

PRESS FILE

LA BOVERIE  
BEAUX-ARTS • EXPO • LIÈGE



Liège

LOUVRE

Liège, strengthened by an ambitious redeployment, has devoted ten years to providing the most modern infrastructures in terms of mobility and of culture: an HST station, opera, theatre, the River Meuse quays, walkways, museums, cinemas... investments that are redrawing the metropolis for the benefit of its inhabitants and guests.

In 2016, a new space, both museum for Fine Arts and international exhibition centre of international standards, punctuates this dynamic of urban redeployment : La Boverie. It undoubtedly represents the next asset of a qualitative, accessible and diverse cultural offer.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### LIÈGE, A CITY, A SPIRIT

La Boverie : At the heart of urban development of Liège Metropolis .....	4
A site in the heart of the Guillemins-Boverie-Mediacité axis, marked by the greatest architects .....	4
Orchestra, Opera, theatres, cinemas, museums, atypical places and emerging scenes : A bountiful creativity .....	5

### ARCHITECTURE

A project selected according to an international procedure .....	8
A comprehensive renovation and innovative architecture .....	10

### LA BOVERIE MUSEUM

A fine arts museum and an international exhibition centre .....	12
An exceptional collaboration with the Louvre museum .....	13
Permanent collections of the museum for Fine Arts, a showcase Liège's treasures .....	14
Temporary exhibitions .....	16
Upcoming exhibitions .....	17

### BEYOND THE VISIT

Mediation and educational activities .....	20
Practical informations .....	21

# L IÈGE, A CITY, A SPIRIT





## LA BOVERIE : AT THE HEART OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF LIÈGE METROPOLIS

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Liège was the capital of a sovereign state, the principality of Liège, for eight-hundred years (985-1789). This State occupied a quarter of present-day Belgium and extended to the French, Dutch and German borders.

City-crossroads, at the intersection of the Germanic and Latin worlds, Liège then took up a leading position in the Industrial Revolution, which enabled it to develop cultural tools and major works of art.

Today, Liège remains the economic capital of Wallonia. As a logistics and cultural centre, a place for events, research and exchanges,

since 2000, Liège has been to implementing a genuine strategy of redeployment of its infrastructures.

The set of new facilities in Liege is the result of a strategic plan gathering together priority actions and large urban projects axes around culture and mobility in particular. This strategy aims to make Liege a truly creative and connected city which is open to the world.



## A SITE IN THE HEART OF THE GUILLEMINS-BOVERIE-MEDIACITÉ AXIS, MARKED BY THE GREATEST ARCHITECTS

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Running from the HST station designed by Santiago Calatrava up to the Mediacité, a work by Ron Arad, a new urban axis is in the process of changing the image of Liège: The Guillemins-Boverie-Mediacité axis.

The banks of the River Meuse and the island of la Boverie are connected by a footbridge/cycletrack. This bridge makes the museum accessible in a few minutes from the train station and its esplanade, littered with the new "Paradis" tower, the "design centre" and the new river Meuse quays.

It is accessible in a few minutes from the train station and its new esplanade, littered with the new "paradis" tower, the "design centre" and the new river Meuse quays.

This bridge is an invitation to go onto the island and its beautiful park, an inspiring place for family leisure. Mediacité, the Olympic ice rink and Mediarives, the RTBF studios (French speaking television broadcast) are also within easy reach of this enchanting site.



## ORCHESTRA, OPERA, THEATRES, CINEMAS, MUSEUMS, ATYPICAL PLACES AND EMERGING SCENES : A BOUNTIFUL CREATIVITY

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Liège is undoubtedly a city of culture, with an opera, the recently-renovated Royal Opera of Wallonia, an Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Liège of international renown, and the Theatre of Liège, which recently set place in new quarter. The Liège scene is also rich in having newlyemerging creative people in many disciplines. Among the high places of culture, let us mention the Grand Curtius museum (History of Liège, Glass, Weapons, Arts of the Middle Ages etc.), the "musée de la vie Wallonne" (Museum of Walloon Life - specialized in ethnology), the "Cité Miroir" (a place dedicated to citizenship, memory and cultures dialogue) or even the sauvenièrre cinemas, dedicated especially to auteur cinema.



