festival international de jardins
Hortillonnages Amiens

Call for bids

18th edition

2027

Application deadline:
9 November 2026 (23:59 French time)

Isola by Manon Biscosi, 2025 ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

Art & jardins | Hauts-de-France
International Garden Festival | Hortillonnages Amiens
18th edition
56, rue du Vivier / 80 000 Amiens / France

a creation of
art & jardins
Hauts-de-France

General presentation

The **International Garden Festival - Hortillonnages Amiens** offers landscape creations and works of art accessible to the public, on foot or by boat, on islets of the *Hortillonnages* in Amiens and along the Somme river. Spread over this exceptional site, these creations pose a quirky or poetic view, sometimes funny or critical but always unexpected, a view on this complex environment, on its history, on its future and on the link between nature and culture.

Organised since 2018 by the association *Art & jardins I Hauts-de-France*, this garden festival is a part of a larger garden project covering the whole of the Hauts-de-France Region, the Grand Est Region and also internationally. The website **www.artetjardins-hdf.com** allows you to discover the projects in progress. Around 60,000 people visit the festival each year. Several prizes have been awarded to landscape projects created as part of the *International Garden Festival* in the Hortillonnages, including a **Special 1st Prize from the International Jury of the European Garden Award (EGHN)** in 2024. The Festival receives extensive media coverage.

This 18th edition of the International Garden Festival will take place **from 21 May to 10 October 2027**. Landscape designers, architects , visual artists are invited to apply to this call for bids to create works in situ in the Hortillonnages in Amiens.

A detailed description of the Hortillonnages site, where these works will be built, is attached.

This project has several objectives:

- to support creators
- to develop and preserve natural and man-made heritage
- to query the feeding function of Hortillonnages
- to develop a cultural project for existing populations that also attracts new populations
- to promote professional integration for young people and people in difficulty
- to participate in economic solidarity
- to develop the touristic attractiveness of the site

Conditions and eligibility criteria

This call for projects is open to:

- **Landscape architects** (**Landscape category**)
- **Visual artists** (**Visual Art category**)

The following are excluded from this consultation:

- designers who have created a garden or a project in the last five editions of the festival
- the persons participating in the jury

The organizer reserves the right to invite artists of its choice outside the competition.

Applicants can be **individuals** or **groups**.

Conditions for participation

Calendar

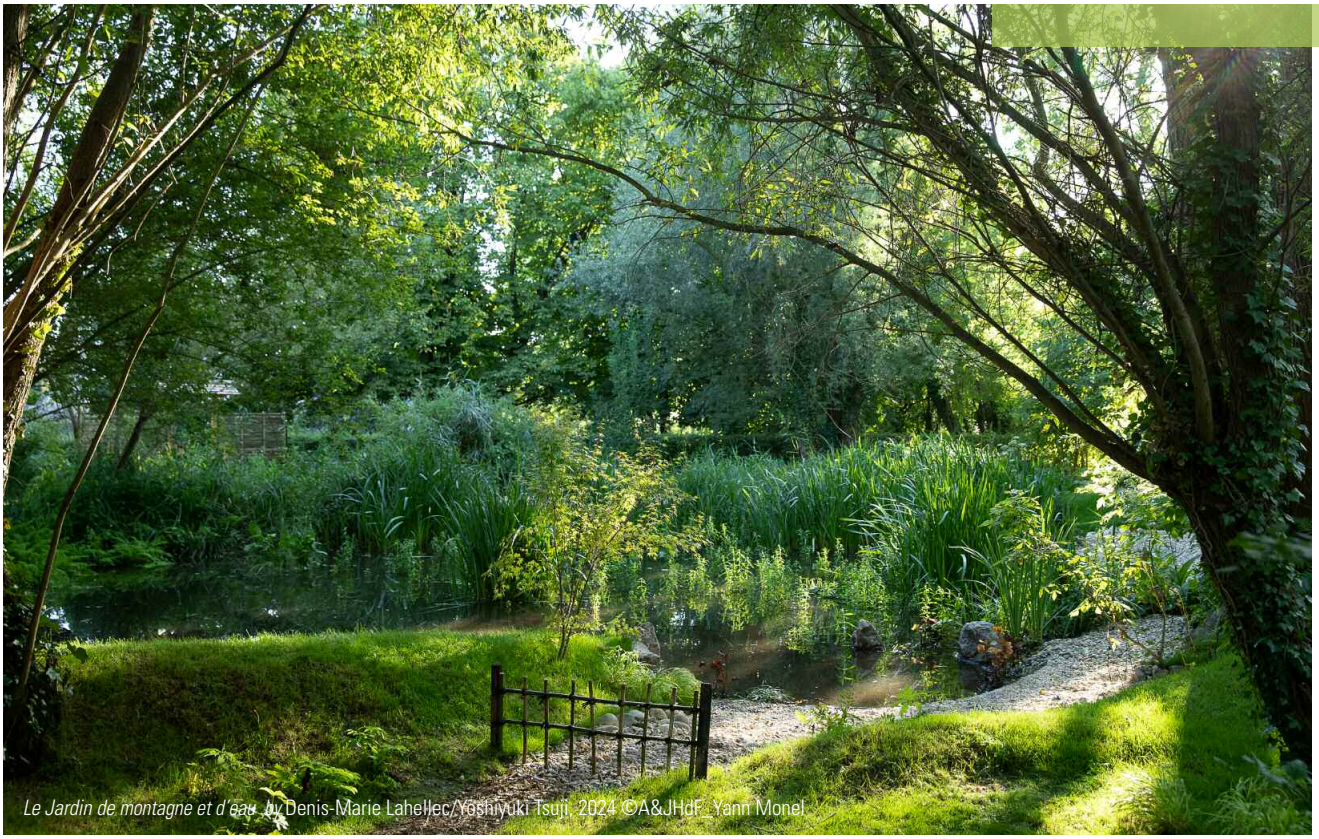
Application deadline: **9 November 2026 (11:59 pm, French time)**

