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A new report from the Itinera Institute says that girls and women are less likely to pursue study or work in the maths and science sectors because of the way they are praised as children



## The Beast of Brussels ..... 9

The only stop-motion animators in Belgium are to thank for the new film *Paniek in het dorp*. We tell you who they are and how they do what they do



## DIY buys ..... 11

If the cost of fashion has got you down, perk up with our do-it-yourself advice. Or buy someone else's *haute couture* – we recommend some at terribly reasonable prices



# One step ahead

Kinepolis puts technology at the forefront, providing Belgian audiences with much more than movies

LISA BRADSHAW

It's Thursday night, and you're off to a concert of a Flemish cappella group. Then comes the big weekend: on Friday, you see London's National Theatre in a performance of the passionate and tragic *Phèdre*, then Saturday a breathtaking portrayal of *Madame Butterfly* by the New York Metropolitan Opera.

On Sunday afternoon, you decide to catch a movie, so you head back to Kinepolis, where you have spent the last three nights.

Thanks to digital satellite technology, Belgian cinema chain Kinepolis has been bringing the public a whole lot more than movies lately. Its Opera in the Cinema programme, which finished its second season last month, brought 43,000 people to its 16 cinemas in Belgium and France to watch The Met's opera performances onscreen live via satellite. (The time difference makes their matinee shows quite convenient to view

in Europe.)

Now Kinepolis is launching Theatre in the Cinema, a series of four performances by the National Theatre. On 25 June, all its Belgian cinemas will project a high-definition recording live from London of the great Helen Mirren starring as *Phèdre*, the anguished queen who falls in love with her stepson, with dire consequences.

This autumn, you'll also find Voice Male at the Movies, when the Flemish a cappella group Voice Male performs live in Kinepolis cinemas across Flanders, in front of a screen of digital images. This follows up on last year's Symfolies, when the cinema chain projected the kid's TV show of the same name, accompanied by a live orchestra and performances – a combination of movie, music and theatre.

Since when did going to the cinema mean not seeing a movie?

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## Traffic chaos predicted

Roadworks will make holiday traffic "a disaster"

Holidaymakers setting off at the busiest time of the summer face chaos on the roads this year, according to motoring organisation Touring. Resurfacing works on the Brussels Ring at Drogenbos, Sint-Pieters-Leeuw, Beersel and Halle is expected to reduce traffic to one lane in each direction, severely affecting southbound travellers on the weekend of 3-5 July.

"Not only Belgians, but also a lot of Dutch people use that road to go to the Ardennes and France," said Touring's Danny Smagghe. "Can these works really not be done at another time than the start of the

holidays? If it goes ahead, it'll be a total disaster."

Motorists were given a taste of what to expect last weekend, when traffic was reduced to two lanes. "It was a bit of a catastrophe, which we had predicted," Smagghe said. "That only means one thing: the beginning of July will be worse."

The Flemish traffic centre said it would issue warnings about the roadworks and advise holiday travellers to head for Paris via the inner ring. "The inner ring is being deliberately kept free of works that weekend," explained Smagghe. "It



will probably only be busy on Friday evening when holidaymakers mix with commuter traffic." ♦

## Winners and losers

ALAN HOPE

Who did best from the elections, and who did worst?

The outcome of elections cannot be measured in votes alone: the immediate effects spread across all sectors, and the longer-term effects reach everyone in time. This week, after the counting was all over and the ballot boxes had been put away, the parties settled down to negotiations aimed at forming governing coalitions at all levels from the Flemish region down to the lowliest municipal backwater. In the absence of results for those negotiations, *Flanders Today* took stock of the elections and their results, to draw up a list of winners and losers.

### Winners

Kris Peeters

It can't have done Kris Peeters any harm to have Dirk Van Mechelen, the man who was aiming to take his place as Flemish minister president, describe the job Peeters has done in the region as "perfect". The voters seemed to agree: Peeters fought a flawless campaign to take 23% of the vote and cement the position of CD&V as the biggest party in Flanders. On top of that, his personal score

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## News in brief

A judge Ghent has placed an injunction on the construction of a **GSM mast in Drongen**, just west of Ghent. The judge agreed with the plaintiffs, a group of local residents, that the uncertainty surrounding the health effects of GSM transmitters meant that the construction was not in their interest. The mast would have been sited in proximity to a residential area, a primary school and a youth centre.

A man in Helkijn in West Flanders has been sentenced to a **night-time curfew** until 2012 by a court in Kortrijk. The man is forbidden to go out between 22.00 and 6.00 and must be treated for alcohol abuse in his home. He has already been sentenced to prison and had a café and alcohol ban imposed, none of which stopped his drunken, violent tendencies, the court said.

A man lay for more than an hour after being **pronounced dead by paramedics** before starting to breathe again. Diamond dealer Peter Jordaens, 42, had a heart attack in his sleep, and the family claims emergency personnel failed to notice he was still breathing. The family has since received two bills: one for pronouncing him dead and one for treating him and taking him to hospital an hour later.

Ghent-based **Netlog** just squeaked into the top 10 of blog Techcrunch's list of social networking sites, ranked by value. Netlog is estimated to have a market value of about €396 million, compared to Facebook, at number one worth an estimated €10 billion.

The port of Antwerp has lifted a **ban on solar panels** installed on the premises of companies established in the port area. There are thought to be immediate plans to install panels on the roofs of warehouses covering five of the 530 hectares in the port area. The port authorities had opposed solar panels because they feared widespread use would push up electricity prices for other users.

Olympic gold medallist high jumper **Tia Hellebaut has given birth** to a baby girl, weighing in at 3.1 kilograms and going by the name of Lotte.

### Cop-killing case reopened

The prosecutor's office in Dendermonde has taken the rare decision to re-open the case of the murder of police officer Peter De Vleeschauwer, who was kidnapped from the barracks in Sint-Niklaas in November of 1996 and found dead a month later, the victim of an execution-style shooting.

The investigation went wrong from the start, when the victim was suspected of setting up his own kidnapping. Police could not explain how the killer gained entry to the barracks via a locked gate over which De Vleeschauwer himself had control. The family raised the possibility of an inside job – the victim is known to have had problems with some of his fellow officers – but that line of enquiry was never taken seriously, and colleagues of the victim from the same station were even asked to carry out the investigation. In the years since, five different suspects have been arrested and held, only to be released later.

In May, a court in Ghent ordered the case to be transferred to Dendermonde, where it has now been placed in the hands of the respected jurist Henri Heimans. He will be joined by a team of six experienced homicide detectives – none of whom has been involved in the case until now. Heimans will also have access to analysts, forensic experts and the federal police labs.

Heimans likened the new approach to the Dutch "review method", which was established after a man spent four years in prison for the rape and murder of a little girl and the stabbing of another. It later emerged that police had forced a confession, as well as ignoring a clear confession from the real culprit.

"All of the steps which were taken by the previous investigators will be looked at again and reconsidered," Heimans said.

The dead man's brother, who has campaigned tirelessly for a reopening of the case, said the new approach was a sign that the prosecutor's office had gained "real insight". The new investigation was exactly what he had been demanding for years, he said.



Peter de Vleeschauwer © Belgica



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Editor: Derek Blyth

Deputy editor: Lisa Bradshaw

News editor: Alan Hope

Agenda: Sarah Crew, Robyn Boyle

Picture research: Esther Bourrée

Prepress: Corelio P&P

Contributors: Marie Dumont, Stéphanie Duval, Sharon Light, Alistair MacLean, Marc Maes, Ian Mundell, Anja Otte, Monique Philips, Saffina Rana, Leander Schaerlaeckens, Steven Tate, Denzil Walton

Project manager: Pascale Zoetaert

Publisher: VUM

NV Vlaamse Uitgeversmaatschappij

Gossetlaan 28, 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden

Editorial address: Gossetlaan 30

1702 Groot-Bijgaarden

Tel.: 02.373.99.09 – Fax: 02.375.98.22

E-mail: [editorial@flanderstoday.eu](mailto:editorial@flanderstoday.eu)

Subscriptions: France Lycops

Tel: 02.373.83.59

E-mail: [subscriptions@flanderstoday.eu](mailto:subscriptions@flanderstoday.eu)

Advertising: Evelynne Fregonese

Tel: 02.373.83.57

E-mail: [advertising@flanderstoday.eu](mailto:advertising@flanderstoday.eu)

Verantwoordelijke uitgever:

Derek Blyth



Hellebaut announced her retirement in December, when she was already three months pregnant.

**De Standaard** newspaper has won an Effie award for its advertising campaign Onverantwoord Interessant (Irresponsibly Interesting). The awards are given for advertising and marketing. Other nominees in the category included Rabobank, Valorfrit and Electrabel.

A pharmacist who was arrested and charged in April with slipping **sleeping pills** to her husband and children in their food has committed suicide. Ingrid Devriendt was home for the weekend from a psychiatric hospital and couldn't bear the idea of going back, her husband said.

A 20-year-old footballer who **collapsed in cardiac arrest**

last weekend was ready to go back out on the pitch only days later, thanks to the defibrillator with which he was fitted as a precautionary measure, his cardiologist said. Anthony Van Loo has a hereditary heart disorder that can lead to heart-rate disturbances. When his attack happened last week, his defibrillator sent a shock of 700 volts to his heart, restoring its proper rhythm. He was back in the stadium to help his team, Roeselare, to celebrate a victory.

One in 40 hospital patients becomes ill as a result of **mistakes made with medication**, according to a doctoral study carried out by Johan Hellings, director of the East Limburg Hospital. But that figure could be halved if clear arrangements were agreed between doctors, hospital pharmacists and nursing staff, says Hellings. Some 2,000 patients in Belgium are estimated to die every year because of medical errors.





## Women did well, voters did less well, and Smet was out

→ Continued from page 1

of 127,608 preference votes made him the most popular individual in the campaign.

### Bart de Wever

Only days after the result, one columnist was considering whether De Wever was the new Hugo Schlitz (the icon of Flemish nationalism in the 1970s and 1980s). The answer was "Not Quite," but the fact the question was being asked at all is a sign of how high De Wever's star has risen. De Wever is currently in negotiations with Kris Peeters on the conditions under which his party would join the new government.

### Jo Vandeuren

Vandeuren is the man who fell on his sword when, as justice minister, he resigned after his party colleague and then-boss Yves Leterme was accused of interfering with the judicial process by putting pressure on magistrates

in the Fortis case. Many felt he had been thrown under the bus, and his return was only a matter of time. His score in the elections will speed him along the road to a return: the highest percentage vote in the country: 12.9% of the vote in Limburg, ahead of Hilde Crevits (12.8%) in West Flanders, Yves Leterme (11.9%) also in West Flanders and Kris Peeters (11.6%) in Antwerp. All four are members of the same party, CD&V.

### Women

The number of women in the Flemish parliament increased after this election to 51, representing 41% of the total, up from 32.9% in 2004. In 1999 the figure was 23.3%, so parity could be on the horizon. In the ranks of the SP.A, in fact, that point has already been passed: there are 10 women socialists to nine men. Vlaams Belang and, perhaps surprisingly, Groen! are the most masculine of the parties. Women gained third (Hilde Crevits), eighth (Joke



Hilde Crevits

Schauvliege) and tenth place (Freya Van den Bossche) for preference votes.

### VRT

The main public-service Flemish channel is reckoned to have run away with the race for election coverage on Sunday and into Monday, with an average of 727,000 viewers compared to 450,000 for main competitor VT.M.

