







ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS OF BELGIUM

BRUEGEL: UNSEEN MASTERPIECES

Twelve of Bruegel's masterpieces, to be found in some of the most prestigious museums in the world, are presented in high-definition detail thanks to technology provided by the Google Cultural Institute. By delving deeper into the artist's world, the viewer will discover the unexpected elements in Bruegel's works that constitute the pinnacle of the Flemish master's craft. So while the artist and his paintings may be instantly recognisable, every painting has a whole host of characteristics - some familiar, others surprising - that are masterpieces worthy of exploration in their own right.

BRUEGEL BOX

An intriguing art experience lets visitors discover the secrets to be found in Bruegel's most famous masterpieces. In one of the museum's rooms, fascinating videos - each dedicated to a Bruegel painting - are projected on three walls, floor to ceiling with the help of a sophisticated system of projectors and ultrahigh resolution images.

In the "Bruegel Box", spectators will be able to rub shoulder-to-shoulder with the villagers of Bruegel's "Proverbs" (1559), come face-to-face with the palm reader in the Sermon of Saint John the Baptist (1566) or experience The Fall of the Rebel Angels (1562) as if they were there.

BRUEGEL PAINTINGS

Following the immersive experience in the 'Box', visitors will then be able to admire the original 'Fall of the Rebel Angels' - and other works by Bruegel - as it can be seen on the first floor of the Old Masters Department of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium.

ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS OF BELGIUM

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MUSEUM MAYER VAN DEN BERGH

DULLE GRIET (MAD MEG) AND 12 WOODEN DINING PLATES, PAINTED BY BRUEGEL

Thanks to new research and a thorough restoration of the Dulle Griet, this painting will shine amongst other masterpieces of the collection of the Mayer van den Bergh Museum.

MUSEUM MAYER VAN DEN BERGH

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BOZAR (IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BRUSSELS) BERNARD VAN ORLEY - BRUSSELS & RENAISSANCE

20 FEBRUARY - 26 MAY 2019

Bernard van Orley was a central figure in the artistic life of Brussels and the Southern Netherlands during the first half of the sixteenth century. Court painter to Margaret of Austria first and Mary of Hungary afterwards, author of numerous projects for tapestries and stained-glass windows, and loaded with commissions, he headed, at a very young age, one of the largest workshops of his day.

Surprisingly, given his dominant position, Bernard van Orley has never been the subject of a monograph, nor is there any scholarly scientific catalogue of his oeuvre. This is the first time Van Orley's works have been brought together for public display.

The exhibition will include a large number of works and will be visually very varied. While much of the exhibition will be devoted to the paintings, ample attention will also be paid to the tapestries, to the drawings and to the archives relating to stained glass windows, positioning the artist as a major entrepreneur, at the head of a vast and very productive workshop.

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BOZAR (IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ROYAL LIBRARY OF BELGIUM) PRINTS IN THE AGE OF BRUEGEL

27 FEBRUARY - 23 JUNE 2019

Today everyone knows the work of Bruegel because it can be reproduced endlessly. In the 16th century, printmaking was the only method to print and distribute images in multiples. Bruegel also used original print designs from the printing press to make his work and name known far beyond the borders.

This exhibition aims to sketch a picture of print production in the Southern Netherlands in Bruegel's century. The rise and prosperity of printmaking in Bruegel's century is not only an artistic success story. Brilliant craftsmanship and bold entrepreneurship also played a major role.

BOZAR

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MUSEE DE FLANDRE \ FESTIVALS AND FETES IN BRUEGEL'S TIME

16 MARCH - 14 JULY 2019

While Europe celebrates the 450th anniversary of the death of Pieter Bruegel the Elder, the "Musée de Flandre" [Flanders Museum] is playing its role by inviting the general public to make their merry way through its exhibition rooms.

We all have images of frenzied Flemish country fairs in our minds with peasants dancing, drinking and feasting to the sound of bagpipes. We quite naturally associate them with Pieter Bruegel the Elder, a truly great artist. Of course, he has no match when it comes to taking us back in time to these scenes of festivals with myriad details, characters and symbols which became popular thanks to a whole generation of talented painters. His contemporaries, Martin van Cleve and Pieter Balten, and the artists who followed him - his two sons Pieter Bruegel the Younger and Jan Bruegel the Younger in particular - boldly took up the challenge of ceaselessly reinterpreting his models. In Bruegel's era, popular celebrations, bawdy and mischievous, were not the sole preserve of peasants. They also reveal more "intimate" scenes where carnal pleasure is exalted. A "no punches pulled" retrospective of two centuries of merrymaking, dancing and music!

