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► The artist Vincent Dogna (centre), with Vice-President Katainen and CACE President Rudy Mathijs

Emotions in motion: when sport meets art

Drawing inspiration from the finish line

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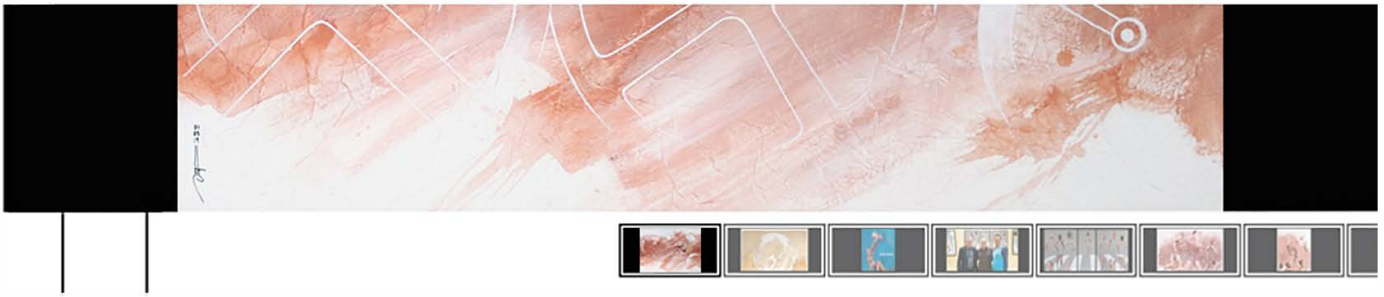
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A passion shared by millions across the globe, running takes centre stage in a new art exhibition on display in the Berlaymont. 'Running Together – Emotions in motion', organised under the patronage of Vice-President Katainen, a runner himself, will be on show until 29 May – Commission en direct takes you behind the scenes.

As an avid runner and a former drawing student, the artist Vincent Dogna, finds his inspiration in the sport. "*I started running to help me stop smoking*", he explains, adding "*I was not sporty at all at the time*". He started with a 5km race but quickly moved on to longer distances and, 33 marathons later, he states, "*I'm addicted*". And so when in 2006, Vincent got injured and had to put his trainers away for six months, he took out his paintbrushes again: "*I started drawing what I missed most: running*".

The result is an impressive collection of inspiring artworks, at the "*intersection of drawing and graphic design*", as the artist himself describes it, representing runners in different ways and at different points in the race: the starting countdown, powering through the last mile, crossing the famous blue finish line...





Vice-President Katainen told Commission en direct: *"the first thing that I see is that the artist has really captured moments, emotions – I can feel what the people in the paintings are feeling."* He adds, pointing at a piece showing a female runner, arms swinging, fists clenched, *"what the artist chooses to represent is not necessarily the most obvious aspects – but through these very vivid depictions one really gets a sense of emotions in movements."*

At the opening ceremony, the Vice-President also spoke of the 20k race in Brussels taking place this Sunday. It will see some 1,300 runners from the institutions running with one key message on their shirts 'This time I'm voting': *"there will be many running with the same message – so it will be seen."* Vice-President Katainen was then symbolically presented with a running vest by Rudy Mathijs, President of the Commission's running club (CACE) who has been liaising with the artist in preparation of the exhibition.

The exhibition is divided into four themes, each displayed on its own separate wall: wood, air, earth, and sky. *"They reflect the different backgrounds the runners are depicted on, but, more importantly, they symbolise diversity"*, explains the artist. In a short speech at the opening event, Rudy Mathijs stressed that *"Running brings runners together, "making them 'united in diversity'".* The many courageous colleagues who signed up to the race may well want to pass by to get some inspiration for the big day!

Running Together – Emotions in motion is on display in BERL1 until 29 May.



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