### Guy Vanhengel

Open VLD may be running to catch up on a national level, but their top man in Brussels played a blinder of a game in turning a coalition that excluded him into one that excluded Pascal Smet instead (see below). Open VLD's pact with Groen! and CD&V will allow them to carve up the three ministerial jobs and one secretary of state post available to the Flemish minority.

## Losers

### Bart De Smet

The 21-year-old candidate for the Committee for an Alternative Politics (CAP) earned the dubious distinction of receiving the fewest votes in the whole election – only 17. His father and aunt both stood for the CAP, and got 23 votes each. "That's more than I expected," he said later.

### Vlaams Belang

The defeat of Vlaams Belang at the polls means it loses not only 10 seats across the board, but also some €856,000 in subsidies per year for the five years of the new legislature. That includes €1.49 per vote received, €19,000 per member elected and a basic €62,000 for each party of more than five elected members.

### Unions

The virtual certainty of the N-VA being part of the coalition, and Socialists not, is not good news for the socialist trade union ABVV. The Christian-democrat ACW, on the other hand, while it would have preferred to work with a government containing the SP.A, is prepared to look for an accommodation with the N-VA, union leader Jan Renders said. One problem unions have is they fear NV-A's ambitions for state reform will distract from measures to combat the economic crisis.

### Pascal Smet

Following his removal from the majority in the Brussels parliament (see above) former mobility minister Smet lost no time in blaming Groen! for having "betrayed" him. The man who wielded the axe, however, was Guy Vanhengel, thought to be just one of those who objected to Smet's aggressive but very media-friendly style. Groen! list-leader Bruno de Lille denied the coup was a movement against Smet.

### Jurgen Verstrepen

Despite his 12,000 preference votes and his experience in the Flemish Parliament, Verstrepen has been beaten by newcomer Lode Vereeck to the seat as parliamentary leader of his party, Lijst Dedecker. Vereeck has a doctorate in economic science, and teaches at Hasselt University. Verstrepen was favourite for the post with everyone but Dedecker himself. "I'm sick of politics by announcement," he said. "Anyone who has announced his candidature in the newspaper will not get the job."

### Voters

One of the peculiarities of the Belgian system is that regardless of who the voters choose, the parties decide who will actually take up the seats won. Each of them fields big names to attract the voters: people like Pieter De Crem, Patrick Janssens, Stefaan De Clerck and Guy Verhofstadt all stood for the Flemish Parliament, despite having no intention of ever sitting. Their places will be taken by opvolgers of lesser fame, who were placed on the sub-bench by the parties, and who are most likely unknown to most of the people who voted for the stars. The phenomenon is so commonplace it has its own name: kiezers-bedrog, or voter betrayal. ♦



Pascal Smet

## CULTURE NEWS

Outgoing **Flemish culture minister** Bert Anciaux has included the Flemish traditions surrounding Sinterklaas and St Maarten in the region's register of "intangible" cultural heritage, where they will join traditions like the Aalst carnival and the Holy Blood procession in Bruges. Also included was shrimp fishing on horseback in Oostduinkerke. Traditions included in the register are eligible to be included on Unesco's list of intangible world heritage.

The **Antwerp vocal ensemble Graindelavoix** has won the prestigious Edison prize in the Netherlands for its CD *Poissance d'amours*, a selection of 13th-century chants from Brabant. The jury praised the ensemble, seven singers and two musicians under the direction of Björn Schmelzer, for their "musical wilfulness [that] produces hitherto unheard results".

Flemish film director Jan Verheyen (*Los*) began location shooting in Antwerp last week on his latest movie, *Dossier K*, the much-anticipated sequel to Erik Van Looy's 2003 hit *De Zaak Alzheimer*. Both films are based on crime novels by Flemish crime writer Jef Geeraerts. Stars Koen De Bouw and Werner De Smedt return in the lead detective roles. *Dossier K* is due to be released in December.

The VRT has begun gathering testimony from the remaining **survivors of the First World War**. There are about 1,500 centenarians in Belgium, 800 of them in Flanders, of whom 640 are women. The broadcaster wants "to tell how ordinary people lived through the war, not only in the Westhoek [where the fighting took place] but throughout Flanders," said project coordinator Mark De Geest. The recordings will go into the VRT's oral archive, which will later be opened up to all programme makers in preparation for the 2014 centenary of the war's outbreak.

The pilot episode of a new drama set among the **trendy Flemings of Brussels' Dansaertstraat quarter** was released last week – but *Dansaertstraat* is an old-fashioned photo novel: "A TV soap about everyday life with still images," as described by author Johan Reyniers. The first issue is free, and subsequent issues will be published every two months from October at €5 per issue.

→ [www.kaaitheater.be/dansaert](http://www.kaaitheater.be/dansaert)

## THE WEEK IN FIGURES

### 52,047

Kids IDs will have been issued to children under 12 by the start of the school holidays on July 1. The cards are needed for any child who is going abroad.

### 18,650

cards have been issued, 9,759 await collection, and 23,638 applications have still to be processed.

### 30.5%

of Belgians will be going to France on holiday, making it the favourite destination, with 2.6 million people. Second place goes to Belgium itself, holiday spot of choice for 1.6 million Belgians.

### 62.2%

of holiday-makers will go by car, compared to 24.7% by plane and 6% by bus.

### over 2 million

will be leaving in July, compared to only 871,000 in August. Outside the summer months, April is the most popular time for a break, with 615,200 going away, mainly during the Easter break.

### 38.2%

of overnight stays by Belgian tourists take place in a hotel – a total of 3.2 million – while 17.2% stay in a rented holiday house. Only 7% of overnights are spent on campsites.

### 42%

of Flemings go abroad on holiday, compared to only 39% of Walloons. The people of Brussels are the most international, with 49% travelling to another country.

### 829

complaints made last year to the Travel Arbitration Board, composed of travel industry and consumer representatives.

### 70%

of all cases to the Board are partly or wholly withdrawn on investigation. Dossiers resulted in 129 cases, mainly about the quality of accommodation and excursions. Settled cases pay out an average of €663 in compensation.

### 44

traffic accidents took place on the (car-free) seafront of Koksijde between 2002 and 2007. The town is now planning tougher measures against drivers of go-carts on the front – responsible for 23 accidents.





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Opera in the Cinema last year brought 43,000 people to Kinepolis

# One step ahead

Going to Kinepolis doesn't necessarily mean going to the movies

→ Continued from page 1

**“W**e have to innovate; we cannot stand still,” says Myriam Dassonville of Kinepolis’ communications department. “It’s very important to keep an eye on the evolution of entertainment and to keep diversifying.”

Invention, as they say, is born of necessity: cinemas have to compete with DVD copying, in-cinema pirating and illegal personal downloading. Kinepolis will not release exact figures, but claims that profits fluctuate from year to year and, with the opening and closing of new cinemas, it’s impossible to say if admissions have been seriously affected by these new technologies.

“It’s not easy right now; I’m not going to pretend it is,” Dassonville says. “But in the past, the press asked if the film industry was going to implode because of the onset of television. Then it was video, then DVD. Now you have downloads.” Her point is clear: the film industry does not give up quite so easily, and, if you put it on

a graph, there is no big downward spiral in film-going.

But keeping up with that modern public and new technologies has always been the big film industry challenge and a top priority for Kinepolis, a group that is responsible for the megaplex that, when it opened in Brussels 21 years ago, was the first of its kind and has been a world-wide standard bearer ever since. It is now a leader in digital projection technology.

Although the days of gigantic reels of film being transported from cinema to cinema are not quite gone, they eventually will be, says Dassonville. More and more films are being shot and projected digitally, and Kinepolis is not going to be a cinema chain that, when the time comes, has to struggle to catch up with the technology. Although she won’t say how much, a big portion of the group’s technology budget goes towards digital and 3D projection equipment.

“When a film is digital, we receive a hard disk and then we have special key codes that we use to be able

to project it,” she explains. “That’s very different from the traditional film reels, which are very heavy and costly to ship. Those reels present so many logistical and production costs for producers and distributors. Over the long term, digital is much more cost effective.” In fact, it’s also environmentally effective: film stock and metal canisters would no longer be needed.

“By the end of this year, about 80% of all our projects in Belgium will be digital,” says Dassonville. Many film productions, however, still use film stock, so Kinepolis is also retaining their traditional film projectors. A lot of Flemish films, for instance, are still shot on film. “It will be a few more years until everything goes digital,” Dassonville explains. “We’re in an intermediate period.”

But Kinepolis is already thinking beyond the intermediate. As both Opera and Theatre in the Cinema show, you don’t even need a hard disk to project onto a screen in another part of the world. “In the future, it will all be done by satellite,” states Dassonville.

That would mean that, with the push of a button, the film you came to see would be projected from a central location, anywhere in the world. The same is true with the new “alternative content”, like opera and theatre, except it is projected at the same time it is being performed. If you go to see *Phèdre*, for instance, at Kinepolis on 25 June, you will be seeing the same performance as the live audience in London. But on a screen instead of a stage.

“We are a strong believer in alternative content,” says Dassonville. “It’s a strategic way to reach as many target groups as possible.” Bringing in these diversified target groups is one goal Kinepolis hopes to fulfil by offering live via-satellite sports, concerts, theatre and opera programming. This allows the company to appeal to more people than just moviegoers. More people equals more revenue.

“If you organise a U2 concert in 3D one day and then a football



Voice Male at the Movies features film songs by the Flemish a cappella group

final the following day, it’s a whole other audience – and a totally different atmosphere.”

Kinepolis continues to experiment with live events. They just completed a pilot project in their cinemas in Valencia and Madrid where they combined 3D and live

satellite coverage of the French Open on screen. “Cameras positions around the court were able to make 3D images,” explains Dassonville. “It’s very complex, but it works. Technically, it was perfect, and it was amazing.” ♦

→ [www.kinepolis.be](http://www.kinepolis.be)

## Theatre in the Cinema

It’s a chance to see London’s National Theatre, but is it as good as the real thing?

Over the next few months, four Kinepolis cinemas in Belgium will project live via satellite performances by London’s prestigious National Theatre. These four one-night-only events kick off with a production of *Phèdre* starring Helen Mirren on 25 June.

The National Theatre is following the lead of New York’s Metropolitan Opera, which has now transmitted two of its seasons to hundreds of cinemas across the world with the technical ability to screen high-definition satellite images. At Kinepolis cinemas in Belgium and France, 43,000 people came to see Opera in the Cinema.

Lovers of live performances, such as theatre, opera and dance have mixed views as to the benefits of this kind of event broadcasting. After all, don’t we spend enough time in front of a screen both at work and home? Live performances are meant to put you in touch with the performers in a wholly more human way. Do we really want to experience life as homogeneously as viewing *all* our cultural entertainment on a television or movie screen? Opera singers have even complained that they are worried about the future of their voice training if the priority becomes voice projection outside of their performance hall.

But, then, there are advantages. People around the world get to see the Met and the National Theatre for a fraction of the normal cost. Those who might not venture to the opera, might just discover it in the more casual atmosphere of their local cinema. And, regardless of the fact that it’s a screen, it does get you out of your house and part of an audience that socialises before and after performances.

Helen Mirren herself was called upon to give a statement about Theatre in the Cinema. And, though she is, of course, very positive, she does refer to it as “an experiment” – not a given:

“This is a grand new adventure for the National Theatre. We want our work, after all, to be seen by as many people as possible. And for this one night, our audience will be all over the UK and all over the world. And that’s exciting. Broadcasting theatre to live audiences is a great experiment, and Nick Hyter [the director] and I are both really looking forward to creating this unique event.”

Further National Theatre productions screening in Belgium are *Shakespeare’s All’s Well That Ends Well*; *Nation*, based on the book by Terry Pratchett; and *The Habit of Art*, a new play starring Michael Gambon.

