LIÈGE. MASTER-PIECES.

INGRES • PICASSO • ENSOR
MONET • GAUGUIN • LÉGER
MAGRITTE • VAN DONGEN
SIGNAC • CHAGALL • DUFY
BOUDIN • BURY • DELVAUX
LOMBARD • WOUTERS • ARP
ALECHINSKY • MALEVITCH...

21.12.18 > 18.8.19
PARC DE LA BOVERIE
LIÈGE • LUIK • LÜTTICH
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Since it was opened to the public on 5 May 2016, nearly 400,000 visitors have crossed the threshold of the Musée de La Boverie. The 1905 Universal Exhibition building, brilliantly renovated by the architect Rudy Ricciotti, who is responsible for the new extension, and the Liège architectural firm p.HD, has, in less than three years, become a new meeting place for all those in Liège and beyond who are interested in culture and art in particular.

A varied programme, through international exhibitions – En plein air, (Outside) with the Musée du Louvre, Révolution bande dessinée (Comic Strip Revolution), with the Hélène & Edouard Leclerc Fund, 21 rue La Boétie, surrounding Paul Rosenberg’s collection, Les Royaumes de la mer – Archipel (The Kingdoms of the Sea - Archipelago), as part of Europalia Indonesia and Viva Roma!, once again with the Louvre – have been some of highlights of these first three years.

Other events, such as the Biennale internationale de Gravure (International Engraving Biennale) as well as exhibitions dedicated to renowned artists, such as Raoul Ubac, or to seasoned artists well known in Liège, such as Daniel Fourneau and Fernand Flausch, have been some of the activities of a museum that also sees itself as a place for collective memory: you can both find out the story of a captain of industry named John Cockerill, and of La leçon d’anatomie (The Anatomy Lesson), combining art and medicine to mark the 30th anniversary of the Sart Tilman university hospital. Furthermore, there is an exhibition space dedicated to emerging youth art.

But La Boverie is also and above all a Fine Art Museum which includes, in its collections that have been gathered for over a century, works by artists as exceptional as Lambert Lombard, Gérard de Lairesse, Léonard Defrance, Jean-Dominique Ingres, Paul Gauguin, Claude Monet, Franz Marc, Marc Chagall, Picasso, Jean Arp, Antoni Tapiès and Sonia Delaunay, not to mention Belgian artists such as René Magritte, Paul Delvaux, Pol Bury, Marthe Wéry and Pierre Alechinsky.

From the thousands of the works in the collections, which will increase further over time with acquisitions and the support of generous donors, the museum’s scientific team has made a drastic selection, retaining two hundred and fifty remarkable works from our shared artistic heritage.

Therefore, the Musée de La Boverie is proud to display its major works, for the first time since its reopening, through a brand new exhibition, Liège. Chefs-d’œuvre (Liège. Masterpieces) demonstrating the growing wealth and incontestable interest of its collections.

Jean Pierre Hupkens
Councillor for Culture and Tourism of the City of Liège
ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

From the masters of the Renaissance to those of the avant-garde movement, by way of famous international artists (Ingres, Monet, Pissarro, Picasso, Chagall, Arp, Magnelli, Debré, Hantai, Monory, Gilbert & George and more), Liège. Chefs-d’œuvre will offer an unprecedented journey through the masterpieces in the collection of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Liège. Belgian artists are not omitted: Constant Permeke, James Ensor, Emile Claus, the surrealists René Magritte and Paul Delvaux, Pierre Alechinsky, Marthe Wéry, not to mention the Liège-born Lambert Lombard, Gérard de Lairesse, Léonard Defrance, Jean Rets, among others.

It is an opportunity for the people of Liège, as well as any visitors from Belgium or overseas, to discover a vast selection of exceptional works and admire the considerable richness of this expansive collection.

This unprecedented exhibition – which will showcase more than 250 paintings and sculptures – will be original in more than one way. Since the reopening of La Boverie in May 2016, many works, which had been weakened with time or kept in reserve, have not been exhibited for a long time.

