

Julie Vanlook

Visual/ Olfactory Artist
Based in Brussels (BE)

Julie Vanlook (b. 2003, Belgium) is an olfactory artist based in Brussels. Her practice stems from research into how scent engages the body and brings emotions to the surface. Working across installations, performances, and objects, she treats scent as an active, spatial presence rather than a passive addition.

In her installations, scent shapes the atmosphere of a space and subtly directs the movement, attention, and experience of the audience. During performances, she works with scent as a living material; constantly shifting, responding, and influencing the unfolding of the work in real time. Within her objects, scent remains central, functioning both as a carrier of meaning and as an invitation to a direct, physical encounter.

Through this sensory approach, her work explores memory, embodiment, and the intimate connections between presence, perception, and lived experience.



“The Scent of Memory”

Scented Objects, 3D sculptural objects each paired with a specific scent to create tangible memory objects. Every object is connected to a place, moment, or person, translating personal memories into physical and olfactory form.

g.MB.03 – “Cigarettes & Leather” Grandma’s closet, where the smell of cigarette smoke had lingered in her leather handbags and wool coats, mixed with the sweet, spicy trace of her perfume Black Opium by Yves Saint Laurent.

g.AV.03 – “Musk & Peppermint” Father’s car, where the smell of leather blended with the scent of a peppermint to mask the smoke from his just-blown-out cigarette.

g.WO.04 – “Coffee & Orange” Parents’ kitchen, where the smell of freshly brewed coffee mixed with the scent of a just-sliced orange.

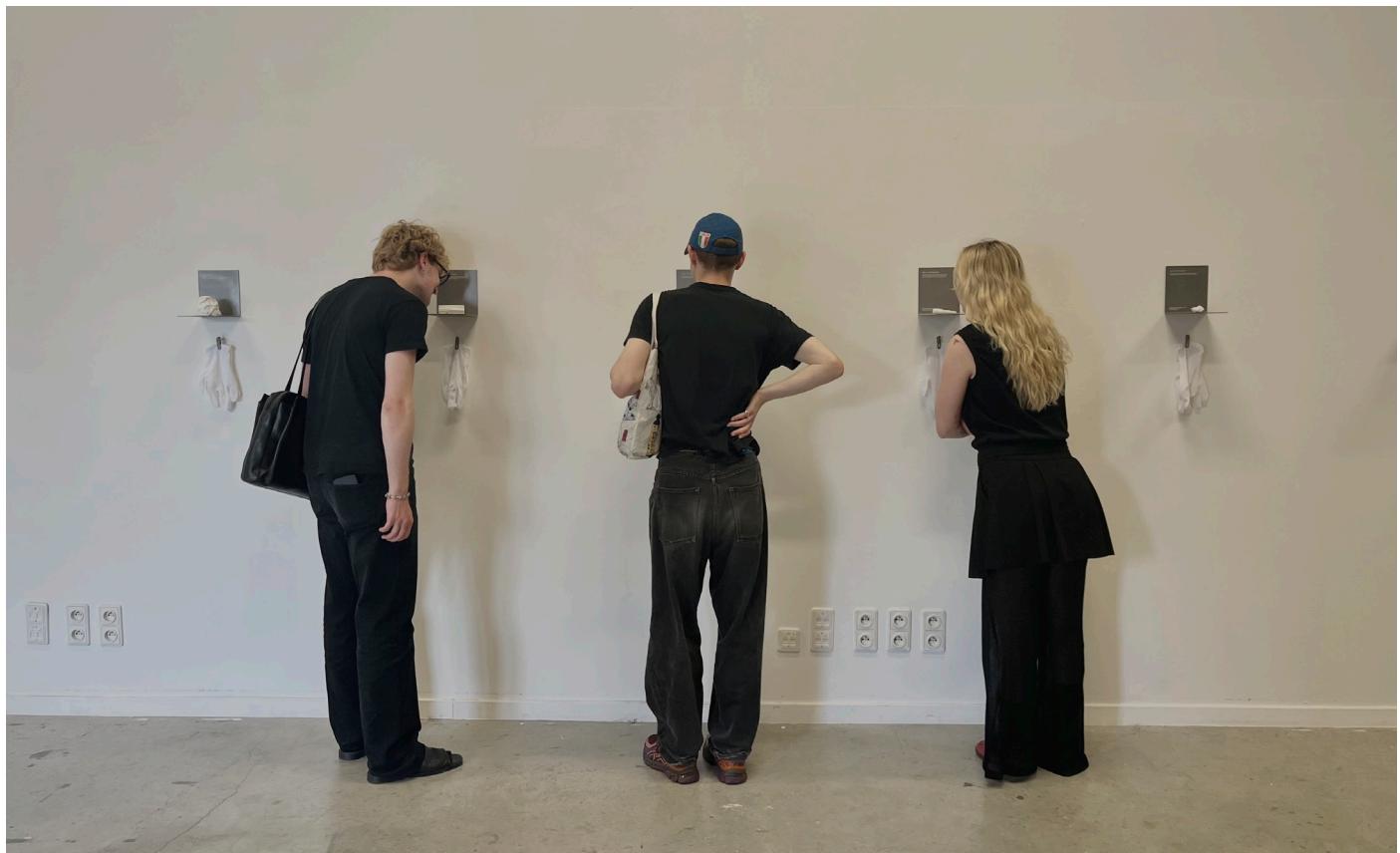
g.M.04 – “Hay & Civet” Lying in the grass on summer days, surrounded by the earthy smell of manure from the nearby fields, watching the sky slowly shift.