→ [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)



Helen Mirren



# Geeks and the gender gap

## How girls fail by being too clever

ALAN HOPE

There are too few girls studying science and technology, and the reason could be the way we praise their performance in primary schools. That's the broad conclusion of a report from the Itinera Institute, a Brussels think-tank, and its researcher Carl Van Keirsbilck.

The problem of women in maths, science and technology (MST) is worldwide, but in Belgium women make up only 28% of all students in those fields in higher education. In the pure sciences, 9.6% are female and in information and communications technology (ICT), a mere 6%.

According to the EU Commission, there is a shortage of about 300,000 ICT workers across Europe, which translates into a shortfall of about 10,000-15,000 in Flanders. To put a monetary value on the problem, EU Commissioner Viviane Reding has said that if the EU were to close the ICT gap, economic growth would rise by 2% annually.

According to Van Keirsbilck, at least part of that shortfall could be made up if there were more women in the field. However, the social stereotype persists that science is a subject for boys. There is also a shortage of female role models and the theory that girls make life choices with an eye to their future circumstances, including home and family.

The Itinera report adds one more factor: that the problem originates in pre-school and primary classes as a result of girls receiving too much of the wrong sort of praise when they do well.

The top 20% of primary school-children say that they are not being challenged enough. This is



because of large class sizes and a broad range of abilities, which cause classes to move at the speed of the slowest. More girls than boys belong to the top one-fifth. Therefore, many girls come through primary school with a feeling of what Van Keirsbilck calls "effortless success".

Meanwhile, parents and teachers are encouraged to praise them, which they do by telling the girls they are clever. The girls in turn grow up thinking "clever" means "achieves success without effort". This belief in an innate intelligence is known in social psychology circles as a "fixed mindset". That's a concept introduced by

the Stanford University social psychologist Carol Dweck, and it's the opposite of a "growth mindset". Basically, praise for "being clever" creates a fixed mindset, while praise for "doing well" leads to a growth mindset.

"It's not only girls," Van Keirsbilck says. "But it affects girls more because they receive more praise in primary school because they have such a lead on the boys." And it is the lesson of praise internalised which leads to a fixed mindset. Research also suggests that children from families in lower socioeconomic groups, as well as children of immigrant families, also have more of a tendency to

develop the fixed mindset.

Interestingly, while the issue of praise is relatively new, child development experts generally agree that children should only be criticised for "doing" and not for "being": a child should never be reprimanded for "being naughty" but instead for "doing a naughty thing".

Later, when girls move up to secondary school, things become more difficult all round. According to figures contributed by the Flemish region to international research on trends in international mathematics and science studies (TIMSS), girls in Flanders went from being on a par with boys in primary school to lagging 12 score-points behind by the second year of secondary school – the largest gap in all of the countries and regions studied.

The girls, who have been made to believe their cleverness is innate, panic when they are no longer successful without effort. Then, instead of resolving to work harder, they decide to avoid the more difficult fields like science and maths in order not to appear as stupid as they now believe themselves to be.

Not only is science a subject where the degree of difficulty increases greatly at a secondary level, but there is also a perception that MST subjects are "hard". Girls, with their fixed mindset, find it harder to overcome the obstacle; boys, on the other hand, are more likely to have a growth mindset, which makes them more likely to find a way of surmounting the problem. The girls are "being", while the boys get around it by "doing".

Research, Van Keirsbilck claims, shows that the more intelligent a girl is, the more trouble she has with the potential to fail, leading to "helplessness" which presents itself as doubt in her own gifts. Suddenly, she is unable to perform tasks she previously had no trouble with, out of fear of failure.

Adolescent girls, especially gifted girls, are more prone than their male peers to depression; the rate of suicides in Flanders among girls of this age group is double that of boys.

The report goes on to suggest a number of ways in which the problem might be tackled:

- Make primary school more challenging for the top 15-20% by raising the bar on testing
- Replace some multiple-choice tests with other forms to take account of girls' more nuanced way of reasoning
- Train teachers in the psychology of mindsets and provide parents with more information
- Concentrate education on the achievement of individual learning for children, rather than reaching communal targets that are set so low as to condemn one in five children to a school life of boredom and under-achievement
- Introduce a culture of praising effort rather than cleverness; reward for "doing" rather than "being"

The full report is available to download from the Itinera website, in Dutch or French.

➡ [www.itinerainstitute.org](http://www.itinerainstitute.org)

Percentage of students in MST in tertiary education, according to sex

Country	% MST students	% Men	% Women
Finland	68.1	38.2	18.3
Spain	45.9	31.1	18.1
Ireland	47.0	30.6	17.4
Germany	43.7	29.9	16.7
Portugal	44.7	29.0	16.9
Switzerland	44.9	27.5	15.6
Austria	39.4	25.3	12.7
UK	39.1	24.4	12.8
Italy	36.3	24.0	14.5
<b>Flanders</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Belgium	33.6	20.5	9.3
Denmark	31.6	19.7	11.1
Netherlands	28.1	16.3	5.1

Source: Eurostat



# Government needs to help small businesses, says Unizo

Worst of crisis yet to come for some

The government needs to step in now and help out small businesses, which are the main victims of the current economic crisis, according to a leading business expert. "There's no time right now for political games," said Karel Van Eetvelt, director-general of Unizo, the organisation representing the self-employed, in its latest "small business barometer".

Small businesses in Flanders are on the whole less negative than they were three months ago when the last barometer was issued – suggesting that the crisis may have already bottomed out. Nevertheless, one in eight businesses still expects a substantial fall in income.

"Exporting companies are seeing something of a recovery," Van Eetvelt said. "But I fear that, for companies selling on the domestic market, the worst may yet be to come."

Only one in three entrepreneurs sees an opportunity in the crisis, and fewer still – about one in four – would consider new investment or an approach to new markets, the report says. More troubling still is the sudden drop in new start up businesses: just 2,520 in May, or 40% fewer than in May 2008.

The banks are to blame, he said, for stifling investment credit. "We're hearing of people being told not even to put in an application, because they don't stand a chance. That way, the cases don't show up in the bank's reports of credit refused," he said.

The solution, he suggested, is simple. At present the Flemish region will give a start-up loan to anyone who wants to set up in business and has been unemployed for three months. "Why not scrap that condition?" he asked. "That would solve a lot of problems."



Karl van Eetvelt

He also called on the region to extend its credit guarantee system to cover bridging and cash flow loans, which banks have become more reluctant to approve.

He also criticised the so-called jobkorting, a premium paid out by the Flemish government to all workers in an attempt to stimulate consumption. "That money doesn't get to the businesses that need it," Van Eetvelt said. "People save it; you see that in the figures from the National Bank. I think that choices have to be made."

Our companies are suffering in this crisis, and it's time to invest in the economy," he said.

- The European Union needs to do something urgently to stop multinationals from preying on small businesses and "bleeding them dry to the last drop," Van Eetvelt also said. Large companies put pressure on their suppliers to accept price cuts or longer payment delays, according to one in three small businesses. The situation is not restricted to Belgium, making action necessary at a European level. ♦

## More DHL cuts on the way

Courier company DHL, which has already moved its headquarters from Zaventem to Leipzig, now plans to move its cargo airline EAT as well, with the loss of 180 of its 310 ground-crew jobs. In addition, 241 office jobs at DHL Express in Diegem could be under threat, although this is still a matter for conjecture, unions admitted.

EAT will move to Leipzig next year, joining the courier company's main operation, which left Belgium as a result of tight restrictions on night flights out of Zaventem, leading to the loss of about 800 jobs. DHL said the EAT move would not affect aircrew jobs, but union representatives pointed out that



12 pilots were made redundant in February this year, with another 36 possible redundancies now under discussion. Unions have called for an

arbitrator to be brought in. "We want to discuss the whole situation, not only bits and pieces," one union representative said. Unions are worried that this fourth round of job losses may not be the last. ♦

## Magna gets "pleasant surprise" from Opel Antwerp visit

A delegation from the Canadian car-parts company Magna was "pleasantly surprised" by a visit to Opel Antwerp last week, a representative for Opel said. Magna, together with Russia's Sberbank and GAZ, is preparing a takeover of Opel in Europe, and the Antwerp visit was part of a tour of all the company's European plants.

The delegation was given a tour of the factory, but left without commentary. Inside Opel, on the other hand, the management was said to be pleased at the way the visit went. Opel left the Magna visitors with "a good impression," sources said. ♦

## iPhone customers let down again

The launch of the new 3GS iPhone, announced amid much hype two weeks ago, could again disappoint Belgian customers. Initially, the new gadget, which was launched in the US in 2007, took a year to reach Belgium.

Mobile phone operators fought bitterly to gain the contract, which ultimately went to Mobistar. Moreover, the price tag was inflated – as bundling is not legal here, the cost of the hardware was raised in Belgium to compensate for the loss of earnings on network subscriptions.

With the launch of the new

iPhone, history seems to be repeating itself. "You can't compare the situation in the US and here," a Mobistar spokesperson said, fielding questions about the price of the new phone. In the US, Apple has promised it will be on sale for \$99, but the price is expected to be higher in Belgium.

Apple has said the new iPhone will be on sale here on 26 June, but Mobistar is unable to confirm. "For the time being we're sticking to 'this summer'," the company said. ♦

## THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

### Air • Brussels Airlines

Brussels Airlines has launched a Summer Youth Pass to allow 18-26 year olds to book three return trips to any of 30 European destinations for €299. The offer applies until the end of September.

### Banking • Citibank

Citibank Belgium has been called before the Brussels Commercial Court in an action brought by angry customers who claim to have been misled over funds from the bankrupt US Lehman Brothers that were sold through Citibank's local network.

### Banking • Dexia

Dexia, the Belgian-French financial institution bailed out by authorities, is poised to sell its American FSA credit affiliate – which is at the root of its financial problems. The buyer, Assured Guaranty, will pay \$361 million in cash and some \$44 million in shares.

### Banking • KBC

KBC bank is seeking a buyer for its Secura reinsurance affiliate. The move is part of the bank's decision to sell non-strategic assets in a bid to regain competitiveness. KBC is Flanders largest financial institution and received massive financial aid from the Flemish authorities.

### Electricity • Elia

Elia, which operates the country's high-tension electricity grid, is in negotiations with Sweden's Vattenfall to take over its interest in the German high-tension grid for up to €500 million.

### Foods • Alpro

The soya drinks and products company Alpro is being spun off by its parent, the Vandemoortele food group, and has attracted three bids. They have been lodged by the US Dean Foods company, the Finnish Raisio group and Dutch Unilever.

### Investment • GIMV

The Flemish government investment company GIMV has acquired a 42.5% stake in the Dutch Claymount radiology and medical applications company.

### Post • Corpc

The Belgian post office De Post has acquired two companies – the Brussels-based Corpc and MG Road from Tongeren – to develop its express parcel delivery services.

### Technology • Option

The Leuven-based mobile technology components manufacturer Option saw its shares rise by 100% following rumours of a takeover last week. The company declined to comment.

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# Working for a living

From smuggled machinery to atrocious labour conditions, a museum in Ghent reveals 200 years of Flemish industry

LISA BRADSHAW

Ghent's Museum of Industrial Archaeology and Textile (MIAT) suffers from the burden of an unwieldy name. Occasionally you will meet a museum freak who will say: "That sounds incredibly interesting!" But mostly locals and tourists alike back away from the gigantic brick building in the centre of Ghent and turn to look at the pretty canal across the way instead.

