

Press Kit / COOLCITY 3000: Collective Construction of an Imaginary City

Group Exhibition of Contemporary Art

Space Collection – Liège

October 2 to November 15, 2026

What if an entire city were imagined by artists?

COOLCITY 3000 is an immersive and participatory exhibition that brings together over 350 artists around an extraordinary collective work: the construction of an imaginary city composed of hundreds of models, miniature architectures, sculptures, installations, and visual devices.

Conceived by artists Palin Drome (Eve Thonon) and Xavier de Kepper, this fictional metropolis unfolds like a vast territory to explore. Each participant receives a plot to invest according to a common protocol, while retaining their creative freedom. Together, these contributions create an unprecedented landscape, blending utopia, poetry, social critique, and anticipation.

Presented at the Space Collection in Liège, COOLCITY 3000 invites the public to explore different imaginary territories—urban, mountainous, desert, and aquatic—and to discover as many possible visions of living together and the city of tomorrow.

Beyond the exhibition, the project develops a significant cultural mediation program including guided tours, participatory workshops, artist encounters, and round tables dedicated to issues of urban planning, housing, and the place of art in public space.

What is Coolcity3000?

COOLCITY 3000 is a collective work born in Liège and driven by an international artistic community.

The project brings together over 350 contemporary artists from various disciplines: visual arts, sculpture, design, architecture, illustration, textiles, installation, or hybrid practices. Each artist creates a model at the scale of a plot: 30x40x30 cm. Together, these creations form a monumental imaginary city where extraordinary buildings, utopian public spaces, experimental architectures, sculptures, and installations coexist.

This miniature city becomes a laboratory for reflection on our contemporary territories, our ways of living, and the futures we wish to build.

COOLCITY 3000 celebrates both the diversity of artistic practices and the power of collective creation.

The exhibition transforms the Space Collection into a vast landscape to traverse.

The visitor becomes an explorer of an imaginary territory where each neighborhood has its own visual identity, its stories, and its challenges.

Through this exploration, the public is invited to question:

- the city as a space of coexistence;
- the challenges of housing and urban density;
- ecological transitions;
- mobility issues;
- new forms of community;
- future imaginaries.

Between model, sculpture, installation, and scenography, COOLCITY 3000 blurs the lines between exhibition, collective work, and sensory experience.

A Project Rooted in Liège

While COOLCITY 3000 brings together an international artistic community, its roots are deeply embedded in Liège.

Over 70 artists from Liège and its province participate in the project, alongside numerous cultural, educational, and social structures in the region.

The exhibition is developed in collaboration with:

*Space Collection / Art and Experimentation Center (Liège): Main partner and venue for the exhibition / <https://space-collection.org/>

*Design With Genius: Scenography and layout / <https://www.designwithgenius.be/>

*RAVI (Résidences Artistiques Vivegnis International): Residencies and production workshops / <https://www.ravi-liege.eu/>

*Les Chiroux – Liège Cultural Center: Mediation and educational workshops / <https://chiroux.be/>

*NN Studio: Catalog, graphic design, and communication materials / <https://nnstudio.be/>

*Anne-Françoise Lesuisse, artistic director of BIP (Biennale de l'Image Possible in Liège), has decided to integrate the Coolcity3000 exhibition into the official program of BIP 2026 / <https://bip-liege.org/fr/exhibition/bip2026-2/>

* Le Souplex: Creative laboratory and multidisciplinary cultural space located in Liège / <https://splx.be/>

*Promethea / Co-Legia: Coolcity3000 has received the Co-legia Prize 2026!

COOLCITY 3000 was selected by the Co-legia collective, a network of Liège-based patron companies created by Promethea to support creative, artistic, and cultural initiatives for the benefit of the widest possible audience.

The jury was captivated by the collaborative and unifying dimension of the project, which brings together over 300 artists around an imaginary city and a collective reflection on the city of tomorrow, living together, and societal issues that concern us all / <https://www.promethea.be/fr/>

* Province of Liège: Luc Gillard, provincial deputy for Culture, has decided to financially support the Coolcity3000 exhibition / <https://www.provincedeliege.be/fr/lucgillard>

Visit Coolcity3000

Accessibility is one of the foundations of the project.

Throughout the exhibition, a mediation program will be offered:

- Guided tours: Discover the exhibition with mediators and participating artists. Specific tools and tours for schools, youth centers, and associations.
- Participatory workshops: Model building, introduction to contemporary artistic practices, and collective reflection on the city.
- Encounters and round tables: Discussions on urban planning, ecology, housing shortages, housing, and contemporary creation.

Who are the Coolcity3000 citizens?

COOLCITY 3000 mobilizes a community of over 350 artists from Belgium, France, and other European countries. The project also involves inclusive workshops, cultural centers, reception centers for refugees, local associations, families, mental health centers, and people with disabilities.

This diversity of backgrounds, generations, and practices makes the exhibition a true panorama of current contemporary creation.

Each artwork retains its own identity while contributing to a larger collective construction: that of a dreamed, critical, poetic, or prospective city.

A Collective Construction Site

At a time when cities must respond to climatic, social, and demographic challenges, COOLCITY 3000 offers a space for artistic experimentation where imagination becomes a tool for reflection. Far from traditional urban planning models, this fictional city allows for envisioning other ways of inhabiting the world, creating connections, and sharing space.

Through collective creation, the project asserts that the city is above all a human, cultural, and sensory construction.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

COOLCITY 3000 – Collective Construction of an Imaginary City

Location

Space Collection

Rue Vivegnis 246

4000 Liège

Dates

October 2 to November 15, 2026

Hours

Thursday - Friday - Saturday from 2 PM to 6 PM

For groups: reservation required via coolcitycontact@gmail.com

Organization

ASBL Coolcity3000

Website

www.coolcity3000.com

Instagram

@coolcity3000

Press Contact

Eve Thonon
coolcitycontact@gmail.com

About ASBL Coolcity3000

Coolcity3000 is an association dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art, collaborative creation, and participatory artistic projects related to the city, the environment, and citizenship. Based in Liège, the association develops projects bringing together artists, citizens, cultural institutions, and local partners around new forms of collective creation and reflection on contemporary territories.