MUSÉE DE FLANDRE

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BOKRIJK \ THE WORLD OF BRUEGEL

5 APRIL - 20 OCTOBER 2019

(4/4 OPENING FOR PRESS, 6/4 FOR THE PUBLIC)

Experience: The open-air museum of Bokrijk opened its doors in 1958, and the conservator at that time, was greatly inspired by Bruegel.

The exhibition offers a contemporary and sensory experience of the middle of 16th century and guides visitors through the Open-Air Museum, passing through various locations, each of which have their own particular little world. New technology reinforces the experience: augmented reality takes you on a trip to find objects from the painting `The Fight Between Carnival and Lent. The final result makes visitors stop and think about themselves and society in a humorous way, the way Bruegel thought himself. In the summer, from 11 July until 1 September 2019, the LAIKA theatre company will be performing a special Bruegel presentation twice a day.

BOKRIJK

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GAASBEEK CASTLE \ FEAST OF FOOLS: BRUEGEL REDISCOVERED

6 APRIL - 28 JULY 2019 (4/4 IS OPENING FOR PRESS, 7/4 FOR PUBLIC)

The exhibition inquires the way in which modern artists handled Bruegels artistic legacy in the period between and after the wars. Hence the focus on the following artists: James Ensor, Valerius De Saedeleer, Jules De Bruycker, Gustave Van de Woestyne, Jean Brusselmans, Constant Permeke, Anto Carte, Otto Dix and George Grosz. At the same time, the exhibition pulls out various contemporary stops, with art, performance (by Rimini Protokoll) and music. Ten contemporary artists have been invited to delve into the themes from Bruegel's work. Included artists are Pascale Marthine Tayou, Honoré d'O, Emanuelle Quertain, Jan Van Imschoot & Salam Atta Sabri, Dirk Braeckman/Franz West/Lisbeth Gruwez, Kasper Bosmans, Gilberto Zorio, Grazia Todori, Anetta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkácová, Christoph Fink, Daniel Buren, Jimmie Durham & Ricardo Brey and Bart Lodewijks.

Good to know: The exhibition is being mounted in an ancient castle whose view over the landscape was shaped in the wake of the romantic period and whose collection contains many objects from Bruegel's time, located in a park of c. 50 hectares, with a museum garden which provides an overview of forgotten vegetables, fruit and pruning techniques.

GAASBEEK CASTLE

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FLORALIA BRUSSELS \ FLOWERS FOR BRUEGEL

6 APRIL - 5 MAY 2019

Floralia Brussels is one of the most popular flower trips in Belgium. Each year the Spring Flower Show attracts more than 35 000 visitors. Everyone can enjoy the flower beauty in the 14 ha park, greenhouse, Donjon and chapel of the castle of Groot-Bijgaarden.

Especially for the 450th anniversary of Pieter Bruegel's death, Floralia Brussels celebrates his great artwork during the exhibition. A number of reproductions of Bruegel paintings with a touch of contemporary Floral Art will be displayed in the newly renovated greenhouse.

CASTLE OF GROOT-BIJGAARDEN

Isidoor Van Beverenstraat 5 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden (near Brussels) www.floralia-brussels.be

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DILBEEK \ BRUEGEL'S EYE: RECONSTRUCTING THE LANDSCAPE

6 APRIL - 31 OCTOBER 2019

(4/4 IS OPENING FOR PRESS, 7/4 FOR PUBLIC)

Art Walk: "Bruegel's Eye" follows a trail with spatial and artistic interventions of what the painter would have seen when he painted his imposing pastoral landscapes. The tour starts and ends at two buildings that were painted by Bruegel: the Church of Saint Anna-Pede, featured in Bruegel's "The Parable of the Blind" and the watermill of Saint Gretrudis-Pede, which is depicted in "The Magpie on the Gallows".

The 7 km walking tour starts at the special visitors' pavilion, designed by Rotor, a Brussels cooperative that is interested in material flows. Visitors can obtain all necessary information in the pavilion. The practical pocket-sized visitor's guide provides all the information you need to take the tour on your own (all artists and artworks per location with a brief explanation for every work, an extensive map for hikers and cyclists, nice restaurant tips and a number of vouchers to be used in participating retailers). A confirmed group of internationally renowned photographers, artists, designers and writers contribute to the tour: Guillaume Bijl, Josse De Pauw, Erik Dhont, Filip Dujardin, Futurefarmers (US), Gijs Van Vaerenbergh, Landinzicht, OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen, Bas Princen (NL), Rotor, Georges Rousse (FR), Bas Smets, Koen van den Broek and Lois Weinberger (AU).