I must admit to having done the same. But, intrigued by the museum's current exhibition, *Turkish Textile Labourers in Ghent*, I ventured in. I expected to be impressed by the exhibition and quietly bored by the rest. Imagine my surprise when it turned out to be just the opposite.

The exhibition on Turkish migrants working in Ghent's dominant textile industry is extremely relevant to the city's current Turkish population since most of the workers did not leave, instead bringing their families over and settling down. Texts and photos lead you from the early 1960s to the present day. In 1962, there were 435 Turks working in the cotton and wool mills of Ghent – by 1971, there were more than 1,400.

In the 1980s, Lieve Colruyt and Michiel Hendrycks documented the workers at the factories and home with starkly realistic black-and-white photos. Alas, if only the original photos had been here. Instead, the entire exhibition of text, photos, paintings and historical documents is printed on great big vinyl sheets that are hung one after the other like an informational board at a medical convention.

It's hard to imagine why the MIAT did not get a hold of these photos and of paintings depicting the Ghent of yesteryear, which appear to be from local collections. But, as a result, *Turkish Textile Labourers* is not remotely visually stimulating. It's also located in an area where another major exhibition is being set up with accompanying loud construction sounds and radio blasting music. Listening to "Like a Virgin" was not exactly conducive to viewing this subject matter.

I left dejected – only to soon be delighted by the MIAT's permanent collection.

The museum is situated in a 1905 cotton factory in the typical Manchester industrial style. You begin your journey on the top floor, with the history of industrialisation from 1750. The textile industry has, throughout the ages, made Ghent famous: it's wool production caused such growth



Right out of Daens: The Mule Jenny epitomised the first industrial revolution in Flanders but could also be dangerous when combined with child labour

and wealth in the Middle Ages that it was, until the 13th century, the largest city in Europe after Paris.

With the onset of the first industrial revolution of the mid 18th century, Ghent regained its textile position, largely thanks to local entrepreneur Lieven Bauwens, who (illegally) transported machine parts into the city from England to use in his cotton spinning mills. He then set up a manufacturing plant to copy the parts.

The top floor of the MIAT has not only the best view over Ghent that I've ever seen but also a beautiful collection of 18th- and 19th-century looms, spinning wheels and twisting mills, both the early models, operated by hand, and later mechanised versions. One of the most impressive is the authentic Mule Jenny, the world's first automated spinning machine, which was used for turning textile fibres into yarn. This 1779 specimen was one of the first-ever manufactured, a used model brought to Ghent intact from England by, of course, Bauwens, who was really quite good at smuggling.

But the MIAT is more than textiles. It's a history of industrialisation in general and its effect on society, which was often economically and socially devastating. Life changed completely for once independent workers, who had to labour in factories that produced goods and services faster and cheaper. Low wages and appalling conditions were the norm. Because the factories of industrialisation brought women into the workforce, the MIAT has a special

focus on female workers and on child labour.

The museum has reproductions of working-class homes and of storefronts of the 19th century, usually with period objects and the original wooden fronts. These become particularly impressive one floor down, where the history from 1900 continues.

MIAT is extremely well structured so you follow a historical path through to the modern day. You walk into the 20th century greeted by cobblestones and a reproduction of a stained-glass arch that was proposed for the 1913 World Exhibition in Gent (but not realised). An excellent photo section illustrates the uses of child labour, whether it's a 10-year-old girl weaving chair seats in a small, local facility or an eight-year-old boy being carried asleep by his father to factory job at 5.00.

The Belle Époque period of the early part of the century was a time of unprecedented industrial and commercial expansion, giving birth to a consumerist society. Evidence is found here in a reproduction of a cinema, a conveyor belt for the filling of glass bottles, a coffee merchant shop and a printing shop, with 19th-century printing presses that are actually still used. The Gentse Feesten summer festival, for instance, prints their posters here, in view of the public.

Because MIAT tries to place industry in the context of social and political movements, you'll find glass cabinets all along the way devoted to famous histori-

cal subjects: one is dedicated to Mozart (who apparently spent one day in Ghent as a child on holiday), another to Darwin, another to Belgian feminist activist Marie Popelin. Reaching beyond the strict borders of industrial archaeology makes the museum much more accessible than one would imagine from the outside. One of its most impressive reproductions, for instance, is the bunker from the First World War, so authentic that walking all the way around it is indeed unnerving.

Continuing down, you'll find

MIAT's entire third floor is devoted to the history of cotton manufacturing, with working machines that are often demonstrated to the public. Workshops are also taught here.

The happily quirky MIAT is also language friendly: English and French texts are printed on cards that you can carry along with you through each section. But if you want to experience it all, go soon: the fourth floor closes on 1 August for a six-month renovation. ♦

➔ [www.miat.gent.be](http://www.miat.gent.be)

## MIAT at the movies

Although I'm a fan of the entire fourth floor at the MIAT, I'd have to say the highlight is the reconstruction of the 1920s Ciné Palace, an Art Deco beauty that used to stand where the Sphinx Cinema does now in the heart of Ghent. Not being able to salvage everything from the Palace, the fixtures are from a variety of period cinemas and include a Triarc projector for playing silent movies, film posters, tickets and plush red seats. Most impressive is the 1945 Zeiss Ikon projector, which the museum still uses to show old movies on the second Sunday of every month. The next screening is Elia Kazan's *Splendor in the Grass* on 12 July.





# Total panic

## Beast brings stop-motion animation to Belgium

CHRISTOPHE VERBIEST

Is this an animation studio, I wonder, as my eye falls on a dildo when I enter an industrial building in a suburb of Brussels. Not one, not two, but, well, a lot of dildos.

I decide to mind my own business and talk animation with Ben Tesseur, one of the founders of Beast Animation.

Flash back to 10 years ago. Two students of the animation department of Brussels film school RITS, Ben Tesseur and Steven De Beul, share a dream: specialising in stop-motion animation (the kind you see in the *Wallace & Gromit* films). But Flanders has almost no tradition, and the two eventually fall out of touch.

Some years later, luck brings them back together. Two directors from Liège are planning to make a series of stop-motion shorts called *Panique au village* (*A Town Called Panic*).

"Since there was no stop-motion studio in Belgium, we had to improvise a lot," says Tesseur. "Afterwards, our dream for our own studio was alive again. Everyone in the animation field was very enthusiastic about the project, but nobody dared to participate. We decided to take the risk."

They struggled, but the project worked out. So they took another risk. "If there isn't enough work, we thought, we should generate it ourselves," says Tesseur. "And we started a second company, Beast Productions, so we could produce films."

Lightning doesn't strike twice, they say, but apparently good fortune does. Right at that moment, Beast was asked to co-produce the feature film version of *A Town Called Panic*, now playing across Belgium as *Panique au vil-*



Pilar Torres Villodre, Ben Tesseur and Steven De Beul of Beast Animation

lage in French and *Paniek in het dorp* in Dutch.

Both Tesseur and De Beul worked intensively on the film: the former as assistant director, the latter as chief animator. "But we also pushed to have a Flemish version of the film so that the characters, who were virtually unknown in Flanders, would gain some more fame."

The pair contacted television director Jan Eelen, who rounded up a voice cast that includes Bruno Vanden Broecke, Frank Fockety, Wim Opbrouck. Tesseur: "I find *Panic* very Belgian with humour typical for this country; that's why the Flemish version works as well as the Walloon."

Beast Productions has a third partner, so Tesseur and De Beul have fewer production duties and can concentrate more on the creative side. Right now,

they're working on the new credits sequence for *Man Bijt Hond*, the daily TV newsmagazine that will resume in September.

But don't they want to direct their own stop motion feature?

"We'd love to, in the long run", Tesseur concedes. "But right now we're working on a TV film of about half an hour about the Ros Beiaard [*a folkloric horse in Dendermonde*] and on the pilot for a series of one-minute films for new media called *Master Bator*. It's a quickly edited short about a superhero, a penis, who has to rescue a princess, a vagina, who's held captive by a villain, a dildo."

Which explains the dildos in the workroom of Beast Animation. I think. ♦

➔ [www.beastanimation.be](http://www.beastanimation.be)

### A Town Called Panic

It's an unnamed village, but it could be called Absurdistan because the weirdest things happen in *A Town Called Panic*. The main characters are Horse, who is more or less a father figure and Cowboy and Indian, who act like his children. The later are gentle rascals who cause a series of calamities when they, by accident, order zillions of bricks instead of the 50 they need.

It's the start of an adventure that

leads the threesome to the middle of the earth, where they meet strange water creatures and a giant penguin. (Not that these are odder than the three of them or the other villagers, mind you.)

The screenplay goes awry a few times, but *A Town Called Panic* offers loads of laughs, is so hyperkinetic you have no chance to get bored and is fascinating animation to watch.



### What's in a name? Stop motion

Classic animation is made with drawings — on paper in the old days, mostly on computer now. Stop motion works with objects: puppets in *A Town Called Panic*, but the most famous stop-motion characters, Wallace and Gromit, are made of clay.

For every image (one second of cinema contains 24 images), the objects have to move slightly. Stop. Motion. Stop. Motion. Etcetera. The

quick succession of the images creates an illusion of movement.

Sound a bit technical? It's easy to give it a try! Take your digital camera, make 24 pictures of an object, say a pen, and move it slightly for every photo. Watch them on your computer as a very fast slide show, and you have made your first stop-motion animation. (But don't dream you're ready to compete with Beast.)

## The thrill of the beat

### Bruocsella Symphony Orchestra presents its summer concert

ANNA JENKINSON

Bruocsella Symphony Orchestra has chosen an unusual programme for its summer concert this year. It includes an orchestral work by a composer better known for his piano music and a three-movement work whose composer insisted it was "three symphonic sketches" and most certainly not a symphony,

The members of the Brussels orchestra very much wanted to play Franz Liszt's symphonic poem *Les Préludes* and Claude Debussy's *La Mer*, explains Bruocsella's conductor, Jan Steenbrugge. To turn it into a full concert programme, these pieces will be accompanied by a clarinet concerto by Carl

Maria von Weber and Ottorino Respighi's only work for cello and orchestra, *Adagio con variazioni*.

The soloist for the Weber concerto will be clarinetist Alain Baudhuin and for Respighi's *adagio* the cellist Benjamin Glorieux.

Steenbrugge, 31, studied the violin and conducting at the Boston Conservatory and the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and has been conducting the mostly amateur Bruocsella Symphony Orchestra since 2002. He considers himself extremely lucky to be able to practice every week with a full orchestra. "Because the level is

so high, it gives me the opportunity to build a very good repertoire," he says.

This summer's concert will allow him to add to that repertoire 19th- and early 20th-century works by composers from Hungary, Germany, Italy and France.

Steenbrugge (*pictured right*) was born in Ghent and now lives there with his violinist wife and two children. Asked whether he doesn't sometimes get the urge to play in the orchestra instead, he says: "I like both, but the thrill of beating down the final chord of a masterpiece beats playing that chord hands down!" ♦



© Miel Peters

### Bruocsella Summer Concert

21 June, 20.00  
Zinnema  
Veeweydestraat 24, Brussels  
➔ [www.bso-orchestra.be](http://www.bso-orchestra.be)



# Back to nature

Dare we suggest that one might dismount from one's bicycle and walk around Flanders? We dare

DENZIL WALTON



For a relatively small region, Flanders is extremely diverse, with natural habitats ranging from the coastal dunes in the west to the heaths in the east. In between are rivers and lakes, deciduous and coniferous forests, hills and valleys.

It's easy to discover the flora and fauna of Flanders, but it's a lot easier with two feet on the ground. With the fine weather, it's time to dust off your walking boots and explore the Flemish countryside.

## Saeftinge

**Where?** Four kilometres north of Kieldrecht, East Flanders

**Why?** Waders, ducks and geese galore

Stretching into the Netherlands, the Drowned Land of Saeftinge is a vast 3,500 hectare area of the River Scheldt estuary encompassing mudflats, sandbanks and raised salt marsh. It's hard to believe, but, up

to the 16th century, people used to live here, when the region was fertile polder land and hosted four villages. Saeftinge was the largest, with a castle, two churches and a toll-house that charged ship owners for the use of the Scheldt.

However, to prevent the Spanish from conquering Antwerp during the Eighty Years' War, the dykes were demolished in 1584. The whole area was flooded, and the people fled to higher ground. Today, the place is a nature reserve and home to rare plants and animals.

As the area is protected, access is only with permission, and you need a guide to navigate you safely through the gullies and quick sand (ask at the visitor centre in Emmadorp). However, you can walk around the perimeter on your own, where you can get excellent views over the whole region. Look out for wigeon, teal, curlew, sandpipers and egrets.



## Leuven-Mechelen canal

**Where?** Anywhere between Leuven and Mechelen

**Why?** Great views of white storks

The Leuven-Mechelen canal can be accessed at a number of points. You simply choose the distance you want to walk, and then stroll along one bank and back down the opposite one.

Children will love the close-up views of herons and white storks, which feed in the shallows and neighbouring fields. From the canal, you can see the storks' huge nests in the Planckendael

Animal Park.

Further north, at Muizen, is the Mechels Broek nature reserve, with its visitor centre on Muizenhoekstraat and the handily situated Het Brughuis café. The area offers fantastic walks, while its two bird observation hides give you the chance to sit down, relax and hopefully spot the local kingfishers, reed warblers, little ringed plovers and various ducks and geese. Keep an eye open for rare migrants such as ospreys and hen harriers.

## Vorsdonkbos

**Where?** Start from Gelrode railway station, near Aarschot

**Why?** Wild orchids and other woodland flowers.

The nature reserve of Vorsdonkbos near Aarschot is a lovely place to walk and offers a wealth of nature. Highlights are the wild orchids – mainly heath spotted and marsh orchids, but you may spot the rarer

bee orchid.

Follow the red squares for a guided walk around the area, which is rich in wildlife. Check the ponds for frogs, newts and dragonflies; the woodland for woodpeckers, jays and warblers; the sunny banks for painted lady and blue butterflies. In the streams, look for the bogbean, with its pale pink 5-petalled flowers rising from the water on long stalks. Its alternative name "bog hop", comes from the use of its leaves as flavouring for beer.

For a longer walk, follow the signs for the Beemden, which will take you along the Demer River into the centre of Aarschot. You'll find plenty to see (and eat) in this pretty Flemish town.

*Denzil Walton is the author of the pocket guide Nature Walks Near Brussels, which includes activities for children and suggestions for where to eat and drink local specialities along the way. Order it for €6 directly from the author at [info@denzil.be](mailto:info@denzil.be). Postage free for readers of Flanders Today.* ♦

# bite

SHARON LIGHT



## Hello, cupcake

While Belgian bakeries have no shortage of delectable goodies to satisfy your sweet tooth, Lilicup is drumming up interest in a Belgian newcomer: cupcakes. If it's been a while since you were last stateside, you may have missed the cupcake phenomenon taking that country by storm (thanks primarily to a *Sex and the City* episode). Belgians remain mystified for the time being, but if Lilicup keeps up their moist, delicious work, the fad is sure to spread here, too.

Leila Strebelle and Vanessa Ducheyne started their made-to-order cupcake business in September of last year. Using as many organic ingredients as possible, they offer

a variety of both cakes and icings and meticulously decorate each cupcake with designer details – from silver and gold shavings to dried and sweetened flowers.

Since the treats are virtually unknown here, they work largely from American recipes that they have adapted to the European palate – meaning a little less sweet and a little less rich. Still full of flavour, these cute, little cakes make a nice surprise for your next dinner guests.

The ladies, who are based in Brussels, want to open a shop later this year and are on the hunt for space. Once settled, they hope to expand their selection to include more desserts (American and

otherwise). The plan also includes offering baking classes for children; both are moms and sensitive to children's interests in the kitchen.

When I met with Leila and Vanessa, their children in tow, I was shocked that these well-trained kids were not clamouring for cupcakes as I busily ate a luxurious selection, including coconut, almond, raspberry and cappuccino.

But I imagine the kids certainly get their fill, and what lucky kids they are. Until a shop opens, you're restricted to phone orders. But it's well worth the call.

➔ [www.lilicup.com](http://www.lilicup.com)





# Mystery in the Eifel

Tervuren author makes an international splash with debut novel

REBECCA BENOOT

In the age of Postmodernism, it is hard to find some decent, dare I say, old-fashioned, story-telling where the tale is as exciting and as intricately worked out as its captivating characters. No technology, no shock effects – just real people in their everyday small town surroundings living their lives, until one day tragedy strikes: Katharina Linden vanishes.

*The Vanishing of Katharina Linden* is set in the picturesque town of Bad Münstereifel, located in the Eifel mountain region of Germany, just west of the Belgian border, where our tenacious 10-year-old heroine Pia tries to find out what happened to her friend. She is aided by Stefan, another outcast, and guided by the stories of the old and wise Herr Schiller.

This novel is timeless: a tale that combines real folklore and mystery in an almost claustrophobic yet fantastical setting filled with colourful people. The fairy tale atmosphere is in fact reminiscent of the Brothers Grimm.

Helen Grant, the British author of this Gothic goodie, has been writing non-fiction articles and ghost stories for several years, but *Vanishing* is her first novel. She's off to a cracking start.

Grant, who presents her book later this month at Waterstone's in Brus-

sels, moved to Bad Münstereifel with her family from England in 2001 for her husband's job. She was not only captivated by the town and its mediaeval surroundings but also inspired by its countless myths and legends. "All the stories in the book are genuine local folk legends collected by a Catholic priest," she explains. "He went and talked to old people in the area and wrote down the legends before they could be lost."

Grant also shows a different side of Germany, one that isn't plagued by a Second World War legacy and doesn't include "retired Nazi war criminals".

*Vanishing* is ostensibly a novel for young adults but easily captures adult imaginations. The Guardian wrote: "The excellent writing – and the eschewing of anything remotely winsome or mawkish – make this an eerily subtle literary page-turner."

In fact, she didn't specifically aim it at an age group; it was her publisher, Penguin, that felt that it would be right for a young adult market and function as a cross-over novel. But Grant did choose the ages of her characters carefully. "The heroine had to be quite young," she explains. "If she were an adult or even a teenager, she wouldn't believe as much of the

stories of the town. She interprets everything in a different way than an adult would."



Helen Grant

Published in the UK in March, *Vanishing* is also being translated and released in Germany, Spain, Italy and Romania. (Let's hope Dutch and French are next.)

Due to the combination of mystery, a young and inquisitive protagonist and the ability to appeal to readers from 12 on up, *Vanishing* has been compared to British writer Mark Haddon's run-away hit *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*: "It's a compliment because it was a best-selling book," says Grant. "But in terms of the style, there's not much point of contact. I guess the thing is that whenever there are reviews, people



always want to categorise what they've read."

After some extensive travelling, Grant has settled down in Tervuren with her family, where she is working on her second novel. Also inspired by a German legend, it's about an English girl in Germany and deals with an outsider's perspective compared to *Vanishing's* inner turmoil. ♦

## Helen Grant presents

*The Vanishing of Katharina Linden*

26 June, 18.30

Waterstone's, Adolphe Maxlaan 71, Brussels

→ [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)

# fashionista

STÉPHANIE DUVAL



Déborah Marin's hand-made accessories are colourful and fun

## D-I-Y

Fashion takes the most interesting directions when it's made by hand – by the hand of someone who is passionate about their project. There's a reason why haute couture is still the *crème de la crème* of fashion, after all. However, it is limited to those happy few who can say Karl (to Mr Lagerfeld) and who have Alber (Elbaz, of Lanvin) on speed dial.

But there's no reason why mere mortals can't experience the joys of handmade fashion. In fact, they can get the extra satisfaction of having made something themselves, starting from scratch. It's a way of experiencing fashion that goes way beyond stepping into a store and walking out with a new sweater. Even if you fell madly in love with the sweater, the love will never be as deep as you feel for your first self-made scarf.

It's a message that resounds especially on the internet, where creative types find ever-more ways to fashion their own outfits. Some bloggers even post manuals to recreate certain looks from the catwalk. Others start businesses that thrive on stimulating people to make their own clothes.

One group of knitting wonders are those who started up Wool and the Gang. Originally a band of friends, they grew into a full-blown business, importing fair-trade Peruvian wool and selling it in packages complete with knitting needles and patterns. They encourage buyers to capture the process of their own knitting and post stories and pictures on their website, thus creating a worldly gang of wool lovers.

That sense of community seems to be very important in the

D-I-Y fashion movement. At Etsy.com, creative talents can sell their homemade accessories and clothes in their own little shop-in-shop. There have been cases of abuse, such as when a Chinese factory invents a fake identity and sells cheap hand labour on the site. It usually doesn't take a week before protest arises from within the Etsy community, and a boycott is issued against the abuser. These consumers are pretty serious about the goals and ideals of Etsy: it should be a place for honest homemade creations.

Belgian designer Déborah Marin launched her own web shop on which she sells woollen bracelets, rings and headbands in every colour. The photography is her own, too, and it looks so fun and colourful, your Mastercard won't stand a chance.

→ [www.bijouxmisstinguette.kingeshop.com](http://www.bijouxmisstinguette.kingeshop.com)



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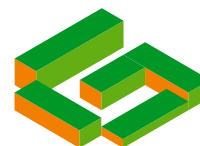
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## GOSSELIN moving

BELGIUM - MEMBER GOSSELIN GROUP



These retro swing parties teach you the moves you need to know to rock around the clock. On 20 June, it's Drew Davies Rhythm Combo at Brussels' Beursschouwburg  
 ➔ [www.radiomodern.be](http://www.radiomodern.be)



# Postcards from Brussels

REBECCA BENOOT

Dave McKean is a Renaissance man. The multi award-winning illustrator and comic book artist is: a filmmaker (visionary), a photographer (haunting), a graphic designer (inventive) and, last but not least, a musician (jazz pianist).

He is probably most famous for his numerous collaborations with fellow Brit and fantasy writer Neil Gaiman. Together the 40-somethings have created cult classic graphic novels like *The Sandman* series and *Black Orchid*. Most recently, McKean illustrated Gaiman's celebrated children's novel *The Graveyard Book*, and he also created the images for Gaiman's now-immortalised 2002 novella *Coraline*.

McKean's style is not just unique, it's downright uncanny. By incorporating techniques such as painting, drawing, collage and found objects, he transforms simple yet surreal images into snapshots of anguish and beauty. His directorial debut, *Mirrormask*, is an exceptional example of

his love for mixed media and illustrates his trademark magical cum ominous, out-of-this-world quality.

*Postcards from Brussels* – the title says it all – is a compelling exhibition for us Belgians. The fourth in a series (after Vienna, Paris and Barcelona), it is based on McKean's stay in our wonderful – and dirty and hodgepodge – capital last year. Images from Brussels, like the infamous Manneken Pis, become dreamlike, aided by the simple elegance of pen-and-ink. Pages from his own graphic novel *Cages* are also featured in this show at Petits Papiers in Brussels.