g.NA.07 – “Moss & Birch Tar” During a walk in the forest, where the rain soaked the earth and the smell of damp moss and wet leaves hung in the air.

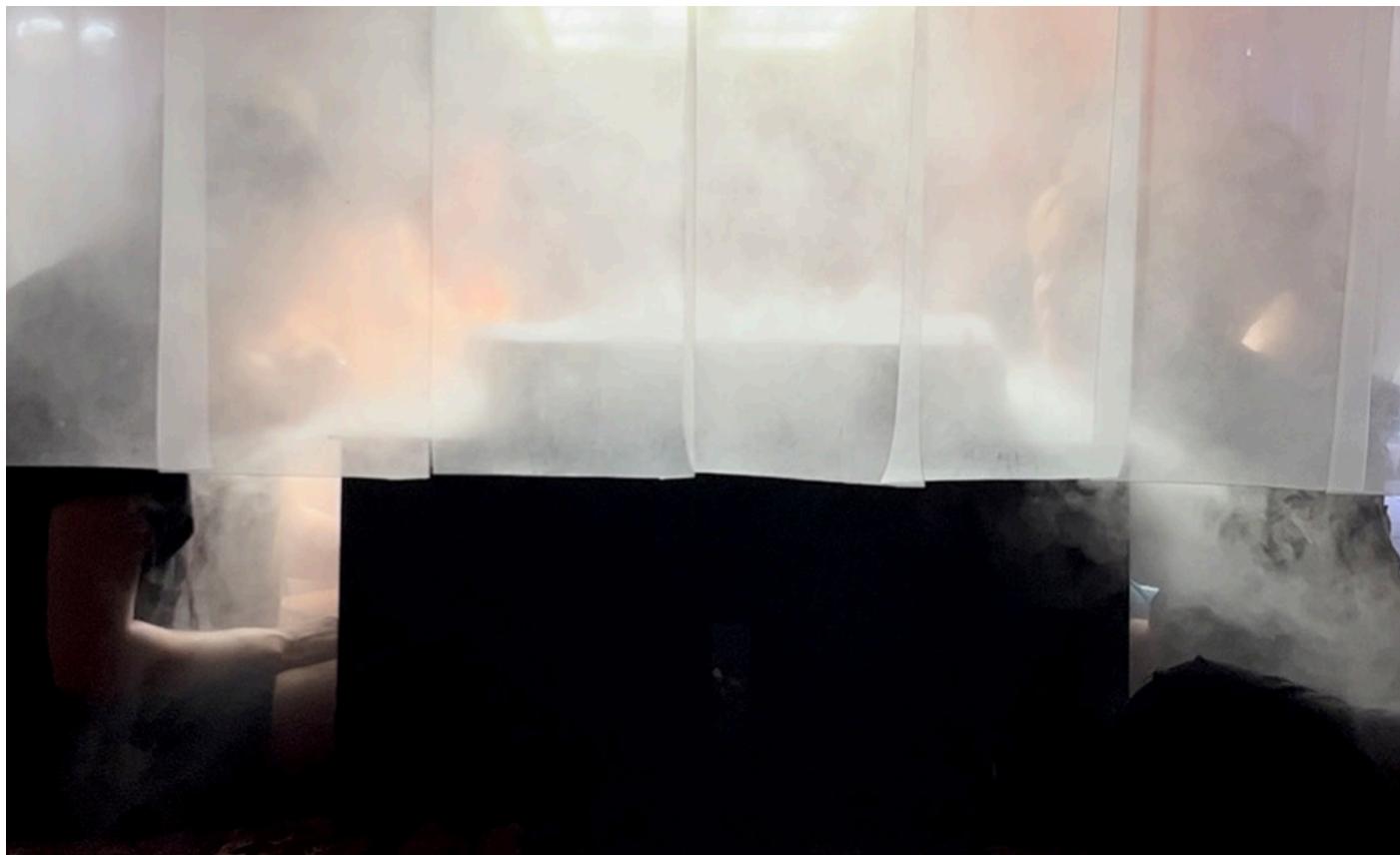
g.OH.02 – “Lucifers & Vanilla” Parents’ living room, where the scent of burnt matches and warm vanilla lingered in the soft fabric of the couch, while the fireplace crackled gently in the background.