The Liège. Chefs-d’œuvre exhibition was designed to establish a dialogue between different eras and formal movements, all the while offering visitors certain specific focuses on particular artists and artistic trends: Auguste Donnay, the shining talent of Rik Wouters, the elusive James Ensor, Pol Bury’s moving sculptures, the Cobra movement, as well as evoking the steel-working tradition of the Liège basin through the eyes of 20th and 21st century artists. Certain masterpieces will be exhibited on an exceptional basis: Les Femmes vertueuses by Lambert Lombard, a collection of statue and sketches by Jean Del Cour, the Baroque sculptor, Mise au tombeau, an Impressionist work by Paul Delvaux, as well as a number of important pieces from the Wallonia-Brussels Federation will be given pride of place.
EXHIBITION COMMISSIONERS

Régine Rémon, first curator of the Musée des Beaux-Arts

Alain Delaunois, scientific attaché to the museums of Liège

With the collaboration of Carmen Genten et Grégory Desauvage, curators of the Musée des Beaux-Arts

Fanny Moens, scientific officer and coordinator


Liège. Chefs-d’œuvre. (Liège. Masterpieces) More than 3,000 m², dedicated for the first time to the collections of the Musée des Beaux-Arts.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE EXHIBITION

A VISIT IN A FEW WORKS
with Régine Rémon, first curator of the Musée des Beaux-Arts

“Upon entry,” comments Régine Rémon, first curator of the Musée des Beaux-Arts, “the visitor is greeted by the quirky pair of personalities that are as different as they are unexpected: on one hand, Napoléon Bonaparte First Consul, in his ceremonial uniform, a symbol of power, depicted by Jean-Dominique Ingres in 1804. Bonaparte had a special affection for our city, where he stayed several times in the Hôtel de Bomal, near the Palais Curtius. The painting’s quality of execution, the richness of its décor, its size and its recording of an episode in Liège’s history are impressive. On the other hand, the portrait of an old gardener, a man of the countryside, with his craggy hands, taking care of his geraniums. A work by Emile Claus, with realism taken to the extreme, in particular in the painting of the light reaching the apron, this full-length portrait is astonishing due to the imposing presence of such an anonymous character facing his interlocutor.”

“Before coming to the golden age of Liegeois painting, symbolised by the talented Gérard de Lairesse, represented by the work from his youth (22 years) Orphée aux enfers (Orpheus in the Underworld), four Femmes vertueuses (Virtuous Women) cannot help but catch the visitor’s eye: these large canvases, painted by the Liegeois Lambert Lombard for a nearby abbey, Herckenrode abbaye, illustrate, in addition to the role played by women, Lombard’s introduction of the Renaissance to our regions on return from his stay in Italy: a break with the Middle Ages, discovery of perspective, depiction of movement and admiration for Antiquity.”

“The next episode,” continues the curator, “takes us straight to the Baroque period, from which Liège presents an artist considered to be a true emulator of the famous Bernini: Jean Del Cour. On an exceptional basis, the wooden statue depicting the Vierge de Montaigu (Virgin of Montaigu) is set alongside a wonderful series of terracotta sketches, recently restored bozzetti, which give an overview of the sculptor’s working method.

The journey continues chronologically, through pictorial trends, eras and socio-political contexts. After the 19th century, which was split between historical painting and social painting, we join the movements that marked the 20th century: Impressionism, Expressionism, Fauvism... a real history of art lesson through skilled works. Surrealism in Belgium, aside René Magritte and Marcel Mariën, is illustrated by two main works by Paul Delvaux, brought together for the first time: L’homme de la rue (The Man in the Street) and the enigmatic Mise au tombeau (Entombment). Another surprise for visitors is the return of a series of works restored by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, in particular Les époux (Husband and Wife) by Constant Permeke, Le violoniste aveugle (The Blind Violinist) by Van de Woestyne, Paysage calciné (Torched Landscape) by Pierre Alechinsky, mobile sculptures by Pol Bury...”

“We will also recall, on the journey, the irreplaceable presence of the most envied masterpieces in the collections. These are nine paintings acquired at the Lucerne sale, in June 1939: Chagall, Picasso, Gauguin, Kokoschka, Ensor, Laurencin, Marc, Liebermann and Pascin, followed a few months later by the acquisition in Paris of nine other skilled paintings (including Signac, Utrillo, Van Dongen, etc.), with the remainder from the Lucerne sale.

“One must have the courage to love the avant-garde,” said Fernand Graindorge, Liegeois collector and patron whose passion and generosity enable lovers of abstract, lyrical or geometrical art to (re)discover Czaky, Magnelli, Hartung, Arp and Léger in the collections, to mention but a few, who display their strength and audacity.”
“On the floor below, taking advantage of this opportunity to have several separate exhibition spaces, there are several different focuses highlighting a given artist, movement or set in particular: the symbolist landscape painter Auguste Donnay and his warmly coloured pastels, Rik Wouters, with his enlightened talent, Pol Bury and his mobile sculptures and Cobra and its representatives, including the Liegeois artists Collignon, Picon and Plomteux.

A selection of around fifteen original pages from a comic strip collection that contains nearly a hundred, is given particular attention: it includes Hergé, Franquin, Morris, Peyo, Macherot, or, more recently Jean-Claude Servais, Warnauts and Raives and Johan De Moor.

Under the name “De fer et de feu” (Of Iron and Fire), homage is paid to steelwork in the Liège basin: Constantin Meunier, Cécile Douard, Pierre Paulus, are alongside the works of Liegeois engraver François Maréchal or silkscreen printer Thierry Wesel.”

A MAJOR SURPRISE

“Finally, around 80 years after the mythical Lucerne episode, the museum is unveiling four new works by internationally renowned artists, submitted to La Boverie by a private collector. These are works by

- Pablo Picasso, Deux têtes, (Two Heads), 1909, oil on canvas
- Robert Delaunay, Formes circulaires Lune n°3, (Circular Shapes Moon no. 3), 1913, wax on canvas
- Kasimir Malevitch, Réalisme pictural d’une paysanne en deux dimensions (Carré rouge), Pictorial Realism of a Peasant Woman in Two Dimensions) (Red Square), oil on canvas, 1915
- Kasimir Malevitch, Machine à coudre, (Sewing Machine), oil on canvas, 1913.

Astonishingly, the four works are from a very short period, from 1909 to 1915, and demonstrate the collector’s interest for the avant-garde stylistic trends that emerged at the beginning of the 20th century: Cubism,
Futurism and Russian Suprematism. Malevitch’s two works make up for the considerable lack in the museum’s collections: this major painter had until now been completely absent.

The very characteristic composition by Robert Delaunay, *Formes circulaires (Circular Shapes)* (1913), where colour movements are perceived simultaneously, according to Delaunay, responds to the gouache painting of his wife Sonia Delaunay, from 1955, given by the artist to the City of Liège four years later.

Finally, *Deux têtes (Two Heads)* was painted by Picasso in 1909, two years after the pivotal work *Les Demoiselles d’Avignon (The Young Ladies of Avignon)* and only six years after our painting *La famille Soler (The Soler Family)* (1903), currently displayed in the exhibition *Picasso, bleu et rose (Picasso, Blue and Pink)* at the Musée d’Orsay in Paris. This work enables the museum to feature Cubism, the movement that revolutionised art at the beginning of the 20th century,” concludes the curator.
A FEW GREAT WORKS

15TH CENTURY
Inconnu, Vierge martyre (Sainte Quitterie)

16TH CENTURY
Coecke Pierre, La Cène
Lombard Lambert et atelier, Les Femmes vertueuses (quatre panneaux)
Pourbus Frans II, Portrait d’homme

17TH CENTURY
Carlier Jean-Guillaume, Vision de saint Hermann-Joseph de Steinfeld, prémontré
de Lairesse Gérard, Orphée aux enfers
Defrance Léonard, ensemble de tableaux dont Intérieur d’une fenderie, Visite à la manufacture de tabacs 1 et 2
Del Cour Jean, Vierge de Montaigu et série de bozzetti
Douffet Gérard, Portrait d’homme et Portrait de femme
Hals Dirk, Fête de relevailles

18TH CENTURY
Raoux Jean, La tentation, Vieille comptant ses écus, Le secret et Le rendez-vous

19TH CENTURY
Boudin Eugène, Trouville, scène de plage à la cabine
Claus Émile, Le vieux jardinier
Dufy, Raoul, La plage à sainte-Adresse
Evenepoel Henri Jacques Édouard, La promenade du dimanche au Bois de Boulogne
Gauguin Paul, Le sorcier d’Hiva Oa
Ingres Jean-Auguste-Dominique, Napoléon Bonaparte, Premier Consul
Meunier Constantin, La coulée à Seraing
Monet Claude, Le Bassin du Commerce, Le Havre

20TH CENTURY
Raffaëlli Jean-François, Le buveur d’absinthe
Stevens Alfred, La parisienne japonaise

Alechinsky Pierre, Paysage calciné
Arp Hans, Jouet, Accent grave, Pourparlers
Bury Pol, ensemble de sculptures mobiles et peintures, dont Losanges, Ponctuation
Chagall Marc, La maison bleue
Charlier, Jacques, Peinture au trot
Csaky Joseph, Composition cubiste
Debré Olivier, Violet du soir en Touraine
Delanay Robert, Formes circulaires
Delvaux Paul, Squelettes pleurant le Christ mort et L’homme de la rue
Ensor James, ensemble de peintures dont La mort et les masques
Gilbert and George, Bad Thoughts
Kokoschka Oskar, Monte Carlo
Laurencin Marie, Portrait de jeune fille
Léger Fernand, Le profil au vase
Liebermann Max, Le cavalier sur la plage
Magnelli Alberto, Sans crainte
Malevitch Kasimir, Réalisme pictural d’une paysanne en deux dimensions et Machine à coudre
Mariën Marcel, Ubucycle
Monory Jacques, Opéra glacé n° 3
Permeke Constant, Les Epoux
Picasso Pablo, La famille Soler et Deux têtes
Pascin Jules, Le déjeuner
Wéry Marthe, Composition double et Montréal 84
Franquin André, Un gaffeur sachant gaffer
Hergé, On a marché sur la lune
A HOST OF ARTISTS