There are also several of McKean's mesmerising nitrate paintings. These larger and darker works are a combination of oil paint, papier-mâché, collage and glued on objects like leaves, rocks and even dolls that create a kind of relief sculpture. With qualities both scattered and artificial, these disturbing portrayals of the human psyche jump out and grab

you by the throat.

The icing on the cake, however, is a painting of Coraline. Yes, that would be the same Coraline that is now a 3D stop-motion movie by Henry Selick, now playing across Belgium (and the rest of the world).

The painting on show (above) beautifully illustrates the duality in not only the character but in the story of a girl who finds a peculiar door in a room of her parents' new, rambling country home. Behind it is a portal to... her own house. But nothing there is quite like it should be.

## Postcards from Brussels

Until 27 June  
 Petits Papiers  
 Fontainasplein 1, Brussels

➔ [www.petitspapiers.be](http://www.petitspapiers.be)



## MORE GRAPHIC ART THIS WEEK

**In Search of the Atom Style** ➔ *Atomium, Brussels*

**Belgian Comics** ➔ *Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels*

**Willy Vandersteen** ➔ *Town Hall, Brussels*



### Antwerp

**Queen Elisabeth Hall**  
 Koningin Astridplein 26; 0900.26.060  
**JUNE 21** 20.00 Ry Cooder & Nick Lowe

**Sportpaleis**  
 Schijnpoortweg 119; 0900.26.060  
**JUNE 18** 20.30 The Eagles

### Borgerhout

**Trix**  
 Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00, [www.trixonline.be](http://www.trixonline.be)  
**JUNE 19** 19.00 Cro-mags + Death Threat + No Turning Back + Betrayed + Nothing Gold Can Stay  
**JUNE 20** 16.00 Voivod + Coalesce + Torch + Kylesa + Oathbreaker + Sardonis + Moroccan

### Bruges

**Het Entrepot**  
 Binnenweg 4; 050.61.02.48, [www.het-entrepot.be](http://www.het-entrepot.be)  
**JUNE 24** 17.00 Mans Ruin, Trapped Under Ice, Stick to Your Guns, Morda, Diablo Boulevard, Born from Pain, Terror

### Brussels

**Ancienne Belgique**  
 Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24, [www.abconcerts.be](http://www.abconcerts.be)  
**JUNE 26** 20.00 Flo Rida

**Beursschouwburg**  
 Auguste Ortstraat 20-28; 02.550.03.50, [www.beursschouwburg.be](http://www.beursschouwburg.be)  
**JUNE 19** 22.00 Yuko

**Bozar**  
 Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00, [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)  
**JUNE 22** 20.00 Ry Cooder & Nick Lowe with Flaco Jimenez, Joachim Cooder

**Flagey**  
 Heilig Kruisplein; 02.641.10.20, [www.flagey.be](http://www.flagey.be)  
 Brussels XL Flagey Summer Festivals:  
**JUNE 26** 18.00 Fanfare mobil: Va fan Fahre 20.00 Marry Me 21.00 OK Cowboys

**Le Bar du Matin**  
 Alsembergsesteenweg 172; 02.537.71.59  
**JUNE 25** 21.00 aNoo

**Le Botanique**  
 Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32, [www.botanique.be](http://www.botanique.be)  
**JUNE 20** 22.30 25 Years Botanique: local and international DJs

**Recyclart**  
 Ursulinenstraat 25; 02.502.57.34, [www.recyclart.be](http://www.recyclart.be)  
**JUNE 19** 22.30 Fête de la Musique: Darko, Chloé, Byetone, Alva Noto

**Vorst-Nationaal**  
 Victor Rousseaulaan 208; 0900.00.991  
**JUNE 26** 20.30 Steely Dan

### Ghent

**Kinky Star**  
 Vlasmarkt 9; 09.223.48.45, [www.kinkystar.com](http://www.kinkystar.com)  
**JUNE 21** 21.00 Shotgun

**Vooruit**  
 St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060, [www.vooruit.be](http://www.vooruit.be)  
**JUNE 23** 19.30 M83 + Yuko

### Hasselt

**Muziekodroom**  
 Bootstraat 9; [www.muziekodroom.be](http://www.muziekodroom.be)  
**JUNE 18** 20.00 Tom Helsen



### Ardoorie

**Cultuurkapel De Schaduw**  
 Wezestraat 32; 0479.80.94.82, [www.deschaduw.net](http://www.deschaduw.net)  
**JUNE 19** 20.30 Nico van Gendt Project

### Borgerhout

**De Roma**  
 Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40, [www.deroma.be](http://www.deroma.be)  
**JUNE 19** 20.30 Jef Neve Trio

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

## Lucinda Williams

**11 July, 20.30**  
**Rivierenhof**  
**Open-Air Theatre**

Just when we all thought the country music world had been completely destroyed by the Shania Twains and Billy Ray Cyrus-es, out came Cars Wheels on a Gravel Road, propelling Lucinda Williams to the top of the charts 20 years after her professional debut and reminding us what real country music was supposed to be all about: sublime blues, scratchy and raw. Her latest album is every bit as strong as usual, and this venue is perfect for summer shows.

➔ [www.openluchtttheater.be](http://www.openluchtttheater.be)



### Brussels

**Jazz Station**  
 Leuvensesteenweg 193-195; 02.733.13.78  
**JUNE 18** 20.00 Public concert: Ensemble of the academies of Watermaal-Bosvoorde and Evere  
**JUNE 23-25** 11.00-17.00 Public exams: Royal Conservatory ensembles

**Sass'n Jazz**  
 Koningsstraat 241; 0475.78.23.78, [www.sazznjazz.be](http://www.sazznjazz.be)  
**JUNE 17** 20.30 Green Dolphins  
**JUNE 20** 20.30 Moyera T'Chavera

**Sounds Jazz Club**  
 Tulpenstraat 28; 02.512.92.50, [www.soundsjazzclub.be](http://www.soundsjazzclub.be)  
**JUNE 18** 22.00 Marc Demuth Quartet with Sofia Ribeiro  
**JUNE 19** 22.00 Jean-Paul Estievenart Quartet

**The Music Village**  
 Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45  
 Concerts at 20.30:  
**JUNE 17** WiRDo **JUNE 18** Cachito Pa' Querer **JUNE 19** Fabien Degryse Trio & Thibault Dille **JUNE 20** Richard



Rousselet & the New Look Trio **JUNE 21** 21.00 Mélanie De Biasio's residence concert **JUNE 23** The Crawl'n' Kingsnakes **JUNE 24** H.O.J Quintet **JUNE 25** Michaël Blass Trio

## Ghent

### El Negocio

Brabantdam 121; 0479.56.73.95, www.mi-negocio.net  
Concerts at 22.00

**JUNE 17** Neruda **JUNE 18** The Adventurists **JUNE 20** Black Gandhi **JUNE 22** Giovanni Barcella Sessions



## Borgerhout

### Rataplan

Wijnegemstraat 27; 03.292.97.40  
**JUNE 26** 20.30 Raymond X 4 with Raymond van het Groenewoud

## De Roma

Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40, www.deroma.be  
**JUNE 20** 20.00 Folkball III with Orquestra Patagon & Jan De Smet, folk music and dance

## Brussels

### St Andrew's Church Hall

Vleurgatsesteenweg 181; 02.734.46.01  
**JUNE 19** 19.30 Folk night with bluegrass bands, guitars and accordion

## Ghent

### Vooruit

St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060, www.vooruit.be  
**JUNE 18** 20.00 Buju Banton & Shiloh Band + Hype Squad + Basstune Crew



## Antwerp

### Zaal Zeven

Cogels-Osylei 73; 0473.53.16.60  
**JUNE 23** 20.00 Leonard Schreiber, violin; Andrei Banciu, piano: from Bach to Gershwin

## Bruges

## Concertgebouw

't Zand 34; 070.22.33.02, www.concertgebouw.be  
**JUNE 21** 20.00 Queen Elisabeth Violin Competition 2009 concert with deFilharmonie conducted by Aldert Vermeulen: Ilian Garnet (3rd prize), Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich; Lorenzo Gatto (2nd prize), Saint-Saëns; Ray Chen (1st prize), Mendelssohn

## Brussels

### Bozar (Paleis Voor Schone Kunsten)

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00, www.bozar.be  
**JUNE 20** 20.00 Belgian National Orchestra conducted by Josep Pons, with Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden, piano: Casablanças, Rachmaninov, de Falla, Stravinsky  
**JUNE 21** 11.00 Simon Diricq, saxophone; Flavien Casaccio, piano: Brahms, Caplet, Denisov, Swerts 20.00 Le Grand Choeur de la Régionale de Bruxelles with Ensemble Aria conducted by Etienne Rappe and Bruno Crabbé: choral works by Schütz, Gabrieli, Mendelssohn and more, and Requiem by John Rutter

## Czech House

Palmerstonlaan 16; 02.213.94.30, reservation: cz-pres@southbohemia.eu  
**JUNE 23** 19.30 Dagmar Šašková, soprano; Katerina Chroboková, harpsichord

## De Munt

Muntplein; 070.23.39.39, www.demunt.be  
**JUNE 21** 20.00 Susan Graham, mezzo; Malcolm Martineau, piano: 19th- and 20th-century French songs

## Flagey

Heilig Kruisplein; 02.641.10.20, www.flagey.be  
Brussels XL Flagey Summer Festival:  
**JUNE 24** 20.15 Brussels Philharmonic conducted by Michel Tabachnik, with Nino Derolez, piano: Brahms Piano Concerto No 2, op 98, Symphony No 4, op 98  
**JUNE 25** 20.15 Brussels Philharmonic conducted by Michel Tabachnik, with Nino Derolez, piano: Brahms Violin Concerto op 77, Symphony No 1, op 68



## Brussels

### De Munt

Muntplein; 070.23.39.39, www.demunt.be  
**Until JUNE 26** 15.00/19.00 The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart with De Munt Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jérémie Rhorer (Peter Tomek **JUNE 23** & **24**) and Choir conducted by Piers Maxim, staged by Guy Christof Loy



## Brussels

### P.A.R.T.S

Van Volxemlaan 164; 02.344.55.98, www.parts.be  
**JUNE 20-27** 16.00/20.00 Performances by P.A.R.T.S. students, choreographies based on Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's Drumming (1998) and Rain (2001)

## Théâtre Marni

Vergniestraat 25; 02.639.09.80  
**JUNE 18** 20.30 Bliss, choreographed and performed by Lise Vachon + Mine by Ivan Fatjo and Pascal Merighi

## Mechelen

### Kerk van Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-over-de-Dijle

Onze-Lieve-Vrouwstraat; 070.22.28.00, www.stadsvisionen.be  
**JUNE 20** 20.30 Het Orgelt, choreographed by Pé Vermeersch, with organist Jan Vermeire performing music by Bach, Franck, Messiaen and more



## Brussels

### KVS Bol

Lakensestraat 146; 02.210.11.00, www.kvs.be  
**Until JUNE 19** 15.00/20.00

## DON'T MISS

## Antwerp Pride

25-28 June

What is sure to seem odd to some (gays) and refreshingly safe to others (not gays), the city of Antwerp has essentially taken over Gay Pride activities in the port city. Except now it's called Antwerp Pride. Whether members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of Flanders see this as a positive step or not, it's going to be impossible to stay away from events like dating in the Diamond Museum or a sing-along to Mamma Mia.