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“Mangé III”

A was scent developed for Mangé, titled *Sous la feuille*.

Mangé is a food performance created in 2023 by Bert Bogaerts (@esca_studio) and Kaat Claes (@f.aat23).

The scent combines notes of leafy greens, tomato stems, green mandarin, and a smoky hint of whiskey. Its starting point was a memory of a tomato greenhouse, the distinctive, almost electric smell of tomato leaves released when a stem is snapped, instantly transporting the senses back in time.

During the performance, the scent was diffused live in the space, becoming part of the sensory experience and interacting with the movement, food, and atmosphere of the moment.

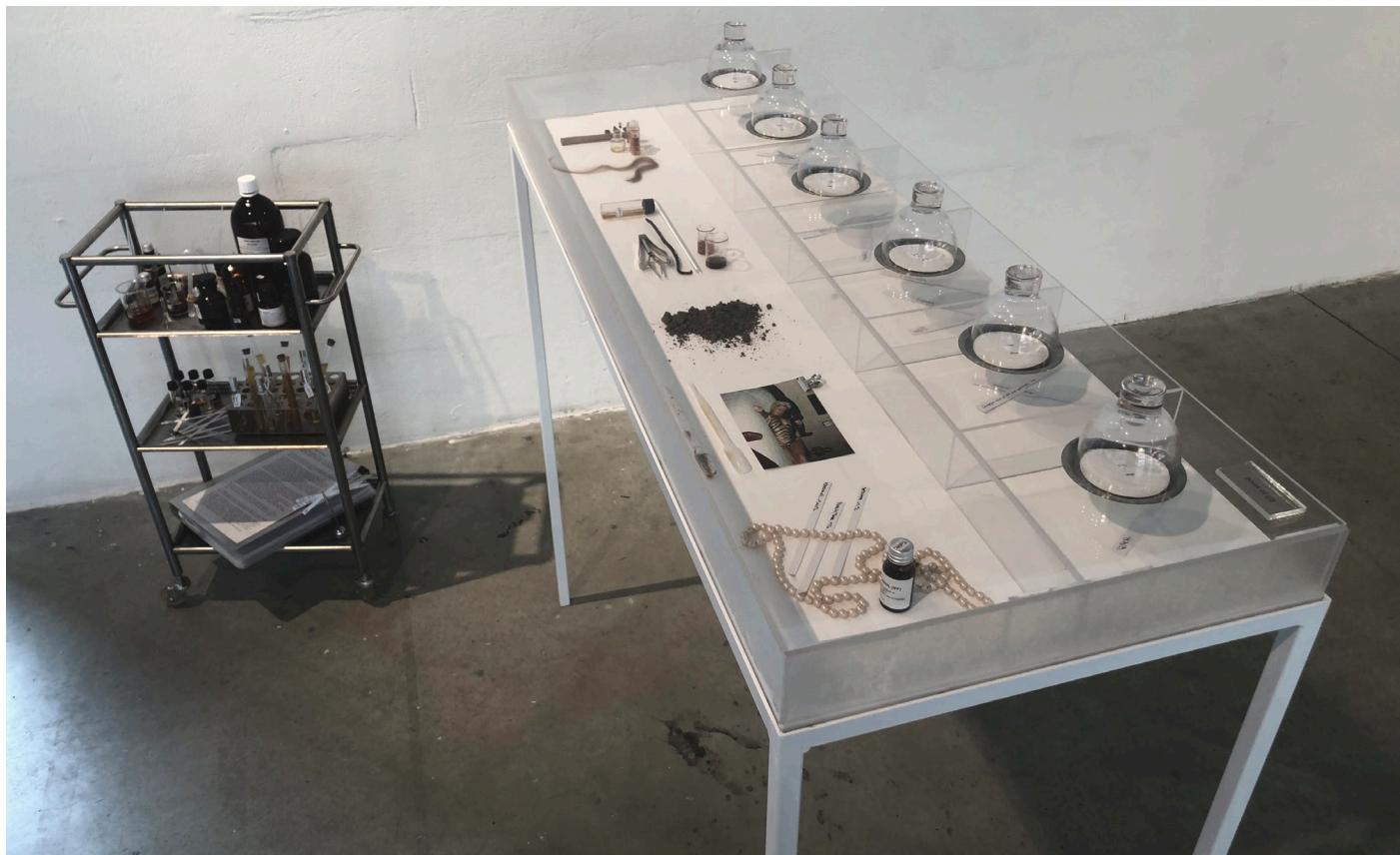
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July 2025





“Smell and tell”

For the exhibition *Here Be Dragons ‘25* at LUCA School of Arts, six scents were presented. These scents are the result of research into how scent can evoke memories within a sensory experience.

Each scent tells its own story, brings forgotten memories back to life and creates connections between past and present.

What lingers and what fades?

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The scents are displayed on a vitrine table made of metal and plexiglass (110h x 120w x 45l)

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February 2025

