of the Arts, Belgium

PERFORMANCES, INSTALLATIONS & ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS

Huskrooms

- 2025, performance 'Beyond Words We Become', **library Oost-Achterhoek**, Neede (NL)
- 2025, performance & textile-video installation 'Pars Pro Toto', **Studio Artillerie** at De Lovie, Poperinge (BE)
- 2025, performance & installation, during Open Studios by **workspacebrussels** supported by **Kaaitheater**, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, group exhibition 'Crip Stories' with **wit.h vzw** on invitation of **KAOS** at De Lovie, Poperinge (BE)
- 2023 - present, artistic interventions at the site of the **Psychiatric Hospital and Museum Dr.Guislain**, Ghent (BE)
- 2023, artistic interventions at **Psycho Social Center Sint-Alexius**, **KAOS** supported by **workspacebrussels**, Brussels (BE)
- 2022, artistic interventions during 'Public Health Palliative Care International' with **Through Art We Care**, Bruges (BE)

Spa for Spirits

- 2026, installation & performance during festival **MURF/MURW**, Tilburg (NL)
- 2026, performance at **Museum Dr. Guislain** - Psycho Jazz supported by Stad Gent & Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)
- 2026, ongoing performance at **Recyclart** with **Bruxelles Laïque** supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)
- 2026, ongoing performance and installation at **Nadine** supported by VGC and Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, ongoing performance and installation during Caruna-top by **CM** at Tour and Taxis supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, ongoing performance during exhibition Extractions at **A Two Dog Company** supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)
- 2024, performance, during Pride & Paintings by House of Lux at **Museum of Fine Arts**, Ghent (BE)
- 2024, ongoing performance during alternative music festival Psycho Jazz at **Museum Dr. Guislain**, Ghent (BE)
- 2024, ongoing performance during Museum Night at **Museum Dr. Guislain**, Ghent (BE)
- 2023, open ateliers at **de Koer** supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Stad Gent & Alleskan, Ghent (BE)
- 2023, dining ritual during expo and workshop 'When the Body Says Yes' by Melanie Bonajo at **FOMU**, Antwerp (BE)
- 2022, performance at Ghent International Festival with **Gouvernement & VIERNULVIER**, Shopping Center Zuid, Ghent (BE)
- 2022, installation & performance during group exhibition **Brussels Gallery Weekend**, Brussels (BE)
- 2022, installation & performance during festival **MURF/MURW** at **Theater De Nieuwe Vorst**, Tilburg (NL)
- 2022, ateliers at **BROEI** supported by Alleskan & Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)
- 2022, talk & video screening at conference AGxKANSAI 2022 with **Kyoto University of the Arts**, Kyoto (JP)
- 2021, atelier at **Centro de Experimentação Artística** supported by Celestial Bodies and Má-Criação, Moita (PT)
- 2021, workshop with Okan during Zomerschool supported by Alleskan at Bijloke, Ghent (BE)
- 2021, performance at **VIERNULVIER** during theater performance Nachtzwemmen, supported by Alleskan, Ghent (BE)

Other projects

- 2021, series of artistic interventions at social housing site, 'colour me mountain' with **GC Op-Weule** and VGC, Brussels (BE)
- 2019, performance I Will Not Bury My Romantic Soul, Celestial Bodies Festival, **Iceland Academy of the Arts**, Reykjavik (IS)
- 2019, assistant and performer for After Erika Eiffel by artist Loren Kronemeyer during **ANTIFestival**, Kuopio (FI)
- 2018, performance by EllCompany - 'uni-beautysalon' for **ENTERBXL** with **GCNekkersdal** and **Demos vzw**, Brussels (BE)
- 2017, installation & performance by EllCompany - 'Dancing Darlings' at Nijverheidkaai with **RITCS**, Brussels (BE)
- 2017, installation & performance 'ON NO ID' at venue **La Vallée**, Brussels (BE)
- 2015, performance 'Everybody Natasha Maslova' at **Palace of Culture** supported by **Toestand**, Kremenchuk (UA)
- 2015, an artistic saloon for dialogue with **Toestand**, Kremenchuk (UA)
- 2015, performance during 'BANG Festival', **BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts)**, Brussels (BE)

RESIDENCIES

2026, at **radical_house** with Spa for Spirits supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)

2026, at **Museum Dr.Guislain** with Spa for Spirits supported by **VIERNULVIER** and Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)

2026, at **C-takt** Dommelhof with Huskrooms, Neerpelt (BE)

2026, at **de Koer** with Spa for Spirits supported by **VIERNULVIER** and Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)

2026, at **Recyclart** with Spa for Spirits supported by **Bruxelles Laïque** and Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)

2026, at **Nadine** / n0dine with Spa for Spirits supported by VGC and Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)

2026, at **C-takt** Dommelhof with Huskrooms supported by Flanders State of the Arts & workspacebrussels, Neerpelt (BE)

2025, at **Arts Centre BUDA** with Huskrooms supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Kortrijk (BE)

2025, at **A Two Dog Company** with Spa for Spirits supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)

2025, at **radical_house** with Spa for Spirits supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)

2025, at **Alkantara** with Celestial Bodies supported by Má-Criação and dg.ARTES, Lisbon (PT)

2025, at **Metropolitan Fukujusou** with Huskrooms supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Kyoto (JP)

2024, at **Centrum w Ruchu** with Celestial Bodies supported by **Apap Feminist Futures**, Warsaw (PL)

2023, at **de Koer** with Spa for Spirits supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)

2023, at **radical_house** with Spa for Spirits supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)

2022, at **Pleasure Island** with Spa for Spirits supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Ostend (BE)

2022, at **De Grote Post** with Spa for Spirits, Ostend (BE)

2021, at **Centro de Experimentação Artística Moita** and **Alkantara** with Celestial Bodies, Lisbon (PT)

2021, at **Arts Centre BUDA** with Spa for Spirits, Kortrijk (BE)

2021, at **School van Gaasbeek** with Spa for Spirits, Gaasbeek (BE)

2019, at **SIM residency** with sound artist Yann Leguay and Paula Diogo De Carvalho, Reykjavik (IS)

2019, at **Skafffell** with sound artist Yann Leguay and Elsa Mencagli Andersen, Seydisfjördur (IS)