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DYNASTY BUILDING \ BEYOND BRUEGEL

6 APRIL 2019 - 31 JANUARY 2020

A multimedia platform will allow both trained art lover and layman to luxuriate in Bruegel's work in an unparalleled fashion. Indeed, 'Beyond Bruegel' is far from an ordinary exhibition, but one that actively and fully immerses the visitor in the painter's work, intricate style and inner world of imagination. Encircled by his finest masterpieces, you quite literally won't know where to look: up, down, to the left, to the right.

DYNASTY BUILDING

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MAYER VAN DEN BERGH MUSEUM IN COLLABORATION WITH ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANTWERP FROM FOUQUET TO BRUEGEL

5 OCTOBER 2019 - 2021

Mad Meg will be the central focus of a new exhibition at the museum, at which visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the world of the nineteenth-century collectors Fritz Mayer van den Bergh (1858–1901) and Florent van Ertborn (1784–1840) – the figures behind the collections of Antwerp's Museum Mayer van den Bergh and the Royal Museum of Fine Arts. Both collectors were far ahead of their time and shared an eye for the quality and beauty of fifteenth and sixteenth-century art. With immense passion, Mayer van den Bergh and Van Ertborn acquired and studied beautiful paintings, sculptures, manuscripts and other items. Many of their acquisitions were bargains, some were an investment and from time to time there were brilliant finds.

MAYER VAN DEN BERGH MUSEUM

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LLS PALEIS

MAD MEG, REBELLION - PROVOCATION - DESPAIR - FEMINISM

5 OCTOBER - 8 DECEMBER 2019

More than 450 years after Bruegel painted "Mad Meg", a lot of themes present in the painting are still relevant and inspiring today. LLS Paleis will, parallel to the historic exhibition in Museum Mayer van den Bergh (home of Mad Meg), focus on the ambiguity of the female protagonist in this contemporary art exhibition.

LLS PALEIS

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SNIJDERS&ROCKOX HOUSE

DRAWINGS OF JAN BRUEGHEL THE ELDER

5 OCTOBER 2019 - 26 JANUARY 2020

Jan Brueghel the Elder was one of the most prominent and successful Flemish artists in the period around 1600. An innovative and creative thinker, Brueghel modernised Netherlandish landscape art. In doing so, he capitalised on the work of his father, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, above all his drawings, later paintings and prints. Pieter had laid the foundations of entirely new artistic forms - landscape and genre scenes - that became increasingly important in the centuries that followed.

The exhibition will be made up of six parts that explore Jan Brueghel the Elder main artistic interests. Memories of his time in Italy, river and village views, roads and travellers, forests, sea and coastal scenes will appear in roughly chronological sequences. It will also be seen how Jan's landscapes become lifelike and animated through his figures, which while not the focus of his artistic production, are clearly much more than mere embellishment. The show will end on a lively note with a number of Jan's well-known drawings of animals and fruits, together with related paintings.

SNIJDERS&ROCKOX HOUSE

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ROYAL LIBRARY OF BELGIUM THE WORLD OF BRUEGEL IN BLACK AND WHITE

15 OCTOBER 2019 - 16 FEBRUARY 2020

The Royal Library of Belgium holds a complete and unparalleled collection of Bruegel's work 'on paper' and will take it out of storage for a very special exhibition during the Bruegel year. Don't miss this exhibition, because after four months these rare and incredibly fragile documents will be returned to the safety of the darkness for a very long time.

Around the middle of the 16th century, Flanders emerged as the international center for the production of, and trade in, prints. Bruegel and his publisher, Hieronymus Cock, both played a key role during this period. The master craftsmanship and enterprising spirits of these two men are the focus of the exhibition. The Royal Library of Belgium has a comprehensive overview of Bruegel's graphic work. Many of the works are held in various editions or 'lists'. However, before a first edition ever came on the market and could be distributed across the world, a print had already undergone a long journey. Discover this story, from drawing to print, at the exhibition.

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HALLE GATE \ BACK TO BRUEGEL EXPERIENCE THE 16TH CENTURY

18 OCTOBER 2019 - 18 OCTOBER 2020

The exhibition will offer a real journey back in time, the supposedly impossible dream of all history-lovers. The turbulent period of Bruegel's 16th century will be presented through four themes: 'Power and Rebellion', 'Religion and Reform', 'Travel and Curiosities', 'Celebrations and Entertainments'.

Each visitor will receive a pair of VR-glasses (VR-room for groups) that will catapult them into the paintings. Themes of the paintings will come alive and allow the viewer to discover how life was in the 16th century. Afterwards, an attractive and dynamic itinerary including works of art and archaeology will provide more in-depth insight into the topics. The visitor will be able to look at objects, but will also discover by way of touch, smell and handling. The combination of original works, virtual reality and sensory experiences will make this exhibition particularly appealing.

