



HOPE AND OPTIMISM Water, the source of life

Curation by Gerrit Kempeneers

European Parliament
27-30 November 2023

The exhibition "Hope and Optimism – Water, the source of life," skilfully composed by curator Gerrit Kempeneers, is a tribute to the vital element that connects us all.

HOPE AND OPTIMISM WATER, THE SOURCE OF LIFE

Gerrit Kempeneers

Gerrit Kempeneers, with his insightful view on the relationship between humans and water, has brought together artworks by numerous artists that uniquely capture the strength and vulnerability of water. The expo takes a journey through various perspectives of the artists and showcases innovative approaches to water conservation and sustainability. It reflects a future where water is not only a source of life but also an essential element for well-being and progress.

Members of the European Parliament, Hilde Vautmans and Guy Verhofstadt, take pride in providing a platform for artists in Europe. In doing so, they aim to highlight the importance of water management at the international level and the need to address the global water crisis. Amidst political decision-making and diplomacy, this artistic presentation emerges as a plea for collective action and awareness.

Step into the world of "Hope and Optimism: Water, the source of life" and let yourself be guided by the powerful messages these artworks convey from all corners of the world. In the fusion of art, politics, and business, an inspiration and a call to action emerge. Because in unity with water, we find the key to a hopeful future.

More information about the expo "Hope and Optimism: Water, the source of life" by curator Gerrit Kempeneers: +32475528091

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Hope and Optimism: Water, the source of life

"Hope and Optimism" knows no geographical, political, or cultural boundaries. Since 1990, over a hundred artists from various countries have created artworks around the theme of hope and positive thinking, especially in more challenging times. What makes it unique is that the countries themselves had to designate an artist. A selection of these works, also protected by UNESCO, is currently exhibited in the European Parliament. The international exhibition comprises around twenty pieces.

The theme of "Hope and Optimism" transcends time and space. People from all eras, wherever they may be in the world, can identify with hope and optimism when facing challenging situations or circumstances. Looking at the current global scenario, where a significant portion of the world population is grappling with the consequences of climate change, rising temperatures, water pollution, and water scarcity, **the addition of "Water, the source of life"** is a fitting title for this expo. Each of us is aware of the necessity and importance of clean and drinkable water, understanding that water is essential for survival.

This theme presents serious challenges but simultaneously positions humanity to be hopeful and positive. This is in light of innovative ideas, industries, and technological advancements that attempt to address the various issues surrounding contemporary water usage. Worldwide, efforts are underway to find solutions to water problems. An example of this can be seen in 'render X – Alexander Vos,' displayed at this expo, an initiative originating from Belgium.

***Water is valuable to each of us across our entire blue planet.
Hence, with this art, we aim to underscore the importance of water.***

Curator Gerrit Kempeneers (Sint-Truiden, 1960)

Business and elite sports consultant Gerrit Kempeneers works and resides in Sint-Truiden but is primarily a global citizen. He built an international reputation as a physiotherapist. In the 1980s, he specialized in sports science and heart rehabilitation at the University of Cape Town. There, he collaborated with Professor Tim Noakes and Dr. Christiaan Barnhard, the surgeon who performed the first heart transplant. Gerrit became one of the pioneers in the field of rehabilitation therapy for transplant patients.

He consolidated all these international experiences into his own treatment method, aimed at guiding people both physically and mentally in the right direction, not only curatively but especially preventively. The number of top athletes, business leaders, managers, and employees who have benefited from his expertise is unprecedented.

Hope and Optimism: Water, the source of life

The infectious optimism, vast network, and accumulated experiences led Gerrit to one of the greatest challenges in his life. A tribute to **Nelson Mandela** remains one of the key pillars of "Hope and Optimism." This unique global art project, coordinated by Kempeneers, originated in 1990 and remains highly relevant today. His traveling exhibition received international acclaim. With this expo on the theme of water, he aims to add a new chapter to the project, creating awareness about the issues and building bridges toward the future to solve the global water problem.