

## PRESS RELEASE

# Stone, Steel & Sky – Cédric Van Parys

September 19 – October 5, 2025

National Palace of Culture, Sofia

Belgian artist **Cédric Van Parys** arrives in Sofia with his first institutional solo exhibition in Bulgaria, titled *Stone, Steel & Sky*. From September 19 to October 5, 2025, he will take over the iconic Marble Hall of the National Palace of Culture, bringing together works created over the past several years that trace the evolution of his artistic practice—from microhistorical readings of place to speculative inquiries into infrastructure as both symbol and memory.

*Stone, Steel, and Sky* references Van Parys' interest in tectonics, gravity, weight, and matter, while also alluding to infrastructure as spaces of promise. Van Parys is hijacking or appropriating existing symbols and structures; reshuffling and juxtaposing elements and materials from the urban and rural landscape in ways that trigger the imagination, merging a critical post-capitalist message with a poetic universal sacredness. Naturally, his work resonates with the monumental spirit of the National Palace of Culture—built in 1981 as a national symbol of cultural ambition.

**Cédric Van Parys** is an artist and researcher operating between Brussels (BE), Rotterdam (NL), and Sofia (BG). He creates sculptural works, site-specific installations, photographic assemblages, and publications that explore the relationship between monuments, infrastructure, symbols, rituals, and aesthetics. By collecting various phenomena as individual elements and reassembling them in new ways, Van Parys questions traditional ideas of culture and nature. His work has been exhibited at institutions, galleries, and universities in the United States, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Italy, and China. He was the 2023–24 Douglas A. Garofalo Fellow at the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois Chicago.

The opening will take place on **September 19, 2025, at 18:00** in the Marble Hall of the National Palace of Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria.