

## Maybe baby.....6

Thousands of couples a year come from across the globe to the world-class fertility clinic at the hospital of the Free University of Brussels (VUB). Some are making a last-ditch effort, some fleeing restrictive policies in their home countries



## Lady and the band .....9

Her name is Lien De Greef, but everybody in Flanders knows her as Lady Linn. The jazz singer with big-band stylings is the darling of every stage in this year's ample festival circuit



## Kissing cousins .. 10

If you've never heard of Baarle-Hertog, put on your reading glasses and clear your mind – have we got a story for you. Come with us to the city that is both Belgian and Dutch, sometimes in the same square metre



© Catherine De Saegher

# In the summer, in the city

In the fast-paced world of summer festivals, Antwerp plays slow, sultry and hard to get

REBECCA BENOOT

During the summer, most people are dying to get out of the city. Heat, humidity, traffic fumes – all of that leaves us gasping for cool breezes and wide open spaces.

So how come thousands of people voluntarily decide to spend their lazy days in one of the busiest cities in Belgium? (For those of you who were wondering, that would be Antwerp.) The answer is actually quite simple and consists

of those three little words you long to hear: Zomer van Antwerpen.

That means Summer of Antwerp, and it isn't just a lot of hot air. This annual festival has become an entertainment phenomenon, attracting pleasure seekers from all over Belgium, of course, but also tourists. Aside from making *Antwerpenaars* even more proud than they already are, it reminds the rest of the country just how quirky and dynamic this divine

little city by the Scheldt really is.

Until 30 August, Antwerp's gobs of activities lure in the very little and the terribly mature, the punk rock renegades and the culture crusaders. Every year, internationally acclaimed acts brighten up the metropolis in various wacky locations together with established and beloved landmarks. Needless to say, there's never a dull moment.

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## Kris Peeters launches new government

Flemish ministers named – and others cut

ANJE OTTE

Bart De Wever, president of the N-VA, had hoped to wind up the Flemish coalition talks before his wedding day on 11 July, the Flemish holiday. He got what he wanted: a new coalition agreement and a new Flemish government.

The Christian-Democrat CD&V may be the leading party in the new Flemish government, but the coalition agreement (titled "A Vigorous Flanders in Deciding Times") bears the hallmarks of the two coalition partners – the socialist SPA and the nationalist N-VA.

The SPA has brought a strong social accent to the agreement, so the new Flemish government will invest in **extra child care**, make sure **nursing home bills** are no longer higher than people's pensions and give grants to schoolchildren. It will also invest heavily in public transport with the symbolic promise of

"a tramline in every province".

The nationalists, meanwhile, have brought a new tone. Five years ago, Flemish demands for state reform were spelled out in full (whereas this is really up to the federal government to decide). No such thing this time. The Flemish government is now mainly waiting for signals from the French speakers to begin new talks. In the meantime, it will exploit its own competences "to the maximum".

One way of doing this is to introduce a **child bonus** for children up to three years old, to complement the federal child benefit. This has outraged the French speakers, who see it is an attack on the federal social security. They speak of discrimination ("a child is a child").

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## FLANDERS TODAY

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# News in brief

A teenage girl and her boyfriend from Leopoldsborg, Limburg province, are being held on **suspicion of murder** after the girl's mother was found dead in her home.

The girl, 15, initially called the police saying that she discovered her mother dead after she returned from a trip to the shops to buy cigarettes. She later confessed that she asked her boyfriend, 17, to carry out the killing. The mother also had a set of 7-year-old twins.

A new study on the effects of **global warming** has shown that, while Belgians will save up to one third on their energy bill by the mid-21st century, nearly 19,000 people over the age of 65 will die as a result of increased temperatures. Global warming will also lead to higher levels of pollution, more flooding and periods of drought.

Belgium is finally stepping into line with other European countries and introducing a standard European **car number plate** on 1 July, 2010. The new plate will be longer than the existing model, with a B for Belgium in blue and a combination of seven numbers and letters in black. The number plate is being introduced on the day Belgium takes over presidency of the European Union.

## Spanish villas “belong in Spain”

### Alderman attacks “ugly” architecture

The alderman for planning in Sint-Pieters-Leeuw, just south of Brussels, has taken a stand against homeowners who build fanciful villas in the style of Spanish haciendas or other exotic building types. “They look fine in the country where they belong, but not here,” said Martin Schoukens.

Schoukens attack also targets villas that look like Alpine cabins or Chinese temples on the grounds that they make streets look ugly. “A Spanish hacienda next to a modern Flemish house next to an Italian villa or a mountain chalet. This just can't go on any longer.”

His proposal has gained support from Joris Scheers, a Flemish planner. “A municipality that wants to ban people from building Spanish villas on its territory can do so perfectly well in its local building regulations,” he said. “Most municipalities ignore this, with the result that anything goes, and some streets become a real cacophony of styles.”

But the proposal has met with resistance from the mayor of Sint-Pieters-Leeuw, Lieve Van Linthout. “People can argue about good taste for hours on end,” she said. “But as long as it isn't a ruin, I believe that we should leave people to live happily in the house that they have built themselves.”



Keep it local: exotic villas belong in Spain, not Flanders, says Martin Schoukens

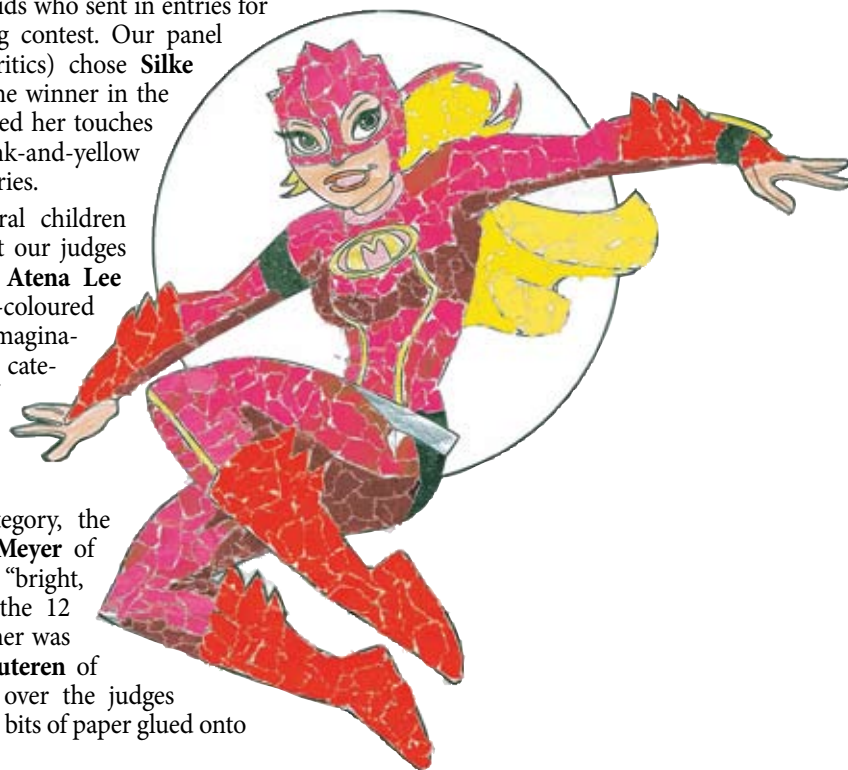
## Colouring contest winners!

A big thank you to all the kids who sent in entries for our Mega Mindy colouring contest. Our panel of judges (film and art critics) chose **Silke Goethuys** of Rotselaar as the winner in the 0-3 years category. They liked her touches of red in the typical pink-and-yellow approach of most of our entries.

In the category 4-6, several children showed budding talent, but our judges were totally won over by **Atena Lee** of Leuven, whose multi-coloured approach showed “great imagination”. The winner in the category 7-9 was **Sahar Sakkaf** of Kampenhout, who coloured “boldly and carefully”.

In the 10-12 year-old category, the winner was **Rozelien De Meyer** of Zottegem, who opted for a “bright, colourful” style. Finally, in the 12 and over category, the winner was 14-year-old **Laura Van Caeteren** of Sint-Niklaas, who bowled over the judges with her collage of colourful bits of paper glued onto the image (photo, right).

The winners will be sent complimentary tickets to see *Het Geheim van Mega Mindy* at Kinepolis. Well done, everyone.





# Kris Peeters launches new government

→ Continued from page 1

Elio Di Rupo, president of the socialist PS, has warned that the French speakers "will not be treated as doormats". Flemish parties shrug off this criticism. If the French speakers had wanted to raise child benefit for all children, they could have done this on the federal level, they retort.

More assertiveness: the new Flemish government has opted for a "strong policy" on integration and the Flemish periphery around Brussels. **Knowledge of Dutch** is a key element here, along with a strict interpretation of Belgian language laws. With Geert Bourgeois (N-VA) as the new minister for interior policy, it looks

unlikely that the three mayors-to-be of Kraainem, Wezembeek-Oppem and Linkebeek, who have repeatedly broken these language laws, will be officially appointed.

Flanders will invest more in **care for the disabled**, the coalition agreement states. Here, getting rid of the growing waiting lists is a clear Christian Democrat policy. The same goes for the economic programme of the Flemish government, which is to continue with minister-president Kris Peeters' **Flanders in Action Plan**, which aims to make Flanders one of the top five regions in Europe on social, ecological and economic policy. Procedures that now hinder investment, whether private or public, will be made

easier.

The economic crisis makes cuts inevitable. These will not be made in education and child care, as that is considered counter-productive. The Flemish government will also continue to invest as much as possible. One decision stands out: the jobkorting (a **tax cut** for anyone in full employment) will from now on only be granted to the lowest incomes.

The Flemish government is also looking to its own ranks to save money, as it will consist of nine (instead of 11) ministers, each with smaller cabinets. The administration is also expected to produce "internal efficiency benefits".



Kris Peeters

## De Gucht moves to European Commission

A "difficult decision," says former foreign minister

LEO CENDROWICZ

After five years as foreign minister, Karel De Gucht is leaving national politics this month to become Belgium's European Commissioner. He will take over from Louis Michel, who steps down as EU Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner. The transfer is set to occur before the 21 July Belgian National Day.

It was almost two years ago that De Gucht was first suggested as a commissioner — but for a full five-year term — as part of the new team taking office this November. But Michel's election to the European Parliament means De Gucht will make the move early.

It is assumed he will take over Michel's portfolio, at least until the new Commission takes office. De Gucht's successor as foreign minister is expected to be former prime minister Yves Leterme.

De Gucht told the Flemish daily De Standaard that he had hesitated over whether to take the job and that leaving his ministerial position was "the most difficult decision" of his entire career. But the move represents a return to European politics for De Gucht. Although he follows Michel

as commissioner (and before that, as foreign minister) De Gucht was an MEP himself, as long ago as 1980, serving for 14 years.

De Gucht is seen as a political bruiser, rarely afraid to speak his mind even if it breaches diplomatic protocol. As foreign minister, he picked fights with many African leaders over corruption and human rights, including Joseph Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a former Belgian colony. But at the same time, he is also described as a pragmatist in the tradition of the classic Belgian "fixer".

### A young liberal

Born in Berlare, East Flanders, De Gucht graduated in law from VUB in 1976 and was called to the bar in Dendermonde the following year. However, he maintained his political interests, becoming the president of the Young Liberals in 1977, three years before being elected MEP.

He left the European Parliament in 1994 but was elected to the Flemish Parliament in 1995, later becoming president of the VLD when his long-time ally Verhofstadt became prime minister.

Elected as a national MP in 2003, De Gucht soon became embroiled in an argument over government plans to give immigrants the right to vote in local elections.

His blunt, direct style quickly raised hackles in central Africa, where Belgium still has strong ties. Just three months after becoming foreign minister, De Gucht said he had doubts whether politicians in the DRC could bring about a transition to democracy. Speaking after a tour of the country, he also questioned their ability to end corruption.

In turn, Congolese information minister Henri Mova Sakanyi said De Gucht's comments smacked of "racism and nostalgia for colonialism". Sakanyi added that the Belgian politician was acting like Tintin, whose 1929 adventures in Congo have been criticised for using racist stereotypes.

De Gucht has been outspoken in other areas, too. In 2005, he caused a minor diplomatic crisis when he described Dutch prime minister Jan Peter Balkenende as "a mix between Harry Potter and a rigid bourgeois without charisma". He is a vocal critic of former UK prime minister Tony Blair's bid to become the EU's first full-time president, arguing that the new post could only go to someone "from a country that participates in all policies the European Union carries out."

Last year, De Gucht was named (anonymously) in a complaint to bank watchdog CBFA, which alleges that his wife, Mireille Schreurs, sold €500,000 worth of Fortis shares on 3 October, just before the sale of the bank's Dutch activities. He has denied the allegations, saying he personally lost €85,000 during the Fortis "farce". An investigation into the claim is due to reach a verdict in September.



Karel De Gucht meets Hillary Clinton

## Bye bye, Vandenbroucke

Nine Flemish ministers, including some newcomers

The party presidents had some hard decisions to make last weekend when they had to appoint their new ministers. The choice was particularly tough for Caroline Gennez, whose SP.A had several hopefuls in its ranks. Gennez decided to ditch Frank Vandenbroucke, a heavyweight in the previous Flemish government and the party's ideologue for a good many years. Although Vandenbroucke is widely respected within — and sometimes even more outside — his party, Gennez found him too headstrong to be part of her new team.

**Kris Peeters** (CD&V) succeeds himself as minister-president of Flanders. The spokesperson for a small business organisation was propelled into the Flemish government in 2004 without being elected. He has since become well respected amongst his colleagues and popular with the electorate.

**Hilde Crevits** (CD&V) was the most popular female candidate in this regional election. She stays on as minister for public works, to which the mobility portfolio has been added.

**Jo Vandeurzen** (CD&V) stood down as federal minister for justice in the wake of the Fortis affair. He feels "rehabilitated" by the electorate and now becomes the new minister for welfare; he already presides over a large Limburg hospital.

**Joke Schauvliege** (CD&V) has been a member of the Flemish parliament for 10 years and did particularly well in last month's elections. Becoming the minister for the environment and culture — areas that are relatively new to her — is the reward.

**Ingrid Lieten** (SP.A) has long been known as the most powerful business woman in Flanders, as she was the CEO of public transport company De Lijn. She now becomes one of two vice-minister-presidents with an economic portfolio that includes media and the new Flemish energy company (see page 7).

**Pascal Smet** (SP.A) was left out of the coalition in the Brussels region but becomes the new minister for education, equal opportunities and Brussels in the Flemish government.

Freya Van Den Bossche (SP.A) returns to the forefront as the minister for housing, energy and urban policy. She was a minister in the previous federal government (Verhofstadt II), but decided to stay away from public life for some time afterwards.

**Geert Bourgeois** (N-VA) returns to the Flemish government, which he quit last year after the political partnership between his party and CD&V ended. He becomes minister for the interior, integration and tourism. As the other vice-minister-president, he gets to watch over his party's interests.

**Philippe Muyters** (N-VA), like Lieten, enters the Flemish government without being elected. He leaves his job with Voka, the Flemish chamber of commerce, to become minister of budget, finance, planning, work and sport. This leaves out N-VA's Jan Peumans, who is compensated by becoming the new president of the Flemish Parliament. Peumans was named "best Flemish MP" by both De Standaard and De Morgen newspapers.

ANJA OTTE





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**putting people first**





Phuong Nguyen

# In the summer, in the city

Antwerp's festival has become a European hot-spot

→ Continued from page 1

Whereas other cities turn their summer festivals into a short but tantalising adrenaline rush, Antwerp likes to take its time and savour every minute.

This is why the multiple genres of activities have been spread over two months, giving everyone the chance to participate whenever they feel like it. There's no rush, just countless possibilities.

Besides its historical, artistic and international allure, Antwerp has remained a fairly compact city, with an eclectic mix of cultures and districts. This diversity plays an important role in the music, theatre, circus, film and parties of Zomer van Antwerpen – a means of making sure that everyone enjoys the different layers that make Antwerp so unique.

Thanks to numerous festivities situated at sometimes unknown locations, we get to know the city – and its inhabitants – a little better. While, god willing, basking in the summer sun.

## Something old, something new

Sadly, Strantwerpen, the much-loved beach by the Scheldt, had to make way this year for a new bar. But the bar – in a forest – may turn out to be as popular. A cosy, dream-like oasis has been built where you order up a chilly cocktail and sip it in a hammock or underneath a giant straw parasol while the kids play in the sand. The trees are filled with hundreds of lights, making the evenings by the water even more enchanting. Oh yes, this is the real-deal feel of the summer holidays.

Another annual classic could not be halted: the gorgeous sunset on the Scheldt, otherwise known as *De Mooiste Show op Aarde* (*The Most Beautiful Show on Earth*). A special grandstand has been constructed where you can sit back and relax with friends – or a more intimate companion – while watching the orange-red skies and the sun glistening in the water. Not a bad way to end a busy day, particularly when you notice the barbecue at your disposal.

A lot of Zomer van Antwerpen is free. There are concerts on squares across town with music from all over the globe, but possi-

bly the most popular activity is the open-air cinema along the Scheldt. Bring your own chair,

plop it down in front of the huge screen and soak up the atmosphere provided by the city itself.