Selected applicants agree to:

- from **11 to 14 December 2026** in Amiens: visit the site where they will be working. The accommodation costs will be paid for by the organisers.
- **on the 12 and 13 February 2027** in Amiens : to take part in a mandatory seminar on the site. During this weekend, the selected applicants will present their projects to other selected artists and members of the Artistic Committee. The accommodation costs will be paid for by the organisers.
  During these two days, Artists will then have to specify their project (ground plan, technical details, provisional schedule and budget).
- **between 9 March and 14 May 2027**: to take part in a creative residence to carry out their project in Amiens. Accommodation costs will be paid for by the organiser. Travel costs and food are included in the production costs.
- **on the 26 and the 27 June 2027 in Amiens:** be present to take part in the Festival's vernissage. Accommodation costs will be covered by the organiser.

Duration

The works may be short-lived (i.e., present at least for as long as the works are open to the public, **from 21 May to 10 October 2027**) or long-lived (open for several editions).



Le Jardin de montagne et d'eau by Denis-Marie Lahellec/Yoshiyuki Tsuji, 2024 ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

Selection process

A jury comprised of qualified members (landscape architects, architects, visual artist, curators, representatives of Art and Landscape schools…) will select applicants.

Applicants will be invited to compete in one of two categories: **landscape** or **visual art**.

The gardens and the artworks must be designed specifically for the Hortillonnages site.

Applicant files

The files must submitted in French or English.

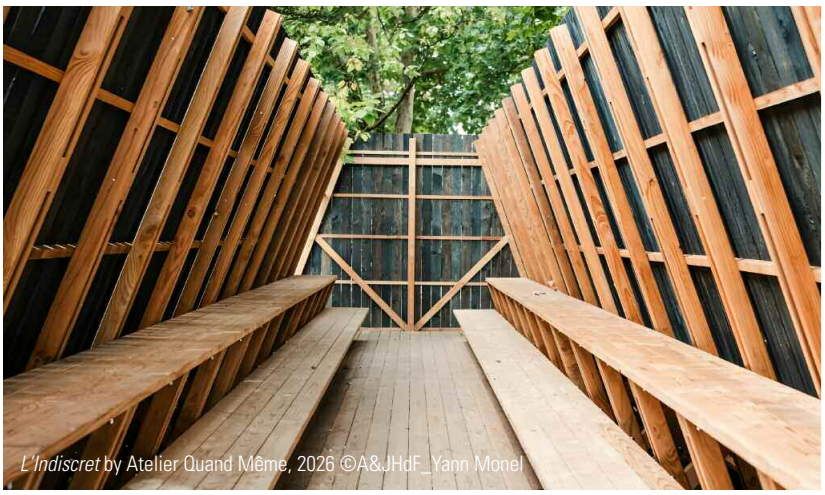
Applicant files comprise:

- a cover letter of no longer than three pages including a visual / scheme (only one project submitted)
- an updated artistic dossier of a maximum of ten pages in A4 format including visuals relating to a selection of works already produced by the applicant(s).
- a curriculum vitae (maximum of 2 pages)
- the completed registration form
- a copy of the applicant's national identification card or passport
- proof of professional status (VAT number, company number registration…)

This application must be sent to fij.hortillonnages@gmail.com by 9 November 2026 (11:59 pm French time) at the latest, in digital format as a SINGLE PDF document named SURNAME First Name. Please also specify in the subject line of the email whether your application is for the **Landscape** or **Visual Arts** section.

