

ABOUT



LAB[au], **laboratory for art and urbanism**

106 Rue Vanderstichelen
B-1080 Brussels, Belgium

www.lab-au.com
lab-au@lab-au.com

From Sense (aesthesis) to Sense (semiosis)

LAB[au] is an artist collective founded in Brussels in 1997 by Manuel Abendroth and Jérôme Decock. The name—labo [laboratory] and bau [construction]—encapsulates their approach: between written form and phonetics, between research and praxis, with architecture as a critical framework. The collective develops a transdisciplinary practice with distinct approaches to artworks, installations and public art, each operating at different scales and in different contexts.

Working at the intersection of conceptual art, digital art and architecture, LAB[au] draws on information and communication theory, conceiving art as a form of language. Rather than simply applying its models, the collective explores how they expand artistic thinking.

Here, the ratio of signal to noise becomes a negotiation between sense and non-sense; randomness redefines artistic mastery as the capacity to integrate uncertainty and to operate with possibilities, while stochastic processes open onto an ontology of the possible. The emergence of new colours and the extension of perception beyond the visible spectrum, in turn, challenge established conceptions of colour in art, such as abstraction and the monochrome.

Through these shifts between scientific, linguistic, artistic and philosophical registers, LAB[au] investigates colour, time, signal, language and possibility as fundamental structures through which perception, experience and knowledge are organised—and from which their art is built.

COLOUR – TIME – SIGNAL – LANGUAGE - POSSIBILITY

LAB[au]'s artistic research is based on combining these fields and, through their permutation, produces axioms such as the colour of time and the time of colour, the language of colour and colour as language, from which distinct bodies of work emerge, such as *Zeitfarbe*, *Sprachmonochrome*, *histoires chromatiques* and *possible times*.

Across these bodies of work, LAB[au] shifts the question of representation—a central question in art—to a more fundamental one: representability itself. What matters is not how something is represented, but the conditions under which something becomes perceptible, legible and tangible.

In summary, LAB[au] constructs artistic frameworks within which new relationships and fields of meaning can emerge—for instance, by transcoding otherwise imperceptible noise into legible signs or mixing language like colour by permuting the letters of colour names into possible words. Within these frameworks, LAB[au] paints, writes, calculates, senses and transcodes, continually encountering the limits of perception, the limits of signs and the limits of logic.

This movement along these limits renders their artworks as traces—as possibilities extending across temporal and spatial dimensions that sometimes even elude our immediate experience and imagination. Accordingly, LAB[au] conceives art as visual philosophy, employing contemporary materials and modes of thinking while situating them within a broader art-historical perspective.

Beyond its artistic production, LAB[au]'s transdisciplinary practice extends to curatorships, performances, theoretical essays, artists' books and editorial projects, drawing on dance, music, graphic design, typography and urban studies. These connections become visible throughout the *Praxis Archive*.

LAB[au] has exhibited internationally at major museums, institutions and biennials, including the Louvre, MoMA, ZKM, MAAT, Casino Luxembourg and the Venice Biennale. They have realised numerous public artworks worldwide, and their work is held in public and private collections.

LAB[au] is represented by:

DAN Galeria, São Paulo, Brazil

Galerie La Patinoire Royale Bach, Brussels, Belgium

These lists offer an overview of LAB[au]'s work.
For the full record, explore

LAB[au] Praxis Archive

www.lab-au.com/praxis-archive



Solo Exhibitions

2025: Para além da biblioteca, Biblioteca Brasiliana, São Paulo, Brazil
2024: painting, writing, calculating, transcoding, DAN Galeria, São Paulo, Brazil
2024: POSSIBLES | PROBABLES, Botanique, Brussels, Belgium
2022: Zeit Zeichen - Zeichen Zeit, Kunstmuseum Heidenheim, Heidenheim, Germany

2019: If Then Else, Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg
2016: Langage codé, La Patinoire Royale / Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels, Belgium
2015: rouge, vert, bleu, blanc, Centre des arts d'Enghien-les-Bains, France
2014: zéro / un, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France
2014: writing, drawing, painting, DAM Gallery, Berlin, Germany
2014: binary waves, Le Centquatre, Paris, France
2011: Tessel, Musée de Moulage, Lyon, France
2011: framework f5x5x3, Aubette, Strasbourg, France
2010: m0t1v, Kunst-Station Sankt Peter, Cologne, Germany

Group Exhibitions

2025: Col Tempo, Galerie Bigaignon at Rhinoceros Gallery, Rome, Italy
2025: Remarks on Colours, KBK Art Space, Brussels, Belgium
2024: Langages et Imaginaires, La Gaîté Lyrique, Paris, France
2023: The Seduction of the Bureaucrat, De Garage, Mechelen, Belgium
2022: AXIOM #1, TOPO?, Brussels, Belgium
2022: On the Lookout, Fondation CAB, Brussels, Belgium
2021: Order of Operations, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
2021: X, FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France
2021: Mika Vainio Retrospective, Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
2020: Transcoding, Société, Brussels, Belgium