Movie buffs, *Antwerpenaars* and holiday makers mingle in the sand and relish the free films (and sweets). The movies tend towards recent releases: *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *The Wrestler*, *I'm Not There* and *Milk* are all on the agenda.

Antwerp is still talking about its festival of 2006, when French artist François Delarozière, famed for bringing together artists, designers and engineers to create bizarre and beautiful mechanical contraptions for both stage and street theatre, stirred up a commotion with his majestic parade *De Olifant en de kleine reizijn* (*The Elephant and the Tiny Giantess*). This year he's back with one of this summer's highlights: *De Vierkante Molen*, or *The Square Carousel*. This curious ride is decorated with giant buffalos, insects and huge fish heads that go up and down, round and round. Adults are climbing aboard at an equal rate to the kids.

For paid performances, it's usually necessary to buy tickets in advance, but don't let that turn you off. There's plenty to go around, and you've got two months. So order another cocktail and take your time. ♦

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

## Step right up

Circus and theatre – and some other stuff we can't classify

This year Antwerp is graced by four different circus-like performances:

- **Mijn Dorp** (*My Village*) by Lang Toi who have made a poetic representation of everyday life in their homeland of Vietnam (photo above). Musicians, acrobats and a lot of bamboo were used to recreate a typical yet magical Vietnamese village.

- **La Piste Là** by Cirque Aïtal also features acrobats, only this time seasoned with a dash of comedy and a very unusual band. This award-winning French act is an ode to old-time circus, spiced up with a hint of 21st-century Surrealism.

- **Un Horizonte Cuadrado** (*A Square Horizon*) by Compañía De Pasa, coming all the way from Chile, finds six trapeze artists seemingly going beyond the boundaries of their own physical limitations. Contained in a huge metal construction, they twirl downward aided by trance-like music and fluent motions, emphasising the difficulty in making connections in this world – and maybe even in the next.

- Finally, in **Tabú** by Nofitstate, you are free to wander about in a giant silver UFO while the performers skate by you and the music is pumping.

This contemporary combination of circus and rock from Wales features videos, performance and startling surprises.

Though theatre-like performances aren't keen to be outdone:

- **Tussen Hond en Wolf** (*Between Dog and Wolf*) takes you to the left bank of the Scheldt, Linkeroever, and is best described as a love story on the road (see photo, front page). Inspired by the movie *Before Sunrise*, it's a bittersweet tale about the impossibility of a burning desire (in Dutch).

- If you prefer your weather hot and your theatre droll, try **Altijd 'tzelfde** (*Always the Same*) by Tristero. This long-running French hit, translated here into Dutch, won the prestigious Molière prize in 1995 and takes place in a typical Belgian café. Family is the main focus in this hilarious and oh-so-relatable comedy.

- A bit more intimate is **U bevindt zich hier** (*You Are Here*) by Dries Verhoeven, in which you enter a hotel room all by yourself and listen as a voice narrates a story about you and everyone else. As your story intertwines with those of others, you get to know yourself and your surroundings in a simple, comforting way (in Dutch).



# Babies from Belgium

Every year, 2,000 women from across the world hope to get pregnant in Brussels

ALAN HOPE

**M**ore than 10,000 couples travel to Western Europe every year seeking fertility treatment. More than one-fifth of those come to Belgium, according to two studies carried out by researchers in London and Ghent.

Another study, meanwhile, ranks three fertility doctors at the hospital of the Free University of Brussels (VUB) among the top 10 in the world.

"Until now, we have only had anecdotal evidence of this phenomenon," says Françoise Shenfield of University College, London (UCL), who coordinated one of the studies. The information was presented to the annual congress of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology in Amsterdam at the end of June.

The UCL looked at six countries considered to be among the most popular destinations for fertility migrants: Spain, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Denmark, Slovenia and Switzerland. Those six countries alone take in about 10,000 patients coming from abroad every year. (The calculation is made according to the number of fertil-

ity cycles concerned – between 20,000 and 25,000 – although one woman may be responsible for several cycles).

Four countries, meanwhile, supply the majority of patients: Italy sends by far the greatest number, with nearly 32% of the total, followed by Germany, the Netherlands and France. The rest are composed of patients from no fewer than 45 other countries.

The main reason given for travelling abroad for fertility treatments is the severity of regulations in the patient's homeland. Those vary from country to country, but new regulations introduced in Italy in 2004 led to a major increase in fertility migration.

The inability of lesbian couples in France to get access to in vitro fertilisation – French law restricts treatment to heterosexual couples – makes them one of the main groups of fertility migrants to Belgium. British patients travel abroad because of the change in the rules on anonymity in cases of donor sperm and eggs. However, the UK patients interviewed were the main ones to cite a second reason for fertility migration: the



difficulty of access to treatment at home.

Geographical and language issues play a role in which destinations are chosen. Italians tend to travel to Spain and Switzerland; Germans go to the Czech Repub-

lic. The French prefer Belgium, and they are the largest single group to travel here, accounting for 38% of cases in the years 2005-2007, according to figures from the Bioethics Institute Ghent.

Next come the Dutch, who are attracted not only by the language but also by the more relaxed age limits: in the Netherlands, clinics will only treat women up to the age of 41. In Belgium, treatment can start right up to the 45th birthday, and clinics will implant previously-stored egg cells in women up to the age of 47. In the study, 51% of the German migrants and 63.5% of the British were over 40. The average age was 37.5 years.

"Apart from that, the reputation of our centres is very good," says Guido Pennings, a bio-ethicist at Ghent University, who advises the Centre for Reproductive Medicine (CRG) at the VUB University Hospital and headed up the Ghent study.

Dr Pennings' study looked more closely at the situation in Belgium. He discovered that some patients come here only after failed attempts at pregnancy in their own countries. "If patients have had a couple of attempts in their own country without success, they may want to make a final attempt in a centre abroad that has a good name," he explains.

Cost is an important factor: only 3.8% of cases looked forward to being fully reimbursed by their medical insurance for treatment abroad, with about 13% receiving partial reimbursement. The other 83% were paying out of their own pockets.

The CRG, housed at the main university campus in Jette, is widely considered to be one of the best in the world, with researchers under Professor Paul Devroey

responsible for a number of important developments in the field. (Full disclosure: this reporter's own two children, now aged 15 and 11, were the result of treatments by Dr Devroey's team.)

The CRG website has special instructions for people coming from abroad for fertility treatments, including advice on how to organise blood tests and ultrasound scans in your own country and communicating the results to the CRG. "There are no hard and fast rules," the website advises. "Our only aim is that the treatment proceeds as effectively and comfortably as possible."

Some couples coming from other European countries and farther afield rent mobile homes and stay in the hospital car park to save on hotel bills while going through the lengthy and arduous procedure. The procedure itself is also expensive: one in vitro treatment starts at €4,900, excluding drugs, the initial consultation and screening, and any extra procedures required (including the dauntingly-named "electro-ejaculation", which costs €1,300 with anaesthesia, or €500 without).

"We get a lot of patients for in vitro and such treatments from the Gulf States and from Scandinavia," explains Professor Herman Tournaye, head of department at the CRG. "That's mainly because of our name."

In a recent survey by Fertility and Sterility, the main journal of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Dr Tournaye ranked seventh in the world for scientific influence in the area of fertility. At the top of the list is Dr André Van Steirteghem, the retired former head at the CRG, just ahead of Dr Devroey. ♦

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

## The practice of going to another country for fertility treatment is often referred to as "fertility tourism". But for those taking part, it's anything but a vacation

Although the main procedures for the treatments for infertility, in vitro fertilisation and intracytoplasmic sperm injection, concern the woman hoping to get pregnant, both partners are fully involved in the entire operation. The treatment involves several steps:

### 1 the suppression phase

The natural cycle of ovulation is suppressed, in preparation for the stimulation phase. This can resemble a sort of mini-menopause, with many of the same symptoms.

### 2 the stimulation phase

Fertility drugs are administered to stimulate the ovaries to produce several egg cells, rather than the single one that would be produced during

normal ovulation. During this phase, the patient has to take regular blood and ultrasound tests to monitor the effects of the drugs, which can involve several trips to the clinic.

### 3 the pick-up

The eggs that have been produced by the ovaries are removed, sometimes under general anaesthetic, and brought together in the lab with the sperm from your partner or donor. The resulting embryos are then allowed to grow;

### 4 the implantation phase

One or two (and in rare cases three) embryos are placed in the uterus to be allowed to implant and grow.



An embryoologist brings eggs and sperm together in the lab



# Flanders to set up own energy company

Green energy provider could break dominance of Electrabel

ALAN HOPE



The Flemish government announced last week that it plans to set up its own energy company to compete with Electrabel. The region will put up €515 million for the creation of a company provisionally called VI Energie, which will group together a number of green energy producers in which it currently holds a stake. Those include biomass companies Thenergo and Biofer, wind power companies Electrawinds and Belwind and waste incineration plants Aquafin and Indaver.