You can download the call for bids on our website : **http://www.artetjardins-hdf.com**

For your information, the results of the call for bids will be sent to the candidates no later than **8 December 2026**.



L'Indiscret by Atelier Quand Même, 2026 ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

Memoire d'arbre - Yuhsin U Chang, 2020 - visiteurs ©A&JHdF_ Yann MONEL

Landscape Designers and Architects Section
Landscape Category

Architects may only apply in the Landscape category and must be accompanied by someone with plant-related skills or experience.

For the landscape category, the Artistic Committee will make a selection on the basis of the following criteria:

- The artistic quality of the applicant's past educational and professional experience / 60%
- The quality of the cover letter / 20%
- The applicant's innovative approach to ecological and environmental issues / 20%

Generally, for landscape architects, the jury will be sensitive to innovative experiments that encourage inventive approaches.

The Hortillonnages can be seen as a productive landscape (market gardening, plant production, energy production, etc.) that generates ecosystem services.

As the history of the Hortillonnages is closely linked to market gardening, one of the selected landscape works will be linked to this theme and will involve a redistribution of the harvests to charities.

Gardens will have to take into account the question of the fragility of the site: the work of raising awareness or questioning of the preservation of the site as well as those related to the safeguarding and the restoration of the banks will be particularly appreciated.

Funding

- **Production budget:** € 12,000 (incl. VAT) maximum, and based on the real expenses incurred for the creation. The Organiser will work with the artists and directly manage this budget.

- **Fees:** € 4,400 (incl. VAT) in the case of individual application
  An overall amount of € 5,500 (incl. VAT) in the case of a collective application.

Abri by Severine Hubard, 2022 ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

Ab Aquis : des eaux by Camille Benbournane, 2025 ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

Visual Art category

Selection criteria :

This call for applications is open to graduated visual artists. Architects and designers are not eligible to apply in this section.

For the visual art category, the Artistic Committee will make a selection on the basis of the following criteria :

- The artistic quality of the applicant's past educational and professional experience / 60%
- The quality of the cover letter / 20%
- The consistency of the preliminary project with the artist's general approach / 20%

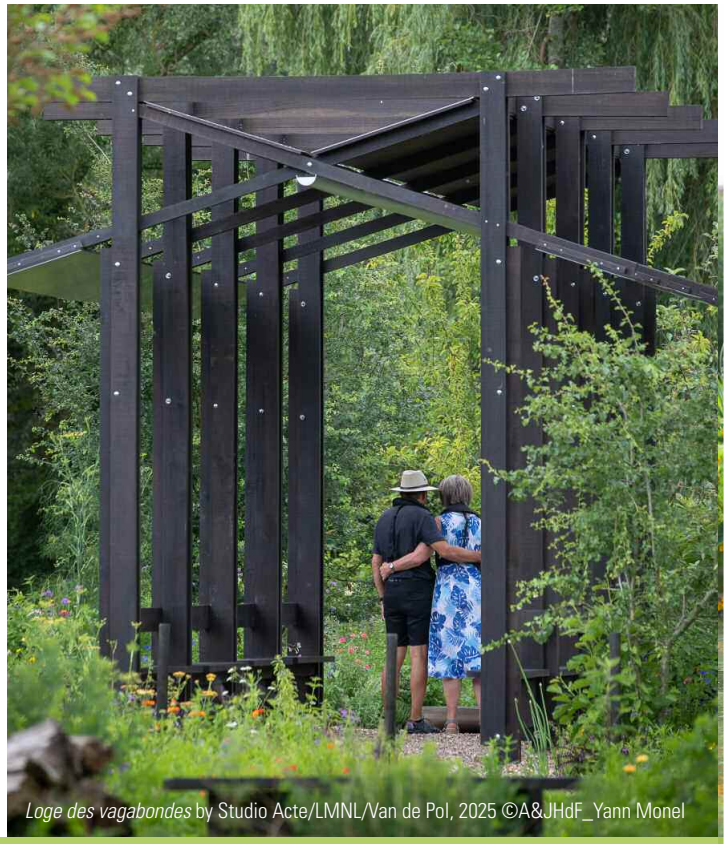
The proposed artwork must be designed with the Hortillonnages site in mind. The artist's statement must address the issue of scale and how the artwork engages with this semi-natural space.