→ [www.antwerppride.be](http://www.antwerppride.be)



Biedermann en de brandstichters (The Firebugs) by Max Frisch, directed by Ruud Gielens (in Dutch with French surtitles)

## Ghent

### NTGent Schouwburg

Sint-Baafsplein 17; 09.225.01.01, www.ntgent.be  
**Until JUNE 20** 20.30 Olympique Dramatique in Adams Appels, musical based on the Danish film, composed by Dominique Pauwels (in Dutch)

## Grimbergen

### Strombeek-Bever Cultural Centre

Gemeenteplein; 02.220.30.60  
**JUNE 17** 20.00 Laat mij zingen (Let me sing), musical by Ingeborg (in Dutch)

## Roeselare

### CC De Spil

Spilleboutdreef 1; 02.220.30.60, www.despil.be  
**JUNE 23** 20.00 Laat mij zingen (Let me sing), musical by Ingeborg (in Dutch)



## Antwerp

### Cathedral of Our Lady

Handschoenmarkt; 03.213.99.51  
**Until NOV 15** Reunion: from Quinten Metsys to Peter Paul Rubens, Masterpieces from the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Return to the Cathedral

## Extra City

Tulpstraat 79; 0484.42.10.70  
**Until JUNE 20** Sergei Eisenstein: The Mexican Drawings, 1930s sketches by the master Russian filmmaker during his stay in Mexico

## Fotomuseum

Waalse Kaai 47; 03.242.93.00  
**Until SEP 13** Fotografie in België tijdens het Interbellum (Photography in Belgium Between the Wars)  
**JUNE 19-SEP 13** Theatres of the Real: contemporary British photography  
**JUNE 19-SEP 13** Geert van Kesteren: Baghdad Calling/Why Mister, Why? photo-reportage  
**JUNE 19-SEP 13** Nick Hannes: Red Journey, photographs made in Russia in 2008

## Middelheim Museum

Middelheimlaan 6; 03.827.15.34  
**Until SEP 27** Chris Burden, videos, sculptures and installations by the contemporary American artist

## Modemuseum (MoMu)

Nationalestraat 28; 03.470.27.70, www.momu.be  
**Until AUG 16** Paper Fashion, garments made of paper and related materials concentrating on the 1960s

## NICC (Nieuw Internationaal Cultureel Centrum)

Tulpstraat 79; 03.216.07.71  
**Until JUNE 21** De Doorgeefshow, curated by Koen Theyx, with works by contemporary artists Felix de Boeck, Nico Dockx, Jodi and Joëlle Tuerlinck, among others

## Plantin-Moretus Museum

Vrijdagmarkt 22; 03.221.14.50  
**Until JULY 19** In the Wake of Columbus: Antwerp Books and Prints around the World, early books, maps and illustrations printed in Antwerp

## Rockox House

Keizerstraat 12; 03.201.92.50  
**Until NOV 15** A Gift to God, private patronage of religious art during Antwerp's Golden Age

## Zilvermuseum Sterckshof

Cornelissenlaan; 03.360.52.52  
**Until JUNE 21** Van Kempen, van zilversmid tot fabrikant (from Silversmith to Manufacturer), silverware by the Dutch designers since the 19th century

## Bruges

### Arentshuis

Dijver 16; 050.44.87.11  
**Until SEP 27** The Museum of Museums 2009, intervention by contemporary artist Johan van Geluwe

## Groeningemuseum

Dijver 12; 050.44.87.43  
**Until JULY 21** Charles the Bold: The Splendour of Burgundy, Flemish Primitive paintings, armour, tapestries, manuscripts, fine gold and silverware that were stolen from the Burgundian court in the 15th century

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**Brussels****Bibliotheca Wittockiana**

Bemelstraat 23; 02.770.53.33

**Until OCT 10** The Premises of Comic Strip, 19th-century comic strips, with works by Rodolphe Töpffer, Caran d'Ache, Benjamin Rabier and Fred Isly, among others**Bozar (Paleis Voor Schone Kunsten)**Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00, [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)**Until JUNE 30** N.i.c.h.e. 360

architekten, scale models by Jan Mannaers and Stephane Beel

**Until SEP 13** Sophie Calle, photographs, audio and video works by the contemporary French artist**Until SEP 13** Disorder, sculptures and paintings by conceptual artist Bernar Venet and comic strips about the art world by Jacques Charlier**Until SEP 13** Portraits of Artists: 80 Years of the Centre for Fine Arts in Pictures**Costume and Lace Museum**

Violettestraat 12; 02.213.44.50

**Until JUNE 21** Carmen Hoyos-Hoy: Virevoltante/Wervelend, installation**Danish Cultural Institute**

Koningstraat 35; 02.5230.73.26

**Until JULY 5** Knit: Strik, traditional knitting shown alongside new and experimental designs by young Danish designers**De Loge Architectuurmuseum**

Kluisstraat 86; 02.649.86.65

**Until AUG 2** Louise Bossut, Nicolas Van Brande and Olivier Thieffry:

(reflect)3, photographs of shops, cafés and other commercial venues in Brussels

**De Markten**Oude Graanmarkt 5; 02.512.34.25, [www.demarkten.be](http://www.demarkten.be)**Until JUNE 28** The Stone Road, photographs**Until JULY 11** Julien Coulommier, photographs**Folklore Museum**

Eikstraat 19; 02.279.64.36

**Until JUNE 21** BrusselSe Orgels, didactic exhibition on organs**Fondation pour l'Architecture**Kluisstraat 55; 02.642.24.80, [www.fondationpourelarchitecture.be](http://www.fondationpourelarchitecture.be)**Until OCT 18** De tijd van de boetiek (The Time of the Boutique), window shopping from 1800 to today**Hallepoort**

Zuidlaan; 02.534.15.18

**Until OCT 25** Archeologie om de hoek, archaeological finds in Brussels over the past 20 years**ISELP**

Waterloosesteenweg 31; 02.504.80.70

**Until JULY 25** Dress code, clothing**Until AUG 22** Lucile Stievenard, prints; Morgane Deffense, ceramics; Maëlle Laduron, jewellery**Jewish Museum of Belgium**

Minimenstraat 21; 02.512.19.63

**Until OCT 15** Een geheugen op papier (A memory on paper), Jewish life in Belgium recorded in historic postcards**La Fonderie – Brussels Museum of Labour and Industry**

Ransfortstraat 27; 02.410.99.50

**Until JULY 12** Piemonte industria,

archival photographs selected by Niccolò Biddau documenting a century of industry in Northern Italy

**Le Botanique**Koningstraat 236; 02.226.12.57, [www.botanique.be](http://www.botanique.be)**Until JULY 12** Overview, 25th anniversary show: works by 20

photographers in Le Botanique park

**Until AUG 9** Stephan Vanfleteren: Belgicum, black-and-white photographs by the contemporary

Flemish artist

**MIVB Headquarters**

Kolonienstraat 62; 02.515.20.52

**Until SEP 26** Metro Art Memory, retrospective and genesis of 80 art works in the Brussels' metro, with models, drawings and sketches by Pierre Alechinsky, Paul Delvaux and Hergé, among others**René Magritte Museum**Essegheemstraat 135; 02.428.26.26, [www.magrittemuseum.be](http://www.magrittemuseum.be)**Until JULY 31** Paintings by Liège-born artist Francine Holley**Royal Museum of Art and History**

Jubelpark 10; 02.741.72.11

**Until AUG 30** Vegetal City, how to reconcile city and nature, the vision for a sustainable future by Belgian architect Luc Schuiten**Royal Museum of Fine Arts**Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11, [www.fine-arts-museum.be](http://www.fine-arts-museum.be)**Until JUNE 30** Brussels Comics: Frames of Reference, 20 contemporary Belgian comic strip artists and works by those who have influenced them**Until AUG 23** Alfred Stevens: retrospective of the Belgian artist (1823-1906)**Until SEP 6** Art and Finance in Europe: 16th Century Masterworks in a new light, works from the museum's collection**WIELS**

Van Volxemlaan 354; 02.347.30.33

**Until AUG 2** Luc Tuymans: Against the Day, 20 new paintings by the contemporary Flemish artist**World Bank Brussels**

Marnixlaan 17; 02.552.00.32

**Until OCT 31** In the Eyes of a Woman: Roma Portraits, the lives of Roma communities in photos**Deurle****Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens**

Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23

**JUNE 21-SEP 13** When the mood strikes... Wilfried & Yannicke Cooreman's collection of contemporary art, with works by Franz West, Thomas Schütte, Jean-Marc Bustamante, Jan Vercruysse, Lucy McKenzie and Gregor Schneider, among others  
**JUNE 21-SEP 13** Robert Devriendt, paintings**Gaasbeek****Kasteel**

Kasteelstraat 40; 02.531.01.30

**Until AUG 16** Paul & Cie, highlight on Paul Arconati Visconti (1754-1821), eccentric resident of Gaasbeek Castle and fervent admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte**Ghent****Dr Guislain Museum**Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95, [www.museumdrguislain.be](http://www.museumdrguislain.be)**Until JUNE 30** Burland Toyland, works made from recycled materials by Swiss outsider artist François Burland**Until SEP 13** Unknown Secrets, paintings by Serbian outsider artist Goran Djurovic**Until SEP 13** De Tientoongestelde Mens: Andere culturen als amusement (Exhibited People: Other Cultures as Amusement)**MIAT**Minnemeers 9; 09.269.42.00, [www.miat.gent.be](http://www.miat.gent.be)**Until AUG 1** Turkish textile workers in Ghent**Until AUG 23** Felt, from tradition to modern art**Until OCT 18** Ghent on porcelain cards from 1840-1865**Museum of Fine Arts**

Fernand Scribbedreef 1 – Citadelpark; 09.240.07.00,

[www.mskgent.be](http://www.mskgent.be)**Until JUNE 21** Emile Claus and Rural Life, paintings by the Belgian Impressionist (1849-1924) shown alongside works by his contemporaries, including Constant Permeke, Constantin Meunier and Henry Van de Velde**Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (SMAK)**Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03, [www.smak.be](http://www.smak.be)**Until AUG 2** Dara Birnbaumretrospective: The Dark Matter of Media Light, video installations redefining what it can mean to be a woman in a fast-evolving world  
**Until AUG 2** The Value of Void: Navid Nuur, installations and drawings by the Iranian artist**Until AUG 23** Beyond The Picturesque, interpretations of

landscape in contemporary art

**Until AUG 23** Bizhan Bassiri: La Bestia & Meteoriti, sculpture by the Italian/Iranian artist**Until AUG 30** Carl De Keyzer: Trinity, photographs on power and violence by the Magnum agency Flemish photographer**Witte Zaal**

Posteernestraat 64; 09.225.42.90

**Until JULY 4** The Ornamental Body: From Inmate Tattoo to Body Paintings, with photographs by Mariette Michaud**Hasselt****Modemuseum**

Gasthuisstraat 11; 011.23.96.21

**Until OCT 31** In Her Shoes, trends and evolution of women's shoe design, from 1900 to contemporary designers**Kemzeke****Verbeke Foundation**

Westakkers

03.789.22.07, [www.verbekefoundation.com](http://www.verbekefoundation.com)**Until NOV 15** Artificial Nature, outdoor sculpture and installations by contemporary Belgian and European artists**Mechelen****Speelgoedmuseum (Toy Museum)**Nekkerspoelstraat 21; 015.55.70.75, [www.speelgoedmuseum.be](http://www.speelgoedmuseum.be)**Until SEP 30** Cowboys and Indians**Tervuren****Royal Museum for Central Africa**

Leuvensesteenweg 13; 02.769.52.11

**Until AUG 31** Omo. People & Design.

Functional objects made and used by the Omo peoples of southwestern Ethiopia

**Until JAN 3** Persona: Ritual masks and contemporary art, masks from the museum's collection and other

European museums and private collections, shown alongside works by contemporary African artists