Together, the companies represent a

value of some €315 million. In addition, Flanders Region would inject about €200 million in capital to allow VI. Energie to take a stake in wind energy company Aspiravi and solar power company Enfinity.

The project has three main goals. First and foremost if the Flemish Region's ambition to break the stranglehold on the electricity market enjoyed by Electrabel and SPE, both French interests. This is not the first time the Flemish government has stepped in to level the playing field in a particular sector. Flanders was behind the

setting up in 1996 of Telenet as a competitor to Belgacom.

According to supporters, the immediate result of the Telenet initiative was to push prices down and end the Byzantine system whereby customers would sometimes have to wait for months for a simple telephone line. Critics, however, point out that the monopoly of Belgacom has simply been replaced by a duopoly where one party controls the phone lines while the other controls the cable. And prices, though lower now than before, are still higher than in most

European countries.

The Flemish government was also behind the creation of IMEC in Leuven, which carries out research into nanotechnology, and the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology (VIB), which is involved in some very lucrative biotech areas.

The other aims of VI. Energie are to help meet European targets for green energy use and the export of green energy technologies, which could lead to a number of profitable spin-offs, such as those in which IMEC and the VIB are involved. ♦

♦ **Electric shock** A survey by consumer organisation Test Aan koop last week revealed that ordinary households pay far more for their electricity than similar consumers in neighbouring countries – up to 43% more (see table). The federal government has been unable or unwilling to rein in Electrabel, but the Flemish government now seems ready to intervene.



Cost of electricity for average family and heavy business user in Belgium and neighbouring countries

## Low-cost terminal could get ditched

Plans to create a low-cost terminal at Brussels Airport could be abandoned, according to reports. The airport in Zaventem launched a project to open a separate terminal exclusively for low-cost airlines with the aim of generating 10% of total passenger numbers, some four million travellers,

through budget carriers.

Brussels Airport is currently used by the low-cost airlines EasyJet, Sterling, Vueling, Sky Europe, Flybe, My Air, Click Air and Blue Air. Some members of the government oppose the new terminal because it poses a threat to Charleroi Airport. ♦

## Belgium gets bad report

Belgium's economy is in such poor state that the government cannot take steps to stimulate the economy and tackle the effects of the global recession, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The OECD has urged Belgium to restore the country's financial

health and suggests that the regions could play a role by funding civil service pensions. The report also criticises Belgium for its high levels of business and personal taxation and argues that revenue could be raised by increasing taxes on real estate, goods and services and diesel fuel. ♦

## New bid for Opel

The Belgian holding company RHJ International plans to submit an improved offer for Opel this week which would preserve all of its German plants, according to a report in the Flemish daily De Standaard. Under the plan, which at the time of going to press was neither confirmed nor denied, the company would require €3.8 billion in German government guarantees to preserve the plants.

Canadian car parts supplier Magna International is currently leading the pack as a buyer for Opel after signing a preliminary memorandum of understanding with its parent company

General Motors last May. But the German government has encouraged rival bidders, such as RHJ, China's Beijing Automotive (BAIC) and Italy's Fiat, to return with improved offers, raising the pressure on Magna.

Magna, meanwhile, has pressed ahead with talks on securing a framework deal with General Motors, which last week bounced back from bankruptcy.

But the Magna bid would burden the German government with €4.4 billion in guarantees against RHJ's €3.8 billion. Magna also plans to close down more plants than RHJ. ♦

## THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

### Airports • Antwerp

Passenger numbers at Antwerp airport dropped by 8.7% in the first half of this year compared to the same period in 2008. The sharpest drop was in the route to London City airport, where passenger numbers fell by 15.5%. The fall has been particularly severe for City Jet (formerly VLM Airlines), which operates five times daily to London City.

### Auto • Crisis

Belgian car manufacturers saw production drop by 140,000 units in the first half of 2009 compared with one year earlier. Of the four big companies based here, Antwerp's Opel registered the biggest fall with 60% fewer cars rolling off the production lines in the first quarter of this year, though production picked up in the second quarter. The Ford factory in Genk saw production fall by 45% in the first quarter, while Ghent's Volvo production line registered a more manageable 9% drop.

### Banking • Kaupthing

Some 15,000 Belgians who had savings accounts with the Icelandic bank Kaupthing are expected to gain access to their funds next week. The investments are due to be paid by 20 July, a spokesman said.

### Construction • Jan De Nul

The Flemish dredging specialist Jan De Nul is close to winning a major contract to construct a series of six new locks on the Panama Canal. The company is part of a consortium bidding for the contract, which is worth more than €2 billion. When completed, the locks will allow much larger ships to navigate the canal.

### Multinationals • Forbes 500

Five Belgian companies made this year's Top 500 list of the world's biggest companies published by *Forbes* magazine. The banking group Dexia came head of the pack in 16th position, followed by KBC bank in 251st place, supermarket group Delhaize at 321, brewing giant AB InBev at 387 and the investment company Nationale Portefeuillemaatschappij at 404. The list was headed by Shell.





# Monet was here

Is it a summer camp or a scrap yard?  
Neither – it's art

SARAH MCFADDEN

About 30 kilometres west of Antwerp, you'll know you've reached the Verbeke Foundation when you catch sight of a half-dozen tall, incongruous structures – machines or sculptures? – peeking above untamed vegetation. A propeller affixed to a steel tower: art or wind turbine? And that sleek, tank-like craft on stilts: military overstock or sci-fi-inspired fantasy?

Turning in at the gate, you pull up in front of a row of inoperative parking meters – obviously a joke in this rural outback beside the motorway. To one side, a pair of concrete silos has the word “Kultura” painted in green down one side. If you ask, you'll be told that they were put to use by a group of Swedish artists to produced colza oil.

In this season, the entrance area looks like a blend of summer camp and scrap yard. People dressed for physical labour on a torrid day come and go; others mill about among an assortment of trucks, vans and sheds. Workers, artists, visitors? A square corral of colossal wood beams recalls (but is not) the work of Antwerp sculptor Bernd Lohaus; similarly, a stack of industrial shipping containers suggests (but is not) a piece by visionary Antwerp architect Luc Deleu.

A single shipping container serves as the entrance to the building ahead, its 1,000-metre facade a blank expanse of loosely-cut stones encaged in wire mesh. The same material, used to create indoor partitions, runs like a motif through the outbuildings behind the main complex.

The foundation is built on – and of – the remains of its director Geert Vebeke's former trucking business. Until five years ago, the 12-hectare site and much of its 20,000 square metres of roofed-over space functioned as a hub where goods and materials were stored after being offloaded from ships and before being transported farther afield. The brick-sized stones that give the foundation its singular look are from cargo withheld because the customer failed to pay the bill. Much of the wood used inside – on the cafe's handsome table tops, for instance – comes from the floors of old shipping containers.

The main building opens onto an enormous greenhouse where art, flora and fauna co-mingle in scruffy symbiosis. Stray pieces of farm equipment rub shoulders with mechanised sculptures assembled from found materials; motion sensors activate coloured liquids in glass beakers; hens scratch near a circular pool; tropical plants seem to wither; and goldfish swim in a narrow moat on the far side of the greenhouse. Eves a blaring boom box dangling at the end of a rope tied to a high beam somehow seems to suggest organic life.

Verbeke, who has lived in Hemzeke for all of his 55 years, opened the foundation

in June 2007. With his long, grey hair and shirt open in the heat, he looks more like a child of the '60s turned trucker than the self-styled arts patron he has become.

His gradual transformation from one to the other started when he began collecting 20th-century collages, largely by Belgians, in the early 1990s. Since then, he has amassed roughly 3,000 and expanded into the 21st century. They are kept in their own building toward the back of the property, where they are presented on a rotating basis in thematic exhibitions. The current show, featuring collages containing words or texts, includes works by ELT Messens, Alechinsky, Jacques Charlier and many, many others.

“My life is a collage,” says Verbeke. “I take out things, bring them together and make something new. I don't connect with painting. It's important for me that there are layers. Anarchist, Dadaist, Surrealist: that's me. I'm not into politics.” Verbeke's two-dimensional collages and their climate-controlled exhibition space are the foundation's most conventional components; it's their experimental ethos that radiates across the entire complex.

Just a few steps away, chicken coops house hybrid creatures hatched in the course of Koen Vanmechelen's Cosmopolitan Chicken Research Project. Aiming to produce what the artist calls a “universal super bastard”, the CCRP has so far cross-bred 10 generations of chickens from all over the world, starting from a French-Belgian combo. Verbeke is interested not only in the ethical, political and cultural implications of Vanmechelen's project but also in its involvement with science and technology.

