

TEEN SPIRIT

12.02 > 22.05.2022

In *Teen Spirit* the BPS22, Hainaut Province Museum of Art, explores adolescence through the prism of contemporary art. From 12 February to 22 May 2022, youth is the focus of some ninety selected works by more than thirty artists on display throughout the BPS22. The exhibition seeks to express the particularity and complexity of the time between childhood and adulthood by examining the concept of adolescence itself.

The exhibition's title is inspired by Nirvana's single, *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, released in 1991, which became the anthem of a disenchanted generation marked by social decline and globalisation. It also evokes adolescence as a state of mind, a marker of mutual recognition between young people, even while its nature and boundaries shift.

As a matter of fact, the concept of adolescence is hard to define. What it encompasses changes depending on the era. In certain societies, this period between childhood and adulthood does not exist; for some people it is a myth. Which is why adolescence is examined here as a social construct and not simply a physiological or psychological phenomenon. This construct increasingly occurred in the West and became an integral part of the collective consciousness following the end of World War II. Before that, a child became an adult without a period of transition.

The selection of works in *Teen Spirit* aims to show media that are rarely used in portraying adolescence, hitherto seen almost exclusively through the medium of photography. It also seeks to avoid caricature by trying to extend the perception of youth via contributions from different plastic arts. These help us to discover adolescent aspirations, preoccupations, language and behaviour that in

their turn reveal a society's influence on its young people, and also the way the latter affect society in return. In this sense, Jon Savage¹ addresses the commercialisation of adolescence, which seeks to satisfy teenagers and tame them in equal measure. It also implies that in a capitalist world we are all, to a certain extent, adolescents.

Teen Spirit presents artists for whom adolescence constitutes a real source of inspiration, as well as works bearing witness to life contexts that exclude this time of carelessness. Some works reveal the loneliness created by the virtual world and social media by examining how ways of socialising have been transformed. While others observe lone teenagers who indulge, with some delight, in a sort of idling that is far from the cliché of a "sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll" adolescence.

1. Jon Savage (1953) is a British journalist, mostly known for his biography of the Sex Pistols. In 2007, he published *Teenage: the Creation of Youth Culture*.



Vincen Beeckman, *Teen Spirit*, 2021, ©Vincen Beeckman

Curator: Nancy CASIELLES

Artists: Hernan BAS, Charlotte BEAUDRY, Vincen BEECKMAN, Neïl BELOUFA, Joseph BEUYS, Mohamed BOUROUISSA, Sander BREURE & Witte VAN HULZEN, BROGNON ROLLIN, Émilie BROUT & Maxime MARION, Larry CLARK, Eric CROES, Estelle CZERNICHOWSKI, Daniel FIRMAN, Maen FLORIN, Nan GOLDIN, Laura HENNO, Thomas HIRSCHHORN, Mike KELLEY, Mahomi KUNIKATA, Les LEVINE, Teresa MARGOLLES, Thomas MAZZARELLA, Johan MUYLE, Sophie PODOLSKI, Christoph SCHMIDBERGER, Jim SHAW, Emmanuel VAN DER AUWERA.



PRATICAL INFO

EXHIBITION

12.02 > 22.05.2022

PRESS VISIT

Thursday 10.02.2022 – 11:00

PRESS CONTACT

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BPS22

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OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 > 18:00.

Closed on Mondays and 24, 25, 31.12 and 01.01 and from 10.01 to 11.02.2022.

FEES

Adults: €6 / Seniors: €4 / Students and jobseekers: €3 / Under 12 years old: free.

Group from 10 people: €4/pp

Guided tour : €50 or €60 (weekend) per group of max 15 people.

Free guided tour for school groups and associations (workshop included)