# ARCHITECTURE





## EXTENSION

**Height of the extension** 8m20

**Floor area** 1200 m<sup>2</sup>

**M<sup>2</sup> of windows** 800 m<sup>2</sup>

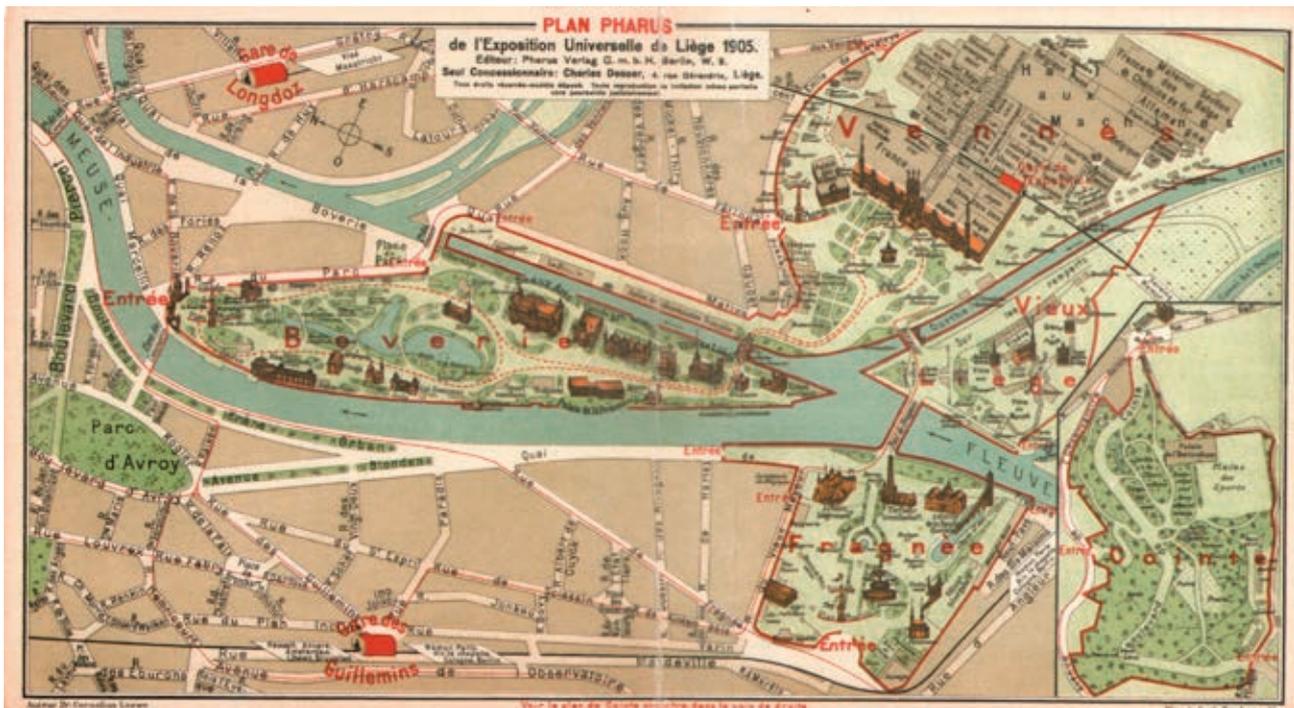
**Roof weight** 1200 tonnes

**Number of columns in the conservatory** 21

**Each weighing approx. 4 tonnes and measuring over 7m**

**Number of piles under the conservatory** 26

**Located on the island formed by the Meuse and its Derivation, La Boverie museum is part of a complex comprising a historical building, built in 1905 for the World's Expo, and a modern wing designed by the architect Rudy Ricciotti and the Liège-based architect firm p.HD**



## A PROJECT SELECTED ACCORDING TO AN INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURE

More than the simple construction of a museum, the wish of Liège stakeholders was to enhance the dynamics of urban development and to position itself with the creative architecture and strong visual identification of this new cultural tool. The idea was to opt for a project presenting the characteristics of innovation and sustainability, while respecting the existing architectural heritage.

It is on the basis of an offer that combines both a strong architectural proposal and proven expertise in the field of major cultural projects that Liège municipal authorities, upon proposal of the selection committee, have decided to entrust the execution of the project to the French architect Rudy Ricciotti in association with a local partner: p.HD.