*Artificial Nature*, a large exhibition of contemporary, mostly Belgian, art – one of two temporary shows he stages each year – is made up of interdisciplinary works that exist at the crossroads of art, life, science and technology. From Martin uit den Bogaard's segmented cow slowly decomposing under glass (the work precedes Damian Hirst's notorious icon by several years) to Griet Dobbels' disappearing outdoor sculpture cast from a mixture of fat and chicken feed (the piece is gradually eaten by birds), the works are at once viscerally repellent, fascinating and poetic.

Lieven Standaert, currently in residence at the foundation, is developing a low-tech zeppelin. Inspired by his compatriot Panamarenko, whose flying machines function brilliantly on an imaginative level but don't actually get off the ground, Standaert is designing a hydrogen-powered “house. If it does, it will be a flagship for clean-energy technology – and perhaps the ultimate castle in the air.

Standaert works at an enormous table in full view and converses with visitors. For



Geert Verbeke on his farm of art

© Simon Deibel



Home for bees, art for humans

other sorts of art experiments, Verbeke has built a closed laboratory that the public can observe through windows but not enter.

“I'm not so happy with things in museums,” he says as we stroll across the overgrown grounds, which boast an artificial pond and are sown with motley outdoor sculptures, most of them part of the permanent collection. Joep Van Lieshout's “Sleep Rectum”, a free-standing bedroom suite shaped precisely as its anatomical title suggests, may be reserved by overnight guests. The romantic getaway is approached over a bridge which spans a pond studded with blossoming lily-pads and a pair of black swans.

“Monet was here,” says Verbeke of his unkempt idyll, adding that the dragonflies speeding to and fro are a sure sign of water purity. Visitors exploring the premises tend to head straight for the most conspicuous structure, Scottish artist Aeneas Wilder's 12-metre high dome of stacked wood. Air and sunlight pour through spaces between the slats and through the large ocular on top, creating an ever-changing pattern within. A small group of young people sit

quietly on the grassy floor, just observing. Nearby, bees colonise Jef Raes' cratered sphere, filling it with their own sculptured creation and, eventually, honey.

“I'm a very bad traveller. I've never been to Venice or Kassel,” Verbeke admits. So how does he come across new art? As the foundation's reputation spreads, its sources of information multiply, but word-of-mouth and recommendations by friends and colleagues still play a key role. Verbeke discovered the work of Bogaard, one of his favourite artists, when he agreed to transport the sculpture of a friend to an exhibition outside Antwerp. The show was in a space run by Bogaard.

The rest is history, thanks in no small part to Verbeke's truck. ♦

## Artificial Nature

The Verbeke Foundation

Westakker, Kemzeke

Until 15 November

www.verbekefoundation.com





One of Leon Vranken's elegant wooden sculpture installations

For the suspense and excitement it generates and for the high calibre of art it attracts, the Young Belgian Painters Award is one of this country's most widely-followed contemporary art events. The title is a throwback to the contest's origins in 1950: for many years, the biennial competition has been open to visual artists working in any medium whatsoever. They must be 35 or younger and have been based in Belgium for at least one year.

It just so happens that the current edition is a clean sweep for Flanders. This year, seven finalists (five from Flanders, two from Brussels) were selected from a field of 200 candidates to create new works for the final judging. Those pieces, which the artists were given nine months to produce, are currently on view at Bozar, where the award ceremony was held late last month.

Overall, the disparate works – photographs, vid-

# Bigger as it goes

## Not exactly young and without a painter in sight, the Young Belgian Painters Awards still delivers

SARAH McFADDEN

eos, drawings and sculpture (but not a single painting) – are quiet and contemplative, even when mechanically intricate and technologically complex. Els Vermang's interactive, shape- and colour-shifting wall of independently rotating squares and frames clatter softly as they change position. The work, created in collaboration with the art collective LAB[au], bespeaks a level of achievement that makes it no surprise to learn that each of these "young" artists has a career well underway.

It's interesting to test one's own impressions of their works against those of the judges. Antwerp artist Lara Mennes won first prize for her black-and-white photographs of a former coal mining village in Limburg. The images are paired with short texts contrasting master planner Adrien Blomme's noble intentions with the experiences of the town's hard-labouring residents.

rolling snowballs: the mass – in this instance a historical one – gets bigger as goes.

I might have handed first prize to laureate Leon Vranken for his beguiling sculpture installation – a room of pure enchantment created with an array of basic geometric volumes (most in wood) and a few utilitarian objects (ditto) stacked and otherwise deployed with whimsy ingenuity. A beautifully turned bowling pin-shaped object atop a tall plinth and a watermelon-sized sphere of red-brick, with mortar seams echoing the lines of baseball stitching, are just two of the elements which pair Surrealism and Minimalism to elegant, energising effect. ♦

→ [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

### Young Belgian Painters Award

Bozar  
Ravensteinstraat 23  
Brussels  
Until 13 September

# Lady sings the jazz

## What do half the music festivals in Flanders have in common? They have all booked Lady Linn

SAFFINA RANA

Having moved on from playing covers, Ghent band Lady Linn and Her Magnificent Seven is causing a stir this year with their steady-paced cocktail lounge, swing-beat numbers inspired by the 1940s and '50s. So much so, they were invited to play at two of the country's most prestigious music events this year: Rock Werchter and the Ghent Jazz Festival.

"This is a dream come true," announced Lien De Greef, aka Lady Linn, with a broad grin, to a capacity audience at Werchter on 5 July, the last day of the festival. The welcome from the thousands that had gathered in the marquee was deafening, and the Lady was visibly overwhelmed as she took to the stage, guided by her seven-piece band. Those who couldn't get in were standing in the sudden deluge of rain outside, looking up at the concert being televised on a big screen outside the marquee.

Unlike most of the bands appearing at Werchter, Linn and the boys are classically trained and met while they were studying at the conservatory in Ghent. De Greef went on to front electro-pop group Bolchi and hip-hop band Skeemz.

But De Greef had studied jazz and went back to her schoolmates to form a band that could take

on her old favourites, like "Tampico", written by Gene Roland and a hit for American jazz singer June Christy in 1945.

After three years of singing jazz covers and releasing two albums, De Greef decided to raise the bar and write her own stuff. Released in 2008, the third album, *Here We Go Again*, hit the number two spot in the Belgian top 50 album chart. It has now been in the charts for the last 47 weeks and gone gold.

The album contains a collection of original, upbeat material suffused with wry humour and sharp observations on daily life. The compositions are a modern take on the post-war big-band sound, blending double bass and electric guitars with a drum kit and a cut down brass section.

The only cover on the album is a version of Eddy Grant's soft reggae hit "I Don't Wanna Dance". It was a highlight of the Werchter performance. Standing in a little red dress, belting it out with a big voice, cascades of indigo-lit rainwater rippling down the sides of the marquee and thousands of people singing along, it brought the house down.

The band was an unexpected surprise to the Werchter-goers who hadn't heard them before. "You wouldn't really think it, but that slow beat and the big sound of all the instruments was infectious," one Werchterine told me after the concert. "It's not something like Placebo or Kings of Leon, like I came to see. But it just makes you feel good." ♦

*Lady Linn and Her Magnificent Seven play the Ghent Jazz Festival on 19 July, Kneistival in Knokke-Heist on 20 July and Turnhoutse Vrijdagen on 24 July. Check their site for lots more concerts this summer*

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





# Borderline insane

**A Flemish town that's not in Flanders. Or is it? Visit the remarkable Baarle-Hertog and you might end up with more questions than answers**

DENZIL WALTON

The Flemish village of Baarle-Hertog is extremely difficult to describe. When you first hear people talking about it you think it's merely a village cut in half by the border between Belgium and the Netherlands. Oh, if it were only that simple.

For a start, Baarle-Hertog is not actually on the Belgium-Netherlands border at all. It lies a few kilometres inside the border. On the *Dutch* side. Yet, the village is very much part of Flanders.

Then there's its name. You enter the village and are welcomed not only to Baarle-Hertog but also to Baarle-Nassau. No, these are not different names for the same place, like with Gent/Gand or Bergen/Mons. Baarle-Hertog and Baarle-Nassau are different villages, but in the same location. Baarle-Hertog belongs to Flanders; Baarle-Nassau belongs to the Netherlands. Still with me?

To add to the confusion, these two places are made up of Belgian and Dutch pockets of land that are jumbled up with each other. Imagine that a child has mixed up two different jigsaw puzzles, thrown all the pieces up in the air to see how they land, and then drawn lines around pieces from the same puzzle. That's a bit like the situation in Baarle-Hertog and Baarle-Nassau.