Funding

- **Production budget:** € 8,000 (incl. VAT) maximum, and based on the real expenses incurred for the creation. The Organiser will work with the artists and directly manage this budget.

- **Fees:** € 4,400 (incl.VAT) for individual and collective application

The artworks may be installed on independent plots or on plots with gardens in agreement with the landscape designers.



Loge des vagabondes by Studio Acte/LMNL/Van de Pol, 2025 ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

Le Potager embarqué by Florent Morisseau ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

Registration sheet

This sheet must be completed and submitted with the candidature file
Application deadline: 9 November 2026 (23:59 - French time)

Project title (even if only temporary):

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Category ☐ VISIUAL ART Category ☐

You may only be a candidate in one category.

Individual application ☐ Group application ☐

For individual applicants

Name
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

For group

Name of group

Name of group members participants in the project:
Please list the person responsible for the group's communication at the top of the list

Name 1
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 2
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 3
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 4
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 5
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 6
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 7
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 8
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Name 9
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

Appendix

Description of the Hortillonnages site, Amiens

Irrigated by the Somme and Avre rivers, the *Hortillonnages* (from the Latin hortulani < *hortus*: gardens) at the heart of Amiens form a three hundred-hectare mosaic of water and greenery. The Hortillonnages came into being when the Somme widened into several indistinct ponds, thereby creating a sort of puzzle of land-based and aquatic terrains. In the Middle Ages, the inhabitants dug irrigation canals by raising levies to make the Hortillonnages an area of productive market gardens. In the 19th century, there were as many as 950 such market gardeners (or *hortillons*). The gardens provided the entire city with fruits and vegetables. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the *Hortillonnages* also became a favoured area for extracting and exploiting peat, as a substitute for wood for heating.

The *Hortillonnages* have expanded over time, and today they reach the villages surrounding Amiens: Camon, Rivery, Longueau. Although some of the large land parcels are still being used professionally, only 8 hortillons gardeners remain today on 36 hectares of parcels of land suitable for cultivation. Much of the land has been purchased by individuals to be developed as ornamental gardens that can be reached by small boat. This wet, semi-natural area is conducive to the growth of diverse aquatic flora and fauna and serves as a nesting site for many birds. The *Hortillonnages* represent the second most popular tourist attraction in Amiens, after the cathedral.

Created and shaped by humans, these *Hortillonnages* are fragile and require constant care. The areas that emerge about one meter above the water level can very easily become submerged when water levels rise, thereby causing the banks and the earth they contain to collapse. Furthermore, fallow land develops rapidly in non-cultivated areas, transforming gardens into marshlands and making waterways unusable. This phenomenon has accelerated due to the gradual disappearance of vegetable gardeners (*Hortillons*), who had the expertise needed to maintain the sites.

The *Hortillonnages* have become a shared space with a variety of uses: market gardeners, hunters, fishermen and private individuals with ornamental gardens all make use of the area.

Sylvain Dournel's article, available via this link:
https://www.artetjardins-hdf.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/ressources-Hortillonnages.pdf
sheds light on the history of this site and its various activities.

Hortillonnages - Amiens ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

The project site and the related obligations linked to

The site dedicated to the Garden festival is 95 hectares of *Hortillonnages*, and more specifically, the Île aux Fagots and the Étang de Clermont (see the appended map).

The gardens are visited by the public, either by foot or by water using electric motor wooden boats that allow them to move from one islet to another from May to October.

The *Hortillonnages* are in a natural area classified as Natura 2000: the fauna and flora are protected. The use of plant protection products is prohibited. Care must be taken not to introduce invasive plants and to avoid the use of materials that can permanently corrupt the environment.