**Waregem****Be Part**

Westerlaan 17; 056.62.94.10

**Until JUNE 28** Marcel Broodthaers, Stefaan Dheedene, Richard Venlet: A Buster Keaton, graphic works**Ypres****Ikob**

Loten 3; 087.56.01.10

**Until JUNE 21** Angebot + Nachfrage:

Bring It All Home, paintings by contemporary Dutch artist Loek Groothans and installations by 20th-century Belgian artist Marcel Broodthaers

**Opera XXI:** New biennial festival of contemporary opera and musical theatre**Until JUNE 23** in Antwerp and Ghent[www.operaxxi.be](http://www.operaxxi.be)**Antwerp****Antwerp Pride:** Gay pride festival with events organised by the city of Antwerp and its clubs, cafés, bookshops, fetish bars, erotic boutiques, museums and queer organisations  
**JUNE 25-28** in venues across the city and around the harbour  
[www.antwerppride.com](http://www.antwerppride.com)**Rommelant:** Antique and second-hand

items bought and sold

**JUNE 20-21** at Antwerp Expo, J Van

Rijswijklaan 191

03.260.81.22, [www.rommelant.be](http://www.rommelant.be)**Brussels****Brosella Folk & Jazz:** Annual free

outdoor festival including around 20 outdoor concerts and family entertainment

**JULY 11-12** 15.00-23.00 at Théâtre de

Verdure, Ossegem Park

[www.brosella.be](http://www.brosella.be)**Son del Sur – Flamenco Festival 2009:**

Final weekend of flamenco music

and dance festival features Orquesta

Chekara de Tétouan, Andalusian

flamenco music and Ballet Flamenco

de Andalucía

**JUNE 24-26** at Bozar, Ravensteinstraat

23

02.507.82.00, [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

Dessel (Antwerp province)

**Graspop Metal Meeting:** Heavy metal festival featuring Mötley Crüe, Slipknot, Marilyn Manson, Korn,

Heaven &amp; Hell, Nightwish, Soulfly

**JUNE 26-28** at De Boeretang park,

Dessel

[www.graspop.be](http://www.graspop.be)**Ghent****Movement #16:** Fashion show by

graduates from the KASK design

school

**JUNE 18-20** 20.00 at Eskimofabriek,

Wiedauwkaai 25

09.272.78.78,

[www.eskimofabriek.com](http://www.eskimofabriek.com)**Summer films – Forever Young:**

Screenings of films about young people in the café of Vooruit, including Last Days, It's a Free World, Persepolis and

XXY

**Until JUNE 30** at Café Vooruit, St

Pietersnieuwstraat 23

0900.26.060,

[www.vooruit.be](http://www.vooruit.be)**Leuven****Terrasfilms 2009:** Free series of

screenings in the inner courtyard of

STUK marking the end of the season

at Cinema ZED, including Good Dick,

Dear Zachary, Hotel Very Welcome,

Dirty Mind

**Until JUNE 26** at Stuk, Naamsestraat

96

016.32.03.20, [www.stuk.be](http://www.stuk.be)**Mechelen**

City Visions: Large-scale programme of events, exhibitions and projects devoted to the question of spirituality in contemporary society and the

future of the city in recognition of the 450th anniversary of the seat of the archbishopric

**Until JUNE 21** across Mechelen[www.stadsvisioenen.be](http://www.stadsvisioenen.be), 070.22.28.00**Rozenfeesten:** Rose festival includes

a walk through the garden, rose

and plant market, music, children's

entertainment, street theatre and

tastings

**JUNE 21** at Vrijbroekpark,

Hombeeksesteenweg 264

015.45.13.80,

[www.vrijbroekpark.be](http://www.vrijbroekpark.be)DUSK  
'TIL DAWN

SAFFINA RANA

Monica  
Electronica

One of the Netherlands hottest DJ talents comes south from Rotterdam this summer. Deep and warm with pumping beats and infectious melodies, Monica Electronica calls her particular brand of mixing ElectroItaloDiscoNewBeat.

It's what Emma Elisabet Baas has been best known for since 2003 when she set up residency with two DJ friends at the top of the Van Nelle factory in Rotterdam. "I don't want to make typical dance music," she says. "People say female DJs play warmer and more sexy. I try to reach that."

Born in Delft in 1978, Baas started mixing on some beaten up decks during her time at the Rotterdam school of arts in the late 1990s. In 2002 (after graduating as an art director in advertising, dancing around the world with a Brazilian Samba ballet and serving as an assistant producer/director for a film production company), her DJing really took off. By 2004, Monica Electronica was global, playing at La Maison in Shanghai and the Zeppelin club in Moscow, as well as clubs all over Europe.

Baas reaches out for Belgium whenever she can. "In Belgium, I connect with the people" she says. She'll be mashing it up at Decadance in Ghent on 24 June and at De Mast in Torhout (West Flanders) on 27 June.

If you can't make it this month, she'll be back to throw down at the Noorderwijk Alive summer festival on 23 August and the B Elektriik festival in Kortenaeken (Vlaams Brabant) on 28 August.

→ [www.decadance.be](http://www.decadance.be)→ [www.torhout.be/de-mast](http://www.torhout.be/de-mast)**Werchter****TW Classic 2009:** Music festival featuring Moby, Depeche Mode, Motor,

Tom Helsen, Duffy and more

**JUNE 20** 12.00 at Festival Park,

Werchter

[www.twclassic.be](http://www.twclassic.be)



## FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

### Joke Schauvliege

*Against the odds, one local politician beat out the rest in East Flanders*

There are few enough pleasures associated with Belgian elections, let's face it, so it was a rare treat to see among the results of 7 June a fine case of Virtue Rewarded and privilege thrown down.

It happened in East Flanders, where the poll for the Flemish government was headed by one Joke Schauvliege (CD&V), who had the highest total of personal preference votes in the whole province. With 51,800 votes, she beat not only Guy Verhofstadt (whose real race was in the European election) and former House of Representatives speaker Herman De Croo, but also two media-genic scions of political families: Jean-Jacques De Gucht, son of foreign minister Karel, who, at 25, floated into a senate seat on the basis of no more than his position as dauphin; and Freya Van den Bossche, daughter of old warhorse Luc, who spent some time as budget minister before the collapse in 2008 of Yves Leterme's administration.

They were famous nationally, but what was Schauvliege's secret? "I think it's a token of recognition for five years of hard work," she says. "I've been there and busy all the time, so I built up a reputation and a strong network across the whole of East Flanders."

That would certainly appear to be the case. Schauvliege, 39, has been in the Flemish Parliament for five years, during which time she's built up a solid reputation as a dogged worker, recently as a member of the committee on town and country planning and the environment – though she's also had her say on child benefits, cyclists, farmers, electronic payments in restaurants, family, mobility and continuing education.

Schauvliege was born into a committed Christian Democrat family in Ghent and studied law at the local university. She worked as a lawyer at the bar in the city for 10 years, in conjunction with a political career. At 24, she was elected a member of the municipal council of Evergem, a town of about 31,000 to the north of Ghent, where she lives with her husband and two children. (The youngest figured on her campaign posters.) In 1999, Schauvliege was voted into the federal parliament, then moved



across to the Flemish parliament in 2004.

Her next career step looks likely to be as a minister in the new government of fellow CD&V politician Kris Peeters. Her impressive figures will make her difficult to pass over, plus East Flanders doesn't yet have a ministerial spot in Flanders, though it has two at federal level. Should Open VLD not be included in the new coalition, the job currently held by Open VLD's Dirk Van Mechelen falls open, and that just happens to cover town and country planning. Is she awaiting the summons?

"We'll just have to wait and see," she says. "The first thing is to work out how many parties and which ones will be in the government and then talk about substance: the policies rather than the personalities."

She would be ready to serve, she says, and doesn't worry that ministers' jobs sometimes take them away from that close bond with the electorate. "It doesn't

have to be that way; there are some good examples where that didn't happen. Hilde Crevits is one. Yves Leterme is a very good example where the opposite has happened. They've managed to stay very close to the people who voted for them."

The parliament was dissolved at the end of April, and the returning and new members are not due to take their oath of office until 30 June. Sounds like a good time for a short holiday, but not for Schauvliege. "I'm still an alderman in the town of Evergem," she explains. "There's work to be done here, and we also have to prepare for the negotiations to form a new council. So it's not a case of the elections are over, and we go off on holiday. Unfortunately."

Unlike most of Flanders, which takes a holiday in July, Schauvliege's family will go away in August, if duties permit. The destination, however, is strictly in line with the majority of Flemings: "We're going to France."

►►► [www.jokeschauvliege.be](http://www.jokeschauvliege.be)

## TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



### *lambiek* →

Home brewing was a fad at one time among hard-up students. Occasionally, brews went off or exploded. As one with such maddening experiences in the art of brewing, my heart went out to Armand De Belder recently.

Armand runs the one-man 3 Fonteinen brewery in Beersel just south of Brussels. The *brouwerijen* – breweries in the *Zennedal* – Zenne Valley produce remarkable beers called lambiek, geuze, faro and krik, which are brewed in such a special way that they enjoy EU protection as a speciality guaranteed label. The basic beer, lambiek, is brewed in open-top vats to allow local bacteria and spiders to spontaneously ferment the brew. In fact, without the bugs local to the valley, you can't brew lambiek.

Armand had 55,000 litres of *lambiekbier* fermenting. He hadn't been in the storage area for some days, and when he checked the beer's progress, he found devastation: instead of 16°, the temperature had risen to 50° because the thermostat was broken. The heat caused 3,000 bottles to explode.

There then follows good news, then bad again, followed by some heartwarmingly good. Fortunately, 100,000 bottles remained intact. Unfortunately, the heat had so affected the contents that the beer could only be used to produce a gin-like drink. But there was

a problem getting the liquid to a distillery: *het enige nadeel is dat we nu die 100.000 flesjes manueel moeten ontkurken en uitgieten* – the only disadvantage is that we now have to manually uncork [each bottle has a mini Champagne-like cork] and empty 100,000 bottles.

News of the disaster soon got out, and *bierkenners* – beer connoisseurs and fellow brewers turned up to help empty the bottles. As Armand said: *ik ben kapot van wat er gebeurd, maar die solidariteit is hartverwarmend* – I am shattered by what happened, but the solidarity is heart warming. The contents of all those bottles is now at a distillery, and Armand may recoup some of his loss from sales of his unique eau de Geuze. In fact, with its distinct flavour, he may be on to a winner.

The news has reverberated round the beer world. Joe Stange, based in Brussels, describes the tragedy in his Thirsty Pilgrim blog and reveals that one silver lining for Armand is that his partner, Lydie, has finally accepted his proposal of marriage. Hearing about Armand's plight on the internet, beer buffs came from Germany and the Netherlands to help with the uncorking, as well as from all over Belgium.

So look out for Armand's beer – all has not been lost. His Oude Geuze is rated among the best in the world.

### The last word →→→

#### Over the worst?

"Four months ago, all indicators were negative. Today that is no longer the case."

National Bank governor Guy Quaden sees green shoots of recovery

#### Small change

"It was a very small-scale, one-off case of fraud. That's why the management committee considered it not necessary to bring the matter to the attention of the board."

A National Lottery spokesperson responding to a new scandal concerning missing prize money

#### Spaced out

"No need. I'm in regular contact with him by phone and by email. He's not that far away after all."

Tom De Winne, when asked to put a question to his astronaut father Frank De Winne, during a Q&A session with school students from Heverlee

#### City of music

"Financially it brings us nothing, but for our international image it's a priceless title."

Lieven Decaluwe, Ghent alderman, on learning that the city had been named by Unesco as a Creative City for Music