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THE ART MARKET

by Melanie Gerlis

Brussels is very much on the mind of Elizabeth Dee, co-founder of New York's alternative Independent art fair, which opened in the Belgian capital in 2016. Living up to the fair's name, Dee has decided to move its third edition away from being a satellite of the Art Brussels contemporary art fair in April and instead let it stand on its own two feet in November.

"Belgium used to be a place that the art crowd visited only once a year, but the pace has changed and its audience is more layered now. We can be more than an addendum," Dee says.

Her decision was accelerated by the recent appointment of Vincent Honoré, senior curator at London's Hayward Gallery, as guest curator of Independent Brussels. They promise a more innovative and experiential fair including dance, poetry and "activations". Honoré says: "Of course it will still be a fair, but I think of it as a short festival, where the market, the museums, the non-profits can co-exist."

Dee will not be drawn on whether the change in dates means that her fair can encourage more of the Art Brussels galleries to show at both — the overlap is currently minimal — though this seems a likely outcome.

Independent remains in Brussels's Vandeborghht building, a quirky former shopping mall (November 8-11).