The crowning achievement will be the panorama from the parapet walkway of the Halle Gate. Some iconic buildings, such as the Chapel Church and the Town Hall are to be seen. And telescopes will provide a virtual image of the 16th-century Brussels which Bruegel knew and was inspired by: for example the fortifications which abruptly separated the city from the countryside.

HALLE GATE (ROYAL MUSEUMS OF ART AND HISTORY)

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THE GREAT ESCAPE

26 SEPTEMBER 2018 - END OF 2019

In the church Notre-Dame de la Chapelle where Bruegel is buried and married, some 3-D characters of Bruegel are hidden. Try to find them all and discover to which painting each character refers. Leaflet available in NL, F, D, E and Polish (because of the Polish community in the church).

NOTRE-DAME DE LA CHAPELLE (KAPELLEKERK)

Kapellemarkt, Brussels

OPENING HOURS

10 am - 4 pm closed on Tuesdays and Sundays

BRUEGEL WALK

28 FEBRUARY 2019

A printed map of VISIT**FLANDERS** will be available with a walk along the places linked to Bruegel in Brussels. The walk takes you from the Mont des arts (Dynasty building and Royal Library) to the Royal Museum of Fine arts, where you can visit and admire the real Bruegel paintings. From there you go to the church Notre-Dame de la Chapelle where Bruegel married and is buried. Pass along the Bruegel house before you go to the 14th century Halle gate.

There are already guided tours available from different organisations: Bruegel.brussels

BRUEGEL MURAL PAINTINGS

FROM FEBRUARY-JUNE 2019

Visit Brussels will realize one big mural painting and a number of smaller mural paintings inspired by Bruegel. The big mural painting will be ready in April 2019. The smaller ones will be realized between February and June 2019. A map with the locations of the mural paintings will be included in the Visit Brussels Bruegel brochure and will be available on Bruegel.brussels.

CONTACT: t.dewaele@visit.brussels

BOZAR \ FAMILY DAY

31 MARCH 2019

In the framework of the exhibitions dedicated to Bernard van Orley and engravings from the era of Pieter Bruegel, passionate guides will be there to share fascinating stories with visiting families. Exceptionally, several cultural institutions organizing exhibitions on Bruegel, will be present at BOZAR to present fun workshops inspired by the Renaissance and Bruegel.

BOZAR

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OKV \ FLEMISH MASTERS IN SITU

The Flemish Masters in situ project is made up of 40 carefully selected oeuvres away from the well-trodden and busy tourist trails. Often to be found in smaller towns and villages across Flanders, they take visitors to a variety of places (chapels, churches, castles and town halls) where they can admire original paintings by the Flemish masters from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, in their original location.

The stories of each item will be told using words and the latest digital technology. Touchscreens with state-of-theart images will show the details of masterpieces, while audio will further enhance the visitor experience.

www.flemishmastersinsitu.com

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EXPERIENCE THE LAST SUPPER OF DIRK BOUTS IN THE ST PETERS CHURCH

OPENING: 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

The fully restored St Peter's Church gives the opportunity to (re)discover Flemish Primitive masterpieces in their historic context - the place for which they were made, bathed in the same light of the stained glass that has shone on these sublime artworks for centuries.

Only a handful of fifteenth-century triptychs of the calibre of Dirk Bouts's Last Supper can still be admired in their original location. The two triptychs by Bouts in St Peter's Church are in their original chapels, and the Edelheere Triptych will also be placed back in its original chapel in the new interior arrangement. Other artworks in the church are also still in their original places (Jan Borman's Triumphal Cross, for instance, and the Sacrament Tower), not to mention works that will be given a prominent place in the new layout (such as the tower design or Leuven University- 's Sedes Sapientiae statue). We are therefore basing ourselves on the possibility of a unique experience: an encounter with several masterpieces by Flemish Masters in the places for which they were made. To further heighten this experience, the current division between the church's liturgical and heritage functions will be removed and merged into a single whole.

Visitors from Belgium and abroad will be given the opportunity to discover Dirk Bouts's Last Supper in its historic setting: St Peter's Church in Leuven. The imposing Gothic church will be restored to its full glory by 2019, with a strong focus on both historical authenticity and contemporary visitor comfort. The result of the investment: a new, high-quality reception area for a local and international public and installing twelve digital touchpoints for the experiential and multilingual provision of information.

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MORE INSPIRATION ON WWW.FLEMISHMASTERS.COM

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