

LABOR

Bivouac 30.10–8.11 .2020

BIVOUAC is an exhibition that takes the shape of an artistic immersion in the 50'000 m2 of La Rasude, a central district totally unknown to the population of Lausanne. From October 30th to November 8th 2020, the public will be invited to explore the area, accompanied by guides. It will be a unique opportunity to discover an extraordinary site - but closed to the public, through the interventions by artists and architects invited to express their visions of the present and future city. Building is a cultural act. Thus, together with builders and promoters, artists and architects will actively participate in the invention of a new district.

BIVOUAC is inspired by the great outdoors and the MATZA experience which, since 2015, has been bringing together artists, architects and territorial specialists in unique regions with significant human or environmental issues. In 2020, the Rasude site in the heart of Lausanne will be subject to an artistic investigation, with fifteen selected artists creating large-scale projects. 10 days of visits will allow the public to discover original works of art and architectural installations, presented as reflections of the world in which we live and ways to metamorphose it.

An emblematic place

Located next to the Lausanne train station and the new Museum of contemporary art, La Rasude is an emblematic site that is part of the city's strategic hub. Mainly used by the postal services, this site is undergoing a complete redevelopment that will see the creation of offices, accommodations, and new public and pedestrian spaces.

The future use of this land raises the question not only of the needs but also of the uses of the city and the processes involved in its development and manufacturing. BIVOUAC thus wishes to consider the question of participation and by extension of democracy and the right to the city as elements for reflection. This

is the reason why LABOR sees itself above all as a laboratory of which BIVOUAC represents the first stage.

Residence as a tool for work and reflection

Its ephemeral and immersive nature makes Bivouac a unique opportunity to experiment on a large scale. An on-site residency prior to the exhibition will bring together all the participants with the aim of encouraging the cross-fertilization of skills and anchoring a reflection on global urban issues to the specific context of La Rasude.

Questioning today's city and our capacity for change

Through its exploratory and collaborative dimension, BIVOUAC wants to reflect the state of today's world and the creativity of those who are working to redefine it. In a society that suddenly takes the measure of its excesses, how can we envision the radical changes that the depletion of the planet's resources, climate change or the precariousness of a large part of its population call for? New balances between individual needs, social projects and available resources must be devised. With BIVOUAC, LABOR wishes to highlight these stakes and to enhance our capacity to act on our urban environment, as inhabitants, users or citizens.

The bivouac, a way of understanding the world.

BIVOUAC focuses on the fragile, agile, transitory, and moving forms of the city. The bivouac is a form of succinct, ephemeral, opportunistic construction, open to improvisation, but always depending on a strong environment and the ability of a group to help each other. The bivouac is the image of the city that we propose to explore here. It is an opportunity to rethink the way we inhabit a space, the way we share and live together, by taking an interest in the possibilities of ephemeral construction. The bivouac is thought outside the restrictive and normative constraints of urban space, opening up to more spontaneous and inventive forms of fabrication. Fragile, it also refers to the forms of exclusion and vulnerability that our society produces and whose place is also questioned in the exhibition. From then on, even more in the center of a city than in its periphery, the bivouac offers a real counterpoint to the current logics of urban production.

An international competition

BIVOUAC is organized as an international open call, and will select 15 projects. The competition is mainly open to artists, architects, landscape and urban planners but anyone involved in urban development in their respective work field can apply. The selected applications will present recent work, a letter of intent and a project outline. Once selected, applicants will develop their proposal taking into account the limitations and opportunities of the site and its neighborhood. Some visits of La Rasude are planned during the competition period.

Simultaneously, several schools are invited to join the process set up by LABOR and develop projects during the spring semester of 2020. The projects will be integrated in whole or in part to BIVOUAC. Debates, performances and screenings will be held during the exhibition.

Open call documents are downloadable on the website www.labor-lausanne.ch