

Bruno Doedens Land Artist Circle4Change Collective

Circle4Change aims to become a significant, multi-year European social artwork that connects and inspires people. Its core message emphasises being a good ancestor, promoting long-term thinking, and striving toward a symbiotic world in harmony with the Earth. The project traces a circular line through nine European countries, with Leeuwarden (Netherlands) and Nova Gorica (Slovenia-Italy) as its two poles – cultural capitals in 2018 and 2025, respectively. The line stretches through the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Czechia, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, France, and Belgium.

This circular line will be a magnet for initiatives demonstrating that enriching the Earth is more rewarding than burdening it. Together with local communities, organisations, artists, municipalities, and businesses, we will infuse the line with activities and projects driven by imagination, hope, and change. This magical circular line will evolve into a platform and laboratory for renewal and connection – a Gesamtkunstwerk envisioning the Symbiocene, celebrating diversity, and ultimately transforming into a contemporary long-distance walking and cycling route with a positive message.

Every three years, we will highlight the circular line with an engaging event. In April 2025, we will launch our first initiative, *A Tree Cycles Through Europe*. Along the 5,000 km route, we will introduce the *Birthday Tree* concept: *It's my birthday, so I am planting a tree*. This first tour in 2025 will resemble the Olympic torch relay, serving as both

an announcement and a prelude to 2028, when we aim to cycle through Europe with an entire 'forest.' Over the coming years, we will plant countless birthday trees with many people, creating numerous birthday forests along the line and collectively building a vast landscape artwork.

Bruno Doedens explains: "Circle4Change is a multi-year project with an ambitious goal: a world in balance with nature and the planet. We need new stories that inspire, activate us, and guide us toward a balanced future, a future we can achieve together. I am convinced that we can trigger societal shifts by employing radical imagination and activating social energy. Art and culture are essential in this process as they shift our perspectives. As individuals, we can certainly make a difference and create beauty. But together, we can achieve so much more. The focus must shift from 'me to we,' from 'ego to eco,' and from 'short-term to long-term.' These are the challenges ahead. Circle4Change aims to inspire radical optimism, making the impossible possible. Through this, we aspire to contribute to a symbiotic world that is more harmonious and balanced."

Land artist Bruno Doedens creates large-scale works exploring the dynamic relationship between nature and culture. Harnessing social energy and radical imagination, he transforms landscapes into evolving experiences that inspire us to rethink our behaviour for a more symbiotic existence.



A tree cycles through Europe (montage)
Bruno Doedens / DS landscape architects, 2023