Each pocket of land — Belgian or Dutch — is actually an enclave. In political geography, an enclave is a country or part of a country lying wholly within the boundaries of another country. Well-known examples are West Berlin before reunification, San Marino in Italy and Lesotho in South Africa. However, the Baarles beat all of these. Baarle-Hertog and Baarle-Nassau are made up of no fewer than 30 enclaves: 22 Belgian, one Dutch and seven Dutch sub-enclaves (don't even ask...!).

The result is an extremely complex social, cultural and economic mix. So, for example, while there are many joint Belgian-Dutch organisations, such as a library and cultural centre, and common public provisions for water, gas and sewage, other facilities bewilderingly double up. There are two fire services, two churches, two police services and double provisions for electricity and telephone lines.

The origins of this puzzle lie with mediaeval feudalism, which split up the area into a patchwork of lands that belonged to the local duke or count. Some pockets were owned by the Duke (*hertog*) of Brabant and others by the House of Nassau.

After the independence of Belgium in 1831, the border between Belgium and the Netherlands had to be de-

termined by a border commission. In the area around Baarle, this puzzle of parcels was so complex that it proved impossible to come to an agreement. Between border posts 214 and 215, instead of a fixed border, each of 5,732 pockets of land had their nationality laid down separately.

## Don't try to change it

There have been numerous attempts to dismantle the enclaves. As recently as 1996, plans were drawn up to make Baarle-Hertog part of Turnhout. Baarle-Nassau would then join with nearby Alphen and Chaam to form a new Dutch municipality. Both the Dutch and the Belgian parliaments voted against the motion. So they still exist, although in terms of population they are among the smallest municipalities of both countries.

Walking through the Baarles is, as you may imagine, a unique experience. You constantly criss-cross between Belgium and the Netherlands. You will also notice that in the streets divided into Belgian and Dutch parts, there is no continuous numbering of houses. A street name and number can even occur twice: once in Baarle-Hertog and again in Baarle-Nassau. One famed house has a front door where the border goes right through the middle of it.



*Why did the chicken cross the border? Crosses on the pavement let you know you're changing countries*

What's more, as each house is deemed to pay taxes in the country where its front door is located, it is an old tradition in Baarle to move the front door some metres if that creates a more favourable fiscal situation. This isn't just crazy theory; it's crazy practice. More than one family has moved their front door from one country to another.

As the Baarles accommodate two municipalities, two nationalities and two local authorities, its government is an exercise in co-operation and compromise. It's not surprising — a great deal of national legislation cannot be implemented because it is incompatible with that on the other side of the border. Until the late 1990s, this co-operation took place on an informal and ad hoc basis. The status of joint projects remained incidental, with little legal status.

In 1998, a solution was found in the Benelux Treaty on Transfrontier Co-operation. It led to the formation of a joint body — the Common Organ Baarle. Its main purpose is to communicate on all matters of common interest, make decisions and set policies. Basically, it's the gathering of the two municipal councils. It's probably not the most efficient way to spend public money, but in the Baarles it may be the only effective one.

## But definitely visit

The inhabitants of the Baarles are certainly efficient in attracting tourists. Particularly on warm dry weekends, the place is packed with day trippers.

This of course means great business for the many shops (open on Sundays), cafés and restaurants.

It's indeed a fascinating place to visit. The borders are painted on the roads and pavements, while front doors are marked or flagged with their national identity. At the tourist office in Nieuwstraat, you can pick up a wide range of walking guides. The one entitled "Enclave In, Enclave Uit" is crammed with interesting facts and stories.

You may also like to visit the candle museum with its collection of religious scenes carved from wax by famed Dutch candle maker Frits Spies. An impressive example is the 2.5-metre-high copy of "The Last Supper", which is sculpted from 200 kilograms of beeswax.

Baarle is Vergane Glorie, meanwhile, holds a collection of old hand tools used by local builders, bakers, smiths, carpenters and cobblers, as well as various memorabilia from the two World Wars.

If you fancy a weekend in Baarle-Hertog, I recommend Hotel Den Engel. There are also many bed & breakfasts in the village and surrounding area. Top of my list would be De Hertog van Baarle, which also offers wine-tasting weekends and brewery visits. It's an extremely civilised base from which to visit this utterly bizarre place, which has to be one of the most remarkable villages in the world. ♦

➡ [www.vvvbaarle.nl](http://www.vvvbaarle.nl)



*A Zeeman shop in Baarle is in both Belgium and the Netherlands*



# Day of the infomercial: one woman's story

COURTNEY DAVIS

**H**ave you ever found yourself watching an infomercial and nothing can jar you out of your TV-induced stupor? I freely admit to many moments when I've caught myself mumbling: "Why, yes, I **WOULD** like to have a slimmer stomach...Well, that shirt really **IS** whiter...Chopping vegetable so fast **COULD** make my life better!"

There is something entrancing about infomercials. I can't quite pinpoint whether it's the same statement being repeated in five different ways, the over-articulation of the words, the astounded audience or the fact that whatever is being sold always works so well. In much the same way most people slow down involuntarily at a roadside accident, so does the remote control miraculously slip from my grasp during an infomercial.

Recently, a friend of mine called and asked if I'd like to do some "TV work". It turns out they shoot infomercials right here in Brussels, and they often need native English speakers. The one-day gig paid well. I talked to a guy on the phone who sounded grateful for my last-minute acceptance. The next day, the product – a neck toner – was sent directly to my house.

When I opened the box and found not the liquid astringent I expected but a small hand-held machine, I knew I was in trouble. The neck "toner" was an electronic muscle stimulator. It looked like a men's razor with two metal bulbs protruding from the end. I tentatively placed the product to my arm – no way was I going to electrocute my chin off on my first go!

Battery inserted, lights flashing, I pressed the button and...nothing. I had a dud.



*Oh sure, everyone LOOKS happy in an infomercial*

The next day, I dressed in a plain but attractive outfit and left for the shoot, which was taking place at a fancy hotel. I soon realised that this was the real deal. Twenty people scrambled around a room, moving plants, shifting lights, taping down rugs. I introduced myself to the producers, who quickly surmised that my outfit and the entire bag of other options I brought with me were all wrong. As I gathered up my now seemingly dirty laundry, I felt my enthusiasm draining. It never came back.

I didn't go on the set for six hours. It was painfully boring. At 17.00, my turn came. Everyone kept saying, "Here's your moment!" "This is your big break!" Not that

I didn't want my moment in the limelight, I just didn't want it like this – surrounded by fast-talking ego trippers watching me electrocute my neck fat.

One thing became clear quite quickly. I am not a good actress. With the shout of "Action!" I started to sweat. Profusely. I tried to keep my arms down, so no one could see the spreading dampness. The beads of perspiration on my upper lip had the make-up artist running up for touch ups with every take. (Don't get me started on the fear I had of what this extra liquid might do combined with the neck toner.)

It was here that I got to use a working Rio 60-Second Neck Toner with EMS Technol-

ogy for the first time. It wasn't bad at all, and my lines such as: "It's amazing; it feels like a massage!" rang true.

But the director was nonplussed. He wanted stronger muscle contractions. More power, he said. Now, to be honest, I don't really have a lot of neck fat. At 30, my skin isn't yet saggy, and I'm on the slender side. Clearly, not their demographic.

After a few more takes, with everyone shaking their head in disappointment, it was time for my close up. Of my neck fat. They zoomed the camera in. I held the neck toner on it as my face contracted, my lips contorted and my chin froze up in a state of muscle shock. Over and over, the toner pulsed on my face while Stacy chatted away into the camera. "Feels great, doesn't it? Like a massage, right?!" and I would merely grunt or grimace in response.

When the director finally called cut, I yanked the damned contraption from my chin; the tension released, and I burst into tears. My face, tight and hot from the lights, the machine, the shame – I couldn't take it anymore. I stepped out into the fresh air. I collected my breath.

I came back in and announced I was done. I gathered my bags and started to leave, but not before the client said to me: "I bet you'll be using the Neck Toner again soon!" I nodded, unable to smile, and thought of all the ways I could use the Neck Toner on him. ♦

*Want to try your hand (or neck) at infomercials? Visit the website*

➡ [www.kenovell.com](http://www.kenovell.com)

## fashionista

STÉPHANIE DUVAL



*Enjoy your sugary hamburger*

### Bed Taste

You are no doubt familiar with the infamous publicity campaigns of Absolut, presenting a perfect world seen through vodka-rimmed glasses. Now, this two-dimensional world turns into reality.

The vodka brand has transformed the Oceandiva Futura ship in Antwerp's harbour into a self-proclaimed paradise of bad taste. Until 21 July, visitors can book a night they are not likely to forget: sip cocktails on deck, then retreat to the dimly-lit lounge below to have dinner stretched out on beds.