16TH CENTURY
Henri Blès, Pierre Coecke, Michel de Coxcie, Abel Grimmer, Lambert Lombard, Antonis Mor, Frans Pourbus II; Ecole flamande;

17TH CENTURY
Jean-Guillaume Carlier, Jean Del Cour, Gérard Douffet, Bertholet Flémal, Gérard Goswin, Dirk Hals, Gérard de Lairesse, Nicolaus Knupfer, Jan Steen;

18TH CENTURY
Jean Antoine Ansiaux, Léonard Defrance, Guillaume Evrard, Jean Hans, Jean Raoux;

19TH CENTURY

20TH CENTURY

THE COMIC STRIP
Didier Comès, Peyo (Pierre Culliford), Morris (Maurice de Bevere), Johan De Moor, André Franquin, Hermann (Hermann Huppen), Edgard-P. Jacobs, Raymond Macherot, Jacques Martin, Herge, Jean-Claude Servais, Maurice Tillieux, Warnauts et Raives.
In Wallonia, the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Liège is the museum that holds the largest number of works classified as ‘Treasures’ by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles.

2010 CLASSIFICATION
- Vincent Van Gogh, *Femme au bonnet*, dessin
- Gilles François Closson, fonds de 602 dessins et peintures sur carton
- Lambert Lombard et atelier, albums d’Arenberg et de Clérembault

Series of nine works acquired at the Lucerne sale:
- Marc Chagall, *La maison bleue*
- James Ensor, *La mort et les masques*
- Paul Gauguin, *Le sorcier d’Iva-Oa*
- Marie Laurencin, *Portrait de jeune fille*
- Max Liebermann, *Le cavalier sur la plage*
- Franz Marc, *Chevaux au pâturage*
- Jules Pascin, *Le déjeuner*
- Pablo Picasso, *La famille Soler*

2011 CLASSIFICATION
- Jean-Guillaume Carlier, *Mariage mystique du bienheureux Hermann-Joseph*
- Henri Evenepoel, *Promenade du dimanche au Bois de Boulogne*

2012 CLASSIFICATION
- Jean Auguste Ingres, *Napoléon Bonaparte, Premier Consul*
- René Magritte, *La forêt*
- Claude Monet, *Le bassin du commerce*

2013 CLASSIFICATION
- Paul Delvaux, *L’homme de la rue*

2014 CLASSIFICATION
- Gérard Douffet, *Portrait d’homme et Portrait de femme*
- Gérard de Lairesse, *Descente d’Orphée aux enfers*
- Adrien de Witte, *Femme au corset rouge*

2015 CLASSIFICATION
- Henri-Joseph Rutxhiel, *Buste de Grétry*
PRESENTATION OF THE CATALOGUE

After the first volume of the Catalogue des collections du Musée des Beaux-Arts de Liège, published in 2016 for the reopening of La Boverie (and still available in the museum’s art shop), here is a second volume listing a large, brand new series of masterpieces in the public collections of the City of Liège.

This new publication, which contains 100 descriptions of works, twenty texts and studies, and more than 160 illustrations, will be of interest to all those who want to gain more knowledge of the collections of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Liège. But it will also fascinate those - simply art lovers, art historians or seasoned researchers - who wish to browse the pages of art history in Europe, its influences and its repercussions, through high-quality images and accessible language.

From the painter Lambert Lombard to the Renaissance and the Baroque works of the sculptor Jean Del Cour, from the paintings of Douffet, Defrance and Carlier to the engravings of Piranèse and Demarteau, the drawings of Racle and Fromentin to the paintings of Félicien Rops, Alfred Stevens, Jean-François Rafaëlli or the forerunner James Ensor, this book opens with the classic works of art history from the 16th to the 19th century.

It then offers a bird’s eye view of the birth of modern art and its major trends, when Impressionism, Pointillism and Fauvism from France influenced the Belgian painters such as Frans Courtens, Henri Evenepoel, Emile Claus and Théo Van Rysselberge. After the First World War, the avant-gardists demonstrated their power of appeal, as shown by the works of artists such as Joseph Csaky, Le Corbusier, Othon Friesz, Jean Fautrier, Jean Hélon and Paul Delvaux.