2019: Imaging Cities, SongEun Art Space, Seoul, South Korea
2019: D'un soleil à l'autre, Base Sous-marine, Bordeaux, France
2018: Action <> Reaction, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2018: A Brave New World, MAAT, Lisbon, Portugal
2018: Untitled (monochrome), Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York, USA
2018: TIME, Bastide Projets, Marseille, France
2017: Artists & Robots, Grand Palais World Exhibition, Astana, Kazakhstan
2017: Eutopia, Museum M, Leuven, Belgium
2016: Terminal P, La Panacée, Montpellier, France
2016: ACT, Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea
2016: Digital Abstraction, Haus der elektronischen Künste, Basel, Switzerland
2015: Prosopopées, Le Centquatre, Paris, France
2015: Fold/Unfold, Kikk Festival, Galerie Du Beffroi, Namur, Belgium
2015: Exo-Evolution, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
2015: Noir et Blanc, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France
2014: Physicality, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montréal, Canada
2014: Artist/Novelist, MoMA, New York, USA
2013: Poème Numérique, Atomium, Brussels, Belgium
2013: Noise, Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy
2012: Artificial Garden, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
2012: Space Oddity, Le Grand Hornu Image, Boussu, Belgium
2010: West Arch, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
2010: From Kinetic to Digital Art, Fondation Vasarely, Aix-en-Provence, France

2009: Young Belgian Painters Award, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
2009: Holy Fire, iMAL, Brussels, Belgium
2008: Emoção Artificial, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil
2007: Architecture of the Night, Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam, NL
2006: Neo Beginners, Witte de With, Tent Gallery, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
2003: Urban Lab, Bauhaus Dessau, Dessau, Germany
2003: Polygon Den[c]ity, New Museum, New York, USA
2002: Les Cinémas du futur, Le Pass, Mons, Belgium
2000: La Beauté, Clos des Trams, Avignon, France
2000: TransArchitectures 02/03, Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam, NL

Public Artworks

2031: Source of Uncertainty, Podiumkunstengebouw, Leuven, Belgium

2027: fLUX, Union Station, Toronto, Canada

2026: listen to the Universe, RTT Building, Kortrijk, Belgium

2024: XXXXXXXX, Stadtbibliothek Heidenheim, Germany

2019: Zäit Wuert, Casino Luxembourg, Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg

2019: Palimpsest, Wijkpark De Porre, Ghent, Belgium

2016: 365, Quai 10 and La Vigie, Charleroi, Belgium

2016: Lux Aeternae, AZF Memorial, Toulouse, France

Permanent Artworks in Private and Corporate Collections

2025: What colours tell us about ...?, Collection Cloudseven, Brussels, Belgium

2021: yes, no: perhaps, Hager Stiftung, Blieskastell, Germany

2017: origamiSquare 59 squares, Linklaters, Madrid, Spain

2017: origamiCeiling 160 Rhombi, Reynaerts, Duffel, Belgium

2017: origamiCeiling 20 squares 54 kites, Collection Cosnova, Frankfurt, Germany

2017: origamiPenrose 71 kites and darts, Collection Aegon, Amersfoort, The Netherlands

2016: origamiSquare 192 squares, Linklaters, Brussels, Belgium

2016: SwarmDots, Collection Fidelity, Luxembourg

2015: chronoPrints, Collection Zebrastraat, Ghent, Belgium

Additional works are held in private collections worldwide.

Artworks in Institutions

2026: Oh my God, Middelheim Museum (Sculpture Parc), Antwerpen, Belgium

2024: tonerchromeS, MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain, Montpellier, France

2021: PI, Cryptology Museum, Moscow, Russia

2018: 2 × 540 kHz, Mika Vainio + LAb[au], Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland

2016: EOD02, Frederik De Wilde + LAb[au], ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany

2006: pixFlow02, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil

Monographs and Exhibition Catalogues

2024: POSSIBLES | PROBABLES, exhibition catalogue

Botanique and Galerie La Patinoire Royale Bach

2019: If Then Else, exhibition catalogue

Casino Luxembourg Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg

2016: Calculations, Permutations, Notations, exhibition catalogue

The Major Gallery, London, UK

2015: Concepts, Modes, Systems, exhibition catalogue,

Centre des arts Enghien-les-Bains, France – ISBN 978-2-916639-38-3

2010: MetaDesign, Monograph

Les Presses du réel, Dijon, France, 2010 - ISBN 978-2-84066-404-8

2010: m0t1v, exhibition catalogue

Kunst-Station Sankt Peter, Cologne, Germany

Festivals

Selected festivals include:

Ososphere (Strasbourg), CTM (Berlin), TodaysArt (The Hague), Scopitone (Nantes), Luminato (Toronto), Nemo (Paris), Kikk (Namur), Elektra (Montréal), Sónar (Barcelona), among many others ...

Art Fairs

Selected art fairs include:

Art Basel, Art Basel Miami Beach, SP-Arte, ARCO, Art Brussels, BRAFA, FIAC, Art Vienna, Offscreen ...

2023: Solo Booth with Galerie La Patinoire Royale Bach (Brussels)

Offscreen, Grand Garage Haussmann, Paris, France

2016: Solo Booth with Galerie Denise René (Paris)

Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium