

Achille Mbembe Challenge

The Universal Right to Breathe

Subject

A design competition for students in the Netherlands and Flanders (NL/ENG), about:

- Climate and activism
- Restitution of (stolen) heritage
- Digital colonization

In occasion of the International Spinozalens Prize, which will be awarded to the Cameroonian philosopher, Achille Mbembe, on 24 November 2025.

Available Support

- Digital speed dates for individual participants
- Accessible podcast and short videos about Achille Mbembe's work
- Literature and videos
- Guidance with the presentation of the prototype during the finals

Language: English and Dutch (with English transcripts or subtitles)

When

From 8 September to 24 November 2025

- Phase 1: until 5 October, 2025
- Final Phase: from 10 October, 2025
- Finalists gathering: 15 November 2025
- Meet & greet with Achille Mbembe (Mauritshuis) and announcement of the winner (Kunstmuseum) in The Hague: 24 November 2025

**A design competition
about burning hot issues**

ORGANISATION BY A.O.

- Wereldmuseum
- Baltan Laboratories
- The International Spinoza Price Foundation



WEBSITES

- www.amsterdam.wereldmuseum.nl
- www.baltanlaboratories.org
- www.spinozalens.nl

Achille Mbembe

Challenge

The Universal Right to Breathe

Format & Locations

- (Multidisciplinary) teams of up to four students
- Phase 1 for all teams: Short draft of the prototype (digital)
- Digital consultation hours
- Final phase: Development and presentation of the prototype (digital and live)
- Finalists gathering and presentation to the jury in the Wereldmuseum Leiden
- Announcement of the winning team in The Hague (location TBA)

Registration

- Participation is free
- Travel expenses for the final gatherings will be reimbursed
- Before 8 september 2025, via info@spinozalens.nl

PS. Parallel to the design competition for college and university students, a competition for mbo students and secondary school is taking place.

Additional Information

- From 8 May 2025 on www.spinozalens.nl
- All material and practical information will be available by 8 September 2025
- Questions via info@spinozalens.nl

**For creative, brainy and
gutsy students**

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