

Lili Sels VanBavaerts

based in Ghent, Belgium
atelier at Dr.Guislain Museum

huskrooms.com

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Lili Sels VanBavaerts (birth name Ellen Vanderstraeten), is a multidisciplinary performer and object explorer fascinated by the multiformity of textiles, everyday materials and minor gestures associated with care.

She creates installations—tactile habitats for focused, sensory-rich, and interactive performances.

Lili often works through long-term engagement, relationally weaving her practice in situ in places such as hospital gardens, libraries, cafeterias, small parks, and public squares.

She collaborates closely with other artists from various disciplines, as well as with patients, staff, local residents, and curious passersby. Over the years she specialized in developing her own unique approach to co-creation and participation.

In her current research, she explores lightness in her textile creations, allowing them to become more dynamic—moving shelters, moving houses, a second skin. Creations in which we do not have to be afraid of stillness, and can experience the authenticity of ourselves in our own body.

At present, she leads three collaborative projects—‘Spa for Spirits’, ‘Huskrooms’ and ‘Celestial Bodies’—supported by Flanders State of the Arts, along with partnerships at the intersection of art and care.

More info go to: huskrooms.com & spaforspirits.com

EDUCATION

2022, MA Creative Producing, Das Arts (Amsterdam University of the Arts), Amsterdam (NL)

2018 - 2019, MFA Performing Arts, Listaháskóli Íslands (Iceland University of the Arts), Reykjavik (IS)

2014 - 2017, BA Theatre Directing, RITCS (Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema and Sound), Brussels (BE)

TEACHING

2019 - 2020, Senselab, Concordia University, Montréal (CA)

conducting a series of workshops with a specific focus on individuals on the spectrum

2019, Romeo Gongora, UQAM University, Montréal (CA)

assistant for the Cultural Diversity Lab with bachelor students in fine arts

GRANTS

2024 - 2026, individual research grant by Flanders State of the Arts, Belgium

2023, individual research grant by Flanders State of the Arts, Belgium

PERFORMANCES, INSTALLATIONS & ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS

Huskrooms

- 2025, performance 'Beyond Words We Become', library Oost-Achterhoek, Neede (NL)
- 2025, performance & textile-video installation, 'Pars Pro Toto', with Studio Artïlerie at De Lovie, Poperinge (BE)
- 2025, performance & installation, during Open Studios with workspacebrussels supported by Kaaitheater, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, group exhibition 'Crip Stories' with wit.h vzw on invitation of KAOS at De Lovie, Poperinge (BE)
- 2023 - present, artistic interventions at the site of the Psychiatric Hospital & Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent (BE)
- 2023, artistic interventions at Psycho Social Center Sint-Alexius, KAOS supported by workspacebrussels, Brussels (BE)
- 2022, artistic interventions during 'Public Health Palliative Care International' with Through Art We Care, Bruges (BE)

Spa for Spirits

- 2026, ongoing performance at Recyclart with Bruxelles Laïque supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)
- 2026, ongoing performance and installation at Nadine, supported by VGC and Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, ongoing performance and installation during Caruna-top at Tour and Taxis, supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, ongoing performance during exhibition 'Extractions' at A Two Dog Company, supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)
- 2024, performance, during 'Pride & Paintings' by House of Lux at MSK (Museum Schone Kunsten), Ghent (BE)
- 2024, ongoing performance during alternative music festival 'Psycho Jazz' at Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent (BE)
- 2024, ongoing performance during 'Museum Nacht' at Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent (BE)
- 2023, open ateliers at De Koer supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Stad Gent & Alleskan, Ghent (BE)
- 2023, dining ritual during expo and workshop 'When the Body Says Yes' by Melanie Bonajo, FOMU, Antwerp (BE)
- 2022, performance during 'GIF', with Gouvernement & VIERNULVIER, at Shopping Center Zuid, Ghent (BE)
- 2022, installation & performance during group exhibition 'Brussels Gallery Weekend', Brussels (BE)
- 2022, installation & performance, festival 'MURF/MURW' at Theater De Nieuwe Vorst, Tilburg (NL)
- 2022, ateliers at BROEI, supported by AllesKan & Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)
- 2022, talk & video screening at conference 'AGxKANSAL 2022', Kyoto University of the Arts, Kyoto (JP)
- 2021, atelier at Centro de Experimentação Artística, supported by Celestial Bodies and Má-Criação, Moita (PT)
- 2021, workshop, Okan Zomerschool, supported by AllesKan, Bijloke Ghent (BE)
- 2021, performance, at VIERNULVIER, supported by AllesKan, Ghent (BE)

Other projects

- 2019, performance 'I Will Not Bury My Romantic Soul', Celestial Bodies Festival, Reykjavik (IS)
- 2019, assistant and performer for 'After Erika Eiffel' by Loren Kronemeyer during ANTIFestival, Kuopio (FI)
- 2018, performance by EllCompany - 'uni-beautysalon', ENTERBXL, GCNekkersdal and Demos vzw, Brussels (BE)
- 2017, installation & performance by EllCompany - 'Dancing Darlings' at Nijverheidkaai with RITCS, Brussels (BE)
- 2017, installation & performance 'ON NO ID', La Vallée, Brussels (BE)
- 2015, performance 'Everybody Natasha Maslova' at Palace of Culture, supported by Toestand, Kremenchuk (UA)
- 2015, performance during 'BANG Festival', Bozar (Centre for Fine Arts), Brussels (BE)
- 2015, an artistic saloon for dialogue with Toestand, Kremenchuk (UA)

RESIDENCIES

- 2026, at Dr.Guislain Museum with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by VIERNULVIER and Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)
- 2026, at De Koer with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by VIERNULVIER and Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)
- 2026, at Recyclart with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by Bruxelles Laïque and Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)
- 2026, at Nadine / n0dine with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by VGC and Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)
- 2026, at C-takt Dommelhof with 'Huskrooms' supported by Flanders State of the Arts & worspacebrussels, Neerpelt (BE)
- 2025, at Arts Centre BUDA with 'Huskrooms' supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Kortrijk (BE)
- 2025, at A Two Dog Company with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, at radical_house with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by VGC, Brussels (BE)
- 2025, at Alkantara with 'Celestial Bodies' supported by Má-Criação and dg.ARTES, Lisbon (PT)
- 2025, at Metropolitan Fukujusou with 'Huskrooms' supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Kyoto (JP)
- 2024, at Centrum w Ruchu with 'Celestial Bodies' supported by Apap Feminist Futures, Warsaw (PL)
- 2023, at De Koer with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Ghent (BE)
- 2023, at radical_house with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Brussels (BE)
- 2022, at Pleasure Island with 'Spa for Spirits' supported by Flanders State of the Arts, Ostend (BE)
- 2022, at De Grote Post with 'Spa for Spirits', Ostend (BE)
- 2021, at Centro de Experimentação Artística Moita & Alkantara with 'Celestial Bodies', Lisbon (PT)
- 2021, at Arts Centre BUDA with 'Spa for Spirits', Kortrijk (BE)
- 2021, at School van Gaasbeek with 'Spa for Spirits', Gaasbeek (BE)
- 2019, at SIM residency with sound artist Yann Leguay and Paula Diogo De Carvalho, Reykjavik (IS)
- 2019, at Skaftfell with sound artist Yann Leguay and Elsa Mencagli Andersen, Seydisfjordur (IS)