

Anton Vidokle, Hallie Ayres, and Lukas Brasiskis appointed Artistic Directors of 13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale



The 13th Seoul Mediacity Biennale Artistic Directors Hallie Ayres, Anton Vidokle and Lukas Brasiskis. (from left to right) Courtesy of Seoul Museum of Art

SeMA, Seoul Museum of Art (Seosomun-dong) 61
Deoksugung-gil, Jung-gu, 04515 Seoul, South Korea

Seoul Mediacity Biennale is pleased to announce Anton Vidokle, Hallie Ayres, and Lukas Brasiskis as Artistic Directors of its 13th edition.

Since its inauguration in 2000 as an initiative of the Seoul Metropolitan Government, Seoul Mediacity Biennale has earned international recognition for its experimental engagement with the conditions of the contemporary, new developments in media, and the changing fabric of the city. These themes were first explored in the Biennale's precursor exhibition, *SEOUL in MEDIA*, which was held three times between 1996 and 1999. Since then, the Biennale has presented twelve editions, each embodying ideas and activities that resonate with their time.

Anton Vidokle, Hallie Ayres, and Lukas Brasiskis's appointment is the result of an international open call—the second time this process has been undertaken in the Biennale's history—overseen by a committee of leading Korean professionals. Among the 66 candidates, the committee members welcomed a proposal

“strategically approaching the aesthetics of spiritualism and animism to critically intervene with the dominant discourses of capitalism, materialism, post-colonialization, and contemporary technology, while extending the project’s historical continuum.” SeMA General Director Choi Eunju said, “As a representative contemporary art event of the city Seoul, I hope the upcoming edition with this team having accumulated experience and understanding on art production and distribution will create an enduring platform for a unique and expansive aesthetic experience of the Biennale in Seoul for all visitors and viewers.”

For this upcoming edition, the curators propose an exhibition-as-séance: a show that employs the mechanics of séance as a way to move away from the contemporary neoliberal conception of biennial exhibitions and towards the construction of a heightened experience in which waking life is entangled with the more-than-human world. To do this, the curators will explore and present works of art that bridge material and immaterial worlds and critically approach the present. These ideas are connected to important contemporary discourses ranging from feminism to indigenous struggle, anti-capitalism to post-colonialism. The Korean peninsula, with the richness of its belief systems, religious practices, and folk traditions, is a particularly poignant place for such a project, while Seoul itself, as a modernist city informed by spirituality as much as technology, offers a dialectical context.

Anton Vidokle is an artist, filmmaker, and the founder of e-flux. He has worked and exhibited in South Korea numerous times, including two editions of Gwangju Biennale, where he won the Noon Award in 2016, as well as a solo show at MMCA in 2019 and other exhibitions, lectures, and projects. Hallie Ayres is a curator, researcher, and art historian who has published texts and delivered lectures on the reconciliation of indigenous and Western knowledge production through spiritual belief systems, among many other topics. Lukas Brasiskis, a PhD scholar and film curator, is devoted to artists’ and experimental film. In his curatorial and academic work, he often explores the limits and potentials of moving image media to present more-than-human perspectives, a topic he discussed in his essay for *Art Contemplating Crisis*, MMCA Studies’ special edition in 2020, among other writings.

More details of the 13th edition of Seoul Mediacity Biennale will be announced in the coming months.

The 13th Seoul Mediacity pre-Biennale Website <http://mediacityseoul.kr>
Seoul Museum of Art Website <http://sema.seoul.go.kr>

Press Inquiries | contact@mediacityseoul.kr

For high-resolution images, please follow the below
<https://shorturl.at/xqJMT>

The 13th Seoul Mediacity pre-Biennale Website <http://mediacityseoul.kr>
Seoul Museum of Art Website <http://sema.seoul.go.kr>

SMB Social Media channels

Instagram: [instagram.com/seoulmediacitybiennale](https://www.instagram.com/seoulmediacitybiennale)

X(Twitter): [x.com/mediacityseoul](https://twitter.com/mediacityseoul)

Facebook: [facebook.com/mediacityseoul](https://www.facebook.com/mediacityseoul)

Youtube: [youtube.com/seoulmediacitybiennale](https://www.youtube.com/seoulmediacitybiennale)

[Appendix A] Images and credit



**The 13th Seoul
Mediacity Biennale
Artistic Directors Hallie
Ayres, Anton Vidokle
and Lukas Brasiskis.
(from left to right)
Courtesy of Seoul
Museum of Art**

[Appendix B] About Seoul Mediacity Biennale

Since its inauguration in 2000 as an initiative of the Seoul Metropolitan Government, Seoul Mediacity Biennale has earned international recognition for its experimental engagement with contemporaneity and the changes of media in the city. The Biennale began sharing conceptual experiences on media beginning with its precursor exhibition SEOUL in MEDIA, which was held three times between 1996 and 1999. Since then, the Biennale has presented twelve editions, each embodying varying ideas and activities that resonate with its respective time.

For each edition, some 50 participating artists (individuals and collectives) have presented works that respond to the project's thematic focus and contend with the urgent issues of our time, attracting approximately 140,000 visitors during each Biennale period. Centered around Seoul Museum of Art Seosomun Main Branch, the Biennale also activates various satellite and collaborating spaces across the city of Seoul, accompanied by public programs and publications that serve as important mediators in fostering artistic awareness and experience among both participatory and audience members.

The Biennale also commissions, supports and presents new artworks by celebrated artists who faithfully advance the Biennale's objectives. A total of 35 such works have been acquired by SeMA and are currently in the museum's permanent collection, serving as concrete documentary evidence of the evolving forms, tendencies and concepts in contemporary media art. Next year, the Biennale's archives will be cataloged and disseminated via an integrated online platform, ensuring access to Biennale resources as a collective property of the public.

A pre-Biennale program initiated in 2022 seeks to explore conceptual media, evaluate the Biennale's identity, encourage local engagement and expand the project's purview based on the accumulated resources from throughout its history. Conceived as a form of media unto itself, the historic record of previous Biennales as presented in the pre-Biennale program establishes a space for contemporary experimentation and thought integrating aesthetic participation, production and mediation.