Upon arrival, I was offered a plastic syringe filled with some kind of hors d'oeuvre mousse. I was a little taken aback, but, luckily, a fairly strong cocktail quickly made me forget my inhibitions.

Below deck, I cosily snuggled my Bed Taste mates atop a black-clad bed and enjoyed a glass of champagne while waiting for the musical act to start. A beautiful woman dressed like a mix between Dita Von Teese and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* appeared and sang covers of kitschy but agreeable songs. Meanwhile, the other guests were starting to forget about their glamorous up-do or posture. Many Flemish celebrities were invited, and we even saw those known for their stern countenance start to relax and crack a smile.

We did more than smile when waitresses served the first course wearing implausible costumes: latex, babydolls, nurse uniforms. As the night evolved, we felt like we had taken a tour of a naughty

shop in Antwerp's pink neighbourhood.

As for the food, it was...interesting. You might never have the inclination to eat sushi out of a cat food tin, but it made us giggle, and the sushi was of good quality. We were not such big fans of the kangaroo meat served in bedpans. But, looking around, we noticed the other guests happily munching. (Only afterwards did we discovered that there was a veggie option.)

About the time waitresses were preparing to bring out the sugary hamburger desserts, people started mingling. After all, it only took rolling over to the other side of the bed to talk to your neighbour.

➡ [www.bedtaste.be](http://www.bedtaste.be)



## Danmarks faste Repræsentation ved den Europæiske Union Bryssel

### STILLINGSOPSLAG

#### ARKIVMEDARBEJDER



Den danske EU-repræsentation i Bryssel søger en lokal ansat arkivmedarbejder på fuld tid.

#### Arbejdsopgaver:

1. Arkivararbejde i bred forstand: emnejournalisering samt registrering, fordeling, herunder elektronisk fordeling, arkivering af ind- og udgående korrespondance.
2. Betjening af repræsentationens og ambassadens sagsbehandlere, bl.a. med fremfindning af diverse dokumenter.
3. Godt kendskab til Microsoft Outlook og interesse for IT.

#### Kvalifikationer:

1. Kendskab til arkivararbejde og gerne til elektroniske arkivsystemer
2. Godt kendskab til Microsoft Outlook
3. Gode sprogkunderskaber i engelsk og fransk

Ugentlig arbejdstid 37 timer inkl. frokost. Tiltrædelse 1. september 2009.

Der er tale om en fast stilling med kontraktansættelse på 2 år med mulighed for forlængelse. Henset til behov for kontinuitet vil der efter forhandling kunne opnås bonusordning, der udløses efter opfyldelse af kontraktperioden.

**Ansøgningsfrist: Torsdag den 23. juli 2009**

Ansøgning sendes til: [brurep@um.dk](mailto:brurep@um.dk)

Eller pr. post:  
Danmarks Faste Repræsentation ved EU  
Rue d'Arlon 73  
1040 Bruxelles  
Mrk.: Arkivmedarbejder

Har du spørgsmål, er du velkommen til at kontakte administrationschef Iben Dupont på 02-2330944 eller arkivmedarbejder Signe Vendelbo Bouilloux på 02-2330843

Den danske EU-repræsentation – i daglig tale "EU-rep'en" – varetager Danmarks interesser i EU. Der er p.t. 83 medarbejdere hvoraf 53 er udsendte sagsbehandlere fra de danske ministerier. På hjemmesiden <http://www.eurepraesentationen.um.dk> kan du bl.a. finde en oversigt over sagsfordelingen, en kort gennemgang af den danske EU-beslutningsprocedure samt diverse links.



### UNICO BANKING GROUP

Unico Banking Group is an association of eight European cooperative banks, all top institutions in their domestic markets. Unico acts as a forum and a platform for its international members. Our mission is to stimulate and support co-operation between the member banks.

Unico Banking Group has an opening for a 6 months period post starting 1 September 2009 (possible conversion in a permanent job) as

#### Assistant Project Manager

##### Main responsibilities:

- Provide full administrative and secretarial assistance to Project Managers with their daily work
- Manage meeting and seminar arrangements and keep the minutes
- Work independently on defined tasks

##### Required qualifications and skills:

- Fluent written and spoken English
- Able to cope in an international and multicultural environment
- Minimum 3 years experience in similar role
- Strong communication skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications (especially MS Word, MS PowerPoint and MS Excel)
- A strong team player who is also able to work independently and under pressure

To apply, **please send your application with full CV in English by 22 July 2009 to:**

Unico Banking Group  
Mr. Remy Lasne  
Secretary General  
Rue de l'Industrie 26 – 38  
B-1040 Brussels  
**Job contact email:**  
[francoise.symons@unicobankinggroup.com](mailto:francoise.symons@unicobankinggroup.com)



*The International Fragrance Association (IFRA) represents the collective interests of the global fragrance industry. Its main purpose is to promote the safe enjoyment of fragrances worldwide. A central element of this is the maintenance of the IFRA Code of Practice and the IFRA Standards.*

*The position of scientific and regulatory manager involves scientific and regulatory activities, interaction with staff, industry members, customers, academic research and governmental contacts as well as administrative duties.*

*The position is based in Brussels, Belgium. Travel inside and outside of Europe will be required from time to time.*

We are currently seeking a (m/f)

## Scientific and Regulatory Manager

#### Responsibilities:

- Support the Scientific Director in the work of maintaining and promoting IFRA's regulatory system worldwide
- Serve as key technical contact for coordination and preparation of IFRA Standards
- Act as a technical expert to advise and support member companies, customers and other stakeholders on fragrance related issues
- Work closely with the Research Institute of Fragrance Materials (RIFM; [www.rifm.org](http://www.rifm.org)) to document safety conclusions and develop IFRA Standards
- Monitor the consultation phase of Standards and manage their distribution to members and stakeholders in a timely manner
- Review and analyze databases and conduct external literature research for information on fragrance materials
- Provide impact assessment on technical issues
- Maintain knowledge on regulatory developments regarding fragrance ingredients / compounds worldwide
- Lead surveys on use level of fragrance materials
- Write (and potentially present) scientific data and non-technical summaries to a variety of audiences and in a number of different formats (e.g. newsletter contributions, and Information Letters)
- Support and maintain the technical sections of the IFRA website
- Provide support to primary industry committee meetings through project management, development of agenda and technical summaries, preparation of meeting minutes and follow-up actions on scientific and regulatory issues
- Manage the day to day activities of the IFRA Secretariat with regard to scientific and regulatory issues.

#### Job requirements:

- Higher education qualification in chemistry, toxicology or related field
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English. One additional language would be a plus
- Experience in the fragrance or a related industry would be preferable
- Computer literate - using standard office software including MS Excel and Outlook and experience with database management tools.

#### Interested?

For additional information contact M.Vey  
[mvey@ifraorg.org](mailto:mvey@ifraorg.org) or phone +32 (0)22142062







# Selah Sue

CHRISTOPHE VERBIEST

Jasper Erkens (16), Steak Number Eight (average age: 16) and Freaky Age (average age: 17): it's not even a complete list of all the Flemish acts in their teen years that, in the past 12 months, came to the surface with a first CD. So Flanders' promising new talent Selah Sue, who turned 20 last May, is, in a sense, almost *old*.

Sanne Putseys (try making an international career as Sanne Putseys) is a psychology major in her hometown Leuven, but most probably her academic aspirations will lose out to the music. On the contrary, being discovered two years ago by fellow *Leuvenaars* Milow (of the famous cover of "Ayo Technology"), she takes her time building a career.

She has only released one single so far, "Black Part Love", and we shouldn't expect her debut album before 2010. The past couple of

years, she has concentrated on playing live, opening for Milow and Novastar. But her biggest feat was playing support for Jamie Lidell in London and Paris. In the meantime, she's touring Flanders this summer and writing the songs she needs to go into the studio to record that album.

Right now, you can listen to six songs on her MySpace page, a nice cross section of her music. "Black Part Love" is one of them. She recorded it with a band, and that's how she wants to make her first album, but live she has mostly been playing solo. Just a young woman with an acoustic guitar.

Still, if she goes down in music history, it won't be as a guitar player but as a singer. With a voice both tender and strong, she clearly has the talent to venture into a more soulful direction. A bit like Erykah Badu or Lauryn Hill, to whom she has already been compared. Zap Mama's

Marie Daulne, herself the proud possessor of a very flexible voice, calls Selah Sue an authentic new voice and a star in the making.

It's only a matter of time, surely, before Selah Sue will tour the world. Maybe the name Sanne Putseys might even come in handy, as a moniker to escape too obtrusive fans.