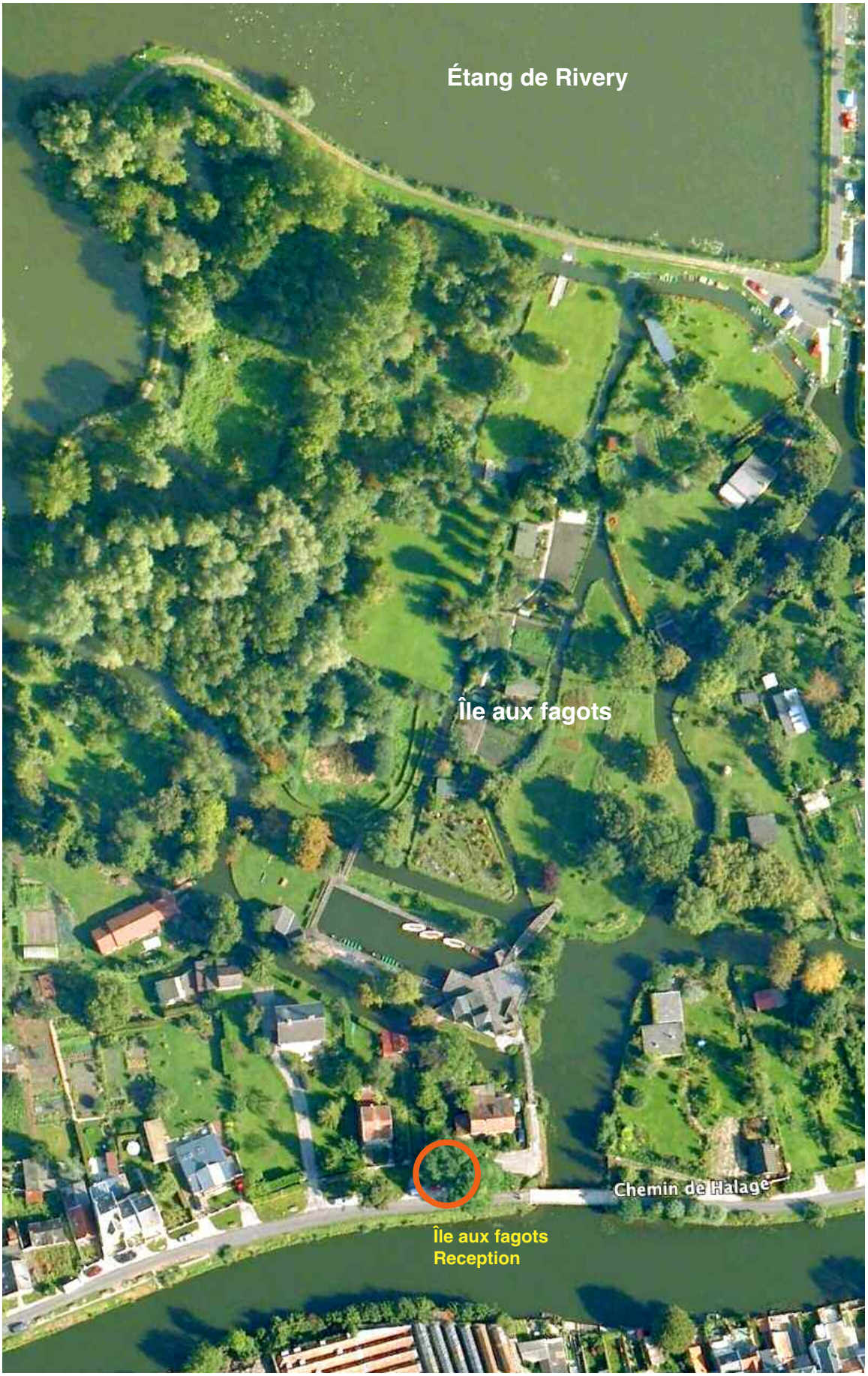
The *Hortillonnages* being composed of water and floating gardens, this induces certain constraints for the realization of the works (transport of the material in a boat, no electricity on the islands) and for their conservation and evolution. These constraints must be assessed and integrated into the implementation of projects: technical implementation, planning, budget, etc.

Finally, over the years, a heritage of landscape and art works has been created: some forty works from previous editions are present on the site and continue to occupy the space. Some of them are visible on the website of Art & jardins I Hauts-de-France.

The location of the new works will be done in consultation with the Organiser: it will have to take into account and respect the different existing uses as well as the presence of the previous works.

Art-i-choke by Niels Albers, 2025 ©A&JHdF_Yann Monel

The Île aux Fagots site



The Étang de Clermont site