

Unknown Landscape: An Introduction

In the year 2021 Marleen Scevenels asked me if I would be interested in working as an artist in residence in Het Atelier in the summer of 2022. I immediately accepted the invitation to create in this special, characteristic place in the historically charming city of Bruges.

This invitation came when I was craving for a place to install a new body of works after a long wait due to the pandemic. These were the experimental, recycled glass works I created at the Gent- Glas residency in 2018-19. I was awarded this for the project INSPIREREN-INSPIRATIEON, funded by Provincie Oost Vlaanderen Transitierегlement Ghent, Belgium.

Het Atelier was the perfect place to create this hybrid experimental installation - a sort of spread-out landscape of various combined components and mixed elements.

I concluded the residency by creating a dreamlike landscape of solid, fluid, cracked, repaired, fragile structures of melted glass forms; an installation that served as a multi-layered ambiguous landscape - an immersive, extended, breathing field to interact with, to observe, and to explore the changes it went through.

Unknown Landscape extended from Het Atelier into the city of Bruges through an intervention I created along the canal of Spinolarei just after the Koningsbrug at the beginning of Engelsestraat. I wrapped an ornamental metal railing with red yarn and left it unguarded for the people to interact with. A few days later, it vanished. The metal railing was back to its original state leaving no trace of red yarn on and around it.

In addition, I performed 'backward walking' as a part of *Unknown Landscape*. I traced a route from Het Atelier on 's-Gravenstraat to Carmersbrug to reveal a bas-relief of Father Karmeliet, which refers to the lost monastery. I concluded my performance, which is called *In Search of a Lost Monastery*, on the bridge by turning around and facing the water.

Monali Meher