The collections of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Liège, which also include many works by artists from the Fiery City – Armand Rassenfosse, François Maréchal, Auguste Mambour, Jacques Ochs, Robert Crommelynck or Dacos – are also some of the richest in Belgium in the field of abstraction, from Auguste Herbin to Jean Gorin and Jean Arp, Sonia Delaunay, Alberto Magnelli, Victor Vasarely or the Liegeois Jean Rets and Léon Wuidar. The collections also offer a broad space for Surrealism and the Cobra movement, as well as more contemporary artists such as Peter Klasen, Simon Hantaï, Michel François and Marthe Wéry.

This art book takes you on a fascinating and lively stroll, full of discovery, through a series of masterpieces, selected from the thousands of works gathered for more than a century in the collections of the Liège museums.


The publication is available in two versions, French and Dutch, as well as in two bindings: paperback (24 euros) and hardback (32 euros). On sale at La Boutique du Lieu, La Boverie art shop, as well as in all good bookshops. Distribution: Exhibitions International and Sofédis.
PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS

21.12.2018 > 18.08.2019

TUE > SuN 10:00-18:00
CLOSED every Monday and 25.12.18 • 1.1.19 • 1.5.19

Parc de la Boverie 3
B-4020 Liège, Belgium

ADMISSION FEE
10 € Adults
8 € Groups, seniors, Unemployed person
1,25 € Article 27
0 € < 26 years

Entrance to the exhibition also grants the visitor access to the Prix Dacos exhibition (21 December–3 March) and the Mady Andrien, Rétrospective de 1962 à nos jours exhibition (18 January–3 March).

Free on the 6th of January 2019

GROUP BOOKINGS & GUIDED TOURS
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reservation.tourisme@liege.be

GUIDED TOURS FOR INDIVIDUALS
Guided tours are given by Art&Fact on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2:30 pm (27/01, 24/02, 28/04, 26/05, 23/06, 28/07 and 18/08)
Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes
Price: €14 (exhibition entry + guided tour)
Registration required: +32 (0)4 366 56 01 or art-et-fact@misc.uliege.be

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ONLINE TICKET
www.laboverie.com
TO DISCOVER AT LA BOVERIE AT THE SAME TIME

21.12.18 > 3.03.2019 | DACOS AWARD

In close collaboration with the family of the Liège artist Dacos, since 2015, the City of Liège organizes the awarding of a three-year prize reserved for engraver artists aged (-) 30 years old. Deceased in 2012, the engraver Dacos has played a major role in the defence and promotion of the art of printmaking in Liège and beyond. This prize, which he orchestrated during his lifetime, along with the donation of his workshop collection to the “Cabinet des Estampes”, is intended to stimulate contemporary artistic creation in the field of the printed image. Awarded the year corresponding to the “Triennale de Gravure” (Engraving Triennale), the prize is the sum of €2,500.

The 27-year-old winner of this 2nd edition, Cindy Jugé (France), will have the opportunity to exhibit at La Boverie, with other young engravers selected by the jury: Babé (France), Jérémy Bajulaz (France), Lucie Bayet (Belgium), Aleksandra Bury (Poland), Céline Capelle (Belgium), Valentin Capony (France), Léo François Luccioni (Belgium), Clémence Godier (Belgium), Marie Helpin (France), Kamil Kocurek (Poland), Sylvain Konyali (France), Cédric Laforest (Canada), Mégane Likin (Belgium), Anabelle Milon (France), Fantine Perez (France), Jelena Petrovic Lukovic (Serbia), Grace Sippy (United States) et Ana Takenaka (Brasil).

18.01 > 03.03.2019 | MADY ANDRIEN

Mady Andrien (born in Engis, in 1941) is a fully-fledged sculptor. His favourite materials are earth as well as bronze and steel, for works integrated in the public space.

Mady Andrien favours the human figure: bathers, children, rowers, passers-by or prince-bishops, historical witnesses of the city’s past. She studies her subjects with attention and precision, digs deep for attitudes, expressions in the subject. Sometimes her groups of characters form a mass of matter that must be approached to distinguish the expressive faces. Their raw appearance, barely outlined, often gives her characters an inner dynamism, even as their pursuit or movement is captured on the spot.

The exhibition is organized in the form of a thematic retrospective, around seventy sculptures, in earth or metal, enriched with some collages and charcoal, presenting more than fifty years of creation.

Mady Andrien, Mes chières bagneuses, 2016 © Musée des Beaux-Arts de Liège