## KEY DATES

### **JUNE 2009**

*Launch of the tendering procedure for the creation of an international art and culture centre on the site of the museum of modern and contemporary Art (MAMAC)*

### **JANUARY 2011**

*Official order addressed to the designers of the winning project, Rudy Ricciotti and the architect firm p.HD*

### **MAY 2013**

*Closure of the MAMAC for renovation*

### **NOVEMBER 2013**

*Beginning of construction works*

### **FEBRUARY 2016**

*Provisional acceptance of the building*

### **4 MAY 2016**

*Opening of La Boverie museum*



*Rudy RICCIOTTI, winner of the National Grand Prix of architecture in 2006, became famous thanks to the design of several museum projects such as the Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM) in Marseille. MuCEM was constructed as part of «Marseille, European Capital of Culture» and has become one of the main assets of the Mediterranean city. Ricciotti also designed the département des Arts de l'Islam (department of Islamic Art) at the Louvre.*

**Height of the main façade**

11 m 40

**Exhibition areas**

5000 m<sup>2</sup>

**Lowering of the basement levels**

1 m 50

**Volume of rubble and earth evacuated**

4000 m<sup>3</sup>

**Number of people who worked on the construction**

350 with an average of 40 people per day

**Number of companies who participated in the construction**

52

**Total budget**

27.600.000€

**Client**

City of Liege

**Project designers**

Rudy Ricciotti - Cabinet d'architectes p.HD

**Design offices**

Greisch and Pierre Berger

**Construction**

Association d'entreprises Moury-Wust

## A COMPREHENSIVE RENOVATION AND INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTURE

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Works aiming to transform the historic building dating back to 1905 (the museum of modern and contemporary art until 2012) included a thorough restoration of the existing building, an extension of the building's museum capacity and the construction of a conservatory extension covering 1200m<sup>2</sup>.

In terms of the works carried out in the existing building, a new concrete structure completely independent of the structure in place was installed.

This structure required the drilling of over 200 foundation posts, new plates and foundation slabs.

Significant structural work took place, notably a large bay window located to the rear of the museum with the new lintel supporting the weight of the existing façade which is approximately 300 tonnes.

The level of former cellars was lowered by 1m50 to achieve greater clearance and allow this level

to be used as an exhibition space. Today this is Level 1 housing the permanent exhibitions and the auditorium.

In technical terms, all the new floors (Levels 1 and 2) are insulated and include floor heating. The roof works include the insulation, new zinc covering and replacement of the skylight polycarbonates.

However, a new extension to the museum was installed on the west façade of the building along the Derivation canal. This façade was the only blind red-brick façade of the current building. An expansion project was designed by architects in 1905 but it never materialised.

The extension has glass in its 3 façades. These windows are approx. 7.50 metres high and represent an innovative technical achievement in Belgium, just as the use of effective post-tensioned concrete gives the roof a minimum thickness giving the impression of a sheet of paper relative to the height of the windows.



# LA BOVERIE MUSEUM



## A FINE ARTS MUSEUM AND AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE

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A new figurehead of cultural dynamic in the Liège metropolis, La Boverie museum aims to become a showcase for contemporary creation and varied cultural projects and the richness of historical collections.

The La Boverie art project offers both a programme of international exhibitions and a new setting for Liège's permanent collections.

The museography is based on a flexible and mobile picture rail system. An interior street crosses the building, facilitating visitor movement in a succession of breakaways towards the park and the areas served (ticket counter, bookshop, cafeteria, auditorium, educational space and exhibition rooms).

The scenography of the permanent collections has been supervised by the Louvre Museum.



### FROM THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS TO LA BOVERIE IN KEY DATES

**1903** Creation of the museum of Fine Arts in a building adjoining the Academy.

**1905** Inauguration of the Centre for Fine Arts (Palais des Beaux-Arts) for the Liège World's Fair in la Boverie park.

**1914-18 & 1940-45** The Germans invade the building

**1952** Feeling of excitement in Wallonia with the division of the collections and the creation of the Walloon Art museum, located in la Boverie park, with the Prints and Drawing Room.