20 July, Rivierenhof, Antwerp  
24 July, Charlantan, Ghent  
25 July, Crisisfestival, Kortenberg

→ [www.myspace.com/selahuemusic](http://www.myspace.com/selahuemusic)



### Antwerp

**Kelly's Irish Pub**  
Keyserlei 27;  
[www.kellys.be](http://www.kellys.be)  
JULY 18 21.00 Steve Keane

### Brussels

**Le Bar du Matin**  
Alsebergsesteenweg 172;  
02.537.71.59, <http://bardumatin.blogspot.com>  
JULY 16 21.00 Coco Royal

### Deurne

**Openluchttheater Rivierenhof**  
Turnhoutsebaan 232; 070.222.192,  
[www.openluchttheater.be](http://www.openluchttheater.be)  
JULY 16 20.30 John Butler + The Bony King of Nowhere JULY 17 14.00 Gunter Neefs JULY 18 20.00 Stijn + De Jeugd van Tegenwoordig JULY 19 20.30 Mercury Rev JULY 20 20.30 Colbie Caillat + Selah Sue

### Ghent

**Frontline**  
Overpoortstraat 37; 09.223.22.27  
[www.thefrontline.be](http://www.thefrontline.be)  
JULY 18 from 14.00 Deathmetal.be fest featuring Chalice, Agathocles, Colcothar, Suhrim, Outcast and more



### Antwerp

**Buster**  
Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53,  
[www.busterpodium.be](http://www.busterpodium.be)  
JULY 18 22.00 Generation Dallas

### Scheld'apen

D'Herbouvillekaai 36; 03.238.23.32,  
[www.scheldapen.be](http://www.scheldapen.be)  
JULY 17 19.00 Master Musicians of Bukkake + Ignatz

### Brussels

**Café Bonnefooi**  
Steenstraat 8,  
[www.bonnefooi.be](http://www.bonnefooi.be)  
JULY 15 22.00 Fred and Band  
JULY 19 20.00 The Bonnefooi Acoustic Jam  
JULY 22 22.00 Cachito Pa'Querier

### The Cotton Club - Grand Casino

Duquesnoystraat 14; 02.289.68.66,  
[www.gcb.be](http://www.gcb.be)  
JULY 18 21.30 Adrien Volant Quartet

### Sass'n Jazz

Koningsstraat 241; 0475.78.23.78,  
[www.sazznjazz.be](http://www.sazznjazz.be)  
JULY 23 21.30 EinsDreiZweiVier

### Ghent

**El Negocito**  
Brabantdam 121; 0479.56.73.95,  
[www.mi-negocio.net](http://www.mi-negocio.net)  
JULY 15 22.00 Reena Riot  
JULY 22 22.00 The Durgas



### Brussels

**Art Base**  
Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20,  
[www.art-base.be](http://www.art-base.be)  
JULY 17 21.00 Les Offs, folk  
JULY 20 21.00 Daniel Schell & Sandip Banerjee, with Sunanda Mukherjee

(India)

### Sass'n Jazz

Koningsstraat 241; 0475.78.23.78,  
[www.sazznjazz.be](http://www.sazznjazz.be)  
JULY 16 21.30 Daniel Marquès  
JULY 19 21.30 Samba de Candeia



### Brussels

**Bozar**  
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00,  
[www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)  
JULY 20 20.00 Belgian National Orchestra conducted by Paul Daniel, with Hélène Guilmette, soprano; Francesco Piemontesi, piano: Mozart, Beethoven, Rodrigo (free concert)

### St Michael and St Gudula Cathedral

Sinter-Goedeleplein; 070.22.21.07,  
[www.ticketnet.be](http://www.ticketnet.be)  
JULY 21 17.00 Jozef Sluys, organ: Scronx, De Heredia, Bach, Purcell

### Ostend

**Sint-Petrus en Pauluskerk**  
Sint-Petrus en Paulusplein;  
059.51.49.03,  
[www.orlandus.be](http://www.orlandus.be)  
JUNE 20 16.00 Choral Evensong with Capella Nicolai Amsterdam conducted by Michael Hedley



### Ardoois

**Cultuurkapel De Schaduw**  
Wezestraat 32; 0479.80.94.82,  
[www.deschaduw.net](http://www.deschaduw.net)  
JULY 16-17 20.30 't Schoon Vertier, cabaret show



### Ostend

**Kursaal (Casino)**  
Monacoplein 2; 070.22.56.00,  
[www.momentumtheshow.be](http://www.momentumtheshow.be)  
Until JULY 19 Mayumana perform Momentum, theatre/music/dance fusion by multi-disciplinary Israeli company



### Antwerp

**Cathedral of Our Lady**  
Handschoenmarkt; 03.213.99.51,  
[www.dekathedraal.be](http://www.dekathedraal.be)  
Until NOV 15 Reunion: From Quinten Metsys to Peter Paul Rubens, masterpieces from the Royal Museum of Fine Arts return to the cathedral

### Fotomuseum

Waalse Kaai 47; 03.242.93.00,  
[www.fotomuseum.be](http://www.fotomuseum.be)  
Until SEP 13 Fotografie in België tijdens het Interbellum (Photography in Belgium Between the Wars)  
Until SEP 13 Theatres of the Real, contemporary British photography  
Until SEP 13 Geert van Kesteren: Baghdad Calling/Why Mister, Why? photo-reportage  
Until SEP 13 Nick Hannes: Red

## MORE SOLO ACTS THIS WEEK

**Kim Wilde** → *Kneistival, Knokke-Heist*

**The Bony King of Nowhere** → *Handelsbeurs, Ghent*

**Jamie Lidell** → *Conest Jazz Festival*



Journey, photographs from Russia

#### Middelheim Museum

Middelheimlaan 6; 03.827.15.34, [www.middelheimmuseum.be](http://www.middelheimmuseum.be)  
**Until SEP 27** Chris Burden, videos, sculpture and installations by the contemporary American artist

#### Modemuseum (MoMu)

Nationalestraat 28; 03.470.27.70, [www.momu.be](http://www.momu.be)  
**Until AUG 16** Paper Fashion, garments made of paper and related materials concentrating on the 1960s

#### Plantin-Moretus Museum

Vrijdagmarkt 22; 03.221.14.50, <http://museum.antwerpen.be>  
**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, [www.rockoxhuis.be](http://www.rockoxhuis.be)  
**Until NOV 15** A Gift to God, private patronage of religious art during Antwerp's Golden Age

#### Blankenberge

**Cultuurcentrum Casino**  
Zeedijk 150; 050.43.20.43, <http://cultuur.blankenberge.be/>  
**Until OCT 4** Masereel en de zee (Masereel and the Sea), retrospective on the 120th birthday of the Blankenberge-born Franz Masereel, with drawings, wood cuts, paintings and ceramics

#### Bruges

##### Arentshuis

Dijver 16; 050.44.87.11, [www.brugge.be](http://www.brugge.be)  
**Until SEP 27** The Museum of Museums 2009, intervention by contemporary artist Johan van Geluwe

##### Groeningemuseum

Dijver 12; 050.44.87.43, [www.brugge.be](http://www.brugge.be)  
**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

#### Brussels

##### Belgian Comic Strip Centre

20 Rue des Sables (02.219.19.80), [www.comicscenter.net](http://www.comicscenter.net)  
**Until SEP 27** Arithmetics of Troy, comic strips by Christophe Arleston (part of Brussels BD Comic Strip festival)

##### Belvue Museum

Paleizenplein 7; 02.511.44.25, [www.belvue.be](http://www.belvue.be)  
**Until SEP 20** Be-Arts, works by Félicien Rops, Hugo Claus, Henri Blès and Rik Wouters

##### Bozar (Paleis Voor Schone Kunsten)

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00, [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)  
**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  
**Until SEP 13** Young Belgian Painters Award 2009, works by the finalists  
**Until SEP 13** 100 Sexes d'Artistes, imaginative illustrations by Belgian artist Jacques Charlier depicting the genitals of 100 internationally known artists

##### City Hall

Grote Markt; 02.279.64.35, [www.brussel.be/artdet.cfm/4440](http://www.brussel.be/artdet.cfm/4440)  
**Until SEP 27** The Brussels Epic of Willy Vandersteen, works by the Flemish comic-strip artist (part of Brussels BD Comic Strip festival)

##### Costume and Lace Museum

Violettestraat 12; 02.213.44.50, [www.brucity.be](http://www.brucity.be)  
**Until SEP 29** stoffen & +, textile works by Marie Beguin, Kathrin Laurent and Charlotte Walry

##### Czech Centre

Troonstraat 60; 02.213.94.30  
**Until SEP 10** Jiru: Two generations of photographers, prints by Czech Vaclav Jiru and his nephew Jiri Jiru, who, upon his return to the Czech Republic after living in Brussels for 20 years, became President Vaclav Havel's official photographer

##### De Loge Architectuurmuseum

Kluisstraat