**1958** The Palais des Congrès (Convention center) is built in the park.

**1961** The Schöffers Tower is erected in La Boverie park.

**1981** A new museum complex is created in the city center (Ilot Saint-George) to host the Walloon Art Museum. The fine arts collections, not including «Walloon art», are housed in La Boverie museum, which becomes the modern art museum.

**1993** After restoration, La Boverie museum becomes the musée d'Art moderne et d'Art contemporain (contemporary and modern art museum).

**2011** Creation of the BAL [Liège Fine Arts museum] housing all the collections: Walloon art, ancient art, modern art, contemporary art, print and drawings room in the city center complex (Ilot Saint-Georges).

**2015** Signature of a partnership with the Louvre museum

**2016** Inauguration of La Boverie museum, 111 years after the inauguration of the Palais des Beaux-Arts

## AN EXCEPTIONAL COLLABORATION WITH THE LOUVRE MUSEUM

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The Louvre museum is involved in a partnership with La Boverie based primarily on an artistic counseling. The mission includes the mentoring of La Boverie and of the City of Liege in the organisation of three exhibitions (one exhibition per year between 2016 and 2018). The Louvre also supervises the definition of the scenography concept of the permanent collections.

The partnership between the two institutions also implies a cooperation in terms of public mediation and educational activities. In addition, the teams of both sides collaborate for the programming of the auditorium in La Boverie.

Originally, the collaboration between the two institutions stems from strong scientific and cultural links between the Louvre and the museums of Liège, more particularly, between Vincent Pomarède, general-curator at the Louvre, and the cultural staff of Liège.

As regards to the Louvre, the aim is continue its strategy of international cooperation, in particular with the cities and institutions that are dedicated to bring the museum closer to its public. Since its opening in 2012, the Louvre-Lens tallies an increasing number of regular visitors coming from Belgium making them the first represented nationality in terms of visits. In parallel, the City of Liege is currently engaged in a development process of its infrastructures.

The partnership is managed by the management board of the museums of Liège and by the Culture-Tourism Department of the City of Liege, and on the Louvre side, by “Louvre Conseil”, dedicated to the promotion and transmission of the Louvre’s know-how towards external partners.



## PERMANENT COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSEUM FOR FINE ARTS, A SHOWCASE LIÈGE'S TREASURES

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One storey of the building will host the best from the collections of the Museum for Fine Arts of the City of Liège. Lambert Lombard, Gerard de Lairesse, Ingres, Gauguin, Picasso, Evenepoel, Delvaux, Magritte, and others will guarantee the modernity within the arts through history, from the Renaissance to our modern days. The museum's tour, which will be accessible to the greatest number, will be accompanied by a didactic interactive support in four languages.

The ancient art collection is built around the work of Lambert Lombard, a local artist from the Renaissance period, and the 17th century painting.

Gilles-François-Joseph Cloisson (Liège, 1798-1842) has brought back from Rome, where he stayed between 1825 and 1829, at the same time as Corot, more than 600 pieces of art, most of them realized outdoors, in Rome's countryside.

The Collection has been built up from the beginning of the 19th Century: its origin lies in the donation by Napoleon Bonaparte of his portrait by Ingres to the City of Liège.



This collection has been completed at the end of the 19th century by pieces of art bought during the numerous fine art fairs that took place in Liège and in Belgium. The collection has been expanded by work of Boudin, in 1887, and Monet in 1900.

The purchase in Lucerne, in 1939, of works of « Degenerated Art » strengthened Liège's reputation in terms of museums' collections thanks to exceptional pieces of art by Picasso, Gauguin, Ensor, Laurencin, Marc, Kokoschka, Lieberman, Pascin.



During the same year, in 1939, the City of Liège purchased in Paris a second set of paintings composed of works by Friesz, Gromaire, Guillaumin, Picart-Ledoux, Utrillo, Van Dongen, Signac, De Vlaminck.

Driven by Fernand Graindorge, collections expand to "AvantGarde" movement, to the « New Abstraction » movement (Magnelli, Poliakoff, Villon, Degottex), or the « Réalité-Cobra » movement with Corneille and Appel. Exhibitions follow one another and lead to new purchases.

.....  
 Opposite: Jean-Auguste Dominique INGRES, *Napoléon, Premier Consul*, huile sur toile, 1804

Up : Paul GAUGUIN, *Le sorcier d'Hiva Oa*, huile sur toile, 1902



## **FINE ARTS MUSEUM CATALOGUE**

The collections of Liège Fine Arts museum are described in a catalogue of 408 pages, 2000 paper-backed editions and 200 hardback covered. The content includes illustrated texts focusing on particular artistic movements or exceptional events in the history of arts. The writing of the catalogue was carried out by scientists of Liège museums, and by external renowned partners, under the supervision of Ms. Régine Rémon.

The edition of the catalogue was made possible thanks to the donation made by artist Fanny Germaux, who died in 2012 at the age of 101.

ISBN: 9789082521009  
 Registration of copyright :  
 D/2016/13.855/1  
 Price: 30€

### **A SPECIAL FEATURE: THE DARK GALLERY**

In addition to the temporary exhibition and permanent exhibition spaces, La Boverie offers a special feature: the inclusion of a black gallery, a setting for works on paper, which are particularly sensitive to light, humidity and dust. There are estimated to be several thousand works in the collections including sketches, watercolours, charcoal drawings as well as prints, engravings, comic strip boards and posters.

With a view to optimal preventive conservation, the gallery has a «cold» lighting system which is only activated in the presence of the visitor to reduce the time the works are exposed to light. The space presents exhibition conditions adapted to international museum standards: 50 LUX max, temp. 20°, 50% RH (relative humidity).

The richness of the collections, from the 16th-20th century, allows the exhibitions to be rotated regularly.

## TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

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The upper level hosts large-scale temporary exhibitions, on an area of approximately 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>. These exhibitions will be either organised directly by the City of Liege, or curated in collaboration with the Louvre, or, even, entrusted to other operators.

In fact, there will be a rich programme of artistic or civilisation exhibitions where all forms of arts will be used to totally immerse the visitor into the theme.



## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

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**22.09.2016 > 29.01.2017**

### **21 Rue La Boétie**

Based on the book "21 rue La Boétie", Tempora presents an art and culture exhibition in collaboration with Anne Sinclair. In her book, Anne Sinclair tells the story of her grandfather, Paul Rosenberg (1881-1959), one of the great art dealers of the first half of the last century.

The career of this exceptional human being, a successful businessman and knowledgeable art lover, the friend and agent of Picasso, Matisse, Braque, Léger, Marie Laurencin is only one part of the story. "21 rue La Boétie" looks into a crucial turning point in the history of art: the shift of the centre of artistic gravity from one side of the Atlantic to the other, due of course to the upheavals caused by the Second World War.

LA BOVERIE  
**EXPO**  
**PICASSO, MATISSE,  
BRAQUE,  
LÉGER ...**  
[www.21ruelaboetie.com](http://www.21ruelaboetie.com)  
22.09.2016 > 29.01.2017  
**LA BOVERIE LIÈGE**  
**RUE LA BOÉTIE**  
based on the book of Anne Sinclair

**09.03.2017 > 15.06.2017**

### **The comic strip's revolution.**

Through nearly 500 works, «The comic strip is undergoing a revolution» presents two major journals that marked the «ninth art» between 1975 and 1997. Under the leadership of its commissioner Jean-Baptiste Barbier, the exposition traces back to a decisive period in the history of comic strips, both critical and opening up to a new audience. An era of liberty and creativity, renewing subjects and clearing the way for new narratives. Its journey takes us along the paths of « Métal Hurlant » (literally, Howling Metal) and « A suivre » (literally, To be continued), of its authors, and of its close relationships maintained with other art forms and influences of which it is the origin.

The exposition immerses us into an editorial, artistic, and human adventure at the heart of a creative universe in unrest. The exposition is produced and presented by the Hélène & Edouard Leclerc Culture Fund, in collaboration with the city of Liège.

1975 - 1997  
la bande dessinée fait sa révolution...  
**MÉTAL HURLANT**  
1975 - 1987  
**(A SUIVRE)**  
1978 - 1997  
exposition



**17.03.2017 > 31.05.2017**

## ***The 11th Biennial of Prints of Liège***

Having become «international» roughly ten years ago, the Biennial of Prints invites artists from around the world to mobilize by offering the public a modern and contemporary look at this technique. For this next edition, 550 engravers from around the world (including Argentina, Canada, Estonia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, etc.) have submitted their applications. Only fifty of them will be selected to participate in this major exposition, which will take place in the new museum space of La Boverie.

The Biennial will also be the opportunity to present the works of the Basque artist Eduardo Chillida (1924-2002), internationally known for his Peignes du vent and other metal sculptures occupying urban spaces. The exposition at La Boverie will present the artist's career, beginning in the 1970s and up until his death, through around thirty engraved works.

**24.06.2017 > 15.09.2017**

## ***Cockerill Experience***

This exposition, organized by the CMI Group, is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the arrival of John Cockerill at Liège. The exposition highlights the importance of John Cockerill's role in the European Industrial Revolution.

**10.10.2017 > 21.01.2018**

## ***Europalia Indonesia: the peoples of the sea***

In partnership with the Jakarta National Museum, this exposition develops heritage themes around the main cultural characteristic of Indonesia: its relationship with the sea. Included are works whose dating extends from the 10th to 19th centuries.



# B EYOND THE VISIT



## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEDIATION

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The Events Department wants to be a bridge between the world of the museums and visitors. By listening to the public and their diversity, the educational department and the public construct essential cultural-mediation tools.

Preparing the adults of tomorrow, the educational department focuses specifically on young people, offering events dedicated to both education and entertainment.

Therefore, being alert and aware of art are top priorities for the events teams at La Boverie museum.

*The Events Department of La Boverie is responsible for :*

- *Guided tours,*
- *Events for young people and schoolchildren,*
- *Museum cinema/the cinema at the museum,*
- *Creative birthday/incredible birthdays,*
- *Creative museum/creative workshops for the whole family,*
- *Educational documents and tools,*
- *Courses for children...*

## DINING MADAME BOVERIE

*Located in the museum's historical rotunda and boasting a terrace overlooking La Boverie park, «Madame Boverie» offers visitors a small, quality restaurant in a chic and modern environment. Picnic baskets are also available so you can continue your day visiting La Boverie in the park.*



## THE DIGITAL GUIDE

La Boverie museum offers a unique tour experience in the form of a mobile application. This digital guide can be downloaded free from the App Store or the Google Play Store and works using receivers (beacons) located inside the museum which make the content relating to the works appear as the visitor approaches them. For those who do not have a smartphone, the museum has a hundred tablets available for loan.

Mainly comprising texts for the temporary exhibitions, the app also offers audiovisual content concerning the collections. The app is translated into English, Dutch and German.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS

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### ADDRESS

Parc de la Boverie, 3 - 4020 Liège

### OPENING TIME

from Tuesday till Friday - 9.30 am till 6 pm.

Weekend - 10 am till 6 pm

Closed on Mondays

### TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Tickets can be purchased on site at the museum.

Payment methods accepted: cash or credit cards.

Purchase tickets online at [www.laboverie.com](http://www.laboverie.com) or from a France Billet outlet

### GUIDED TOURS

Must be reserved in advance.

[Reservation.tourisme@liege.be](mailto:Reservation.tourisme@liege.be)

Tél. (FR) +32 (0)4 221 93 02

Tél. (NL) + 32 (0)4 221 93 53

Tél. (DE) +32 (0)4 221 93 07

### PRICES

#### « 21 rue la Boétie »

Adults : €17

Senior citizens (65+) : €14

Children (6-18) and students : €12

Children (-6 years) : free

Groups (from 20 people) : €12

School groups : €6

Families (2 adults + 2 children) : €48

#### Permanent collection

Adults : €5

Groups : €3

Senior citizens : €3

Youngsters (aged 14 to 25 ) and students (with card) : €3

School groups (secondary - high) : €2

Children : < 14 years : free

FAMILY DEAL (2 adults + 3 youngsters max.) :

€13

## THE BOOKSHOP

The shop at La Boverie museum sells a selection of art books especially relevant to Liège's cultural heritage. However, the range of items available for sale varies and includes the most emblematic forms of the exhibitions and collections in various forms. The museum bookshop at La Boverie is a «museum shop», a quality operator, particularly active in Louvre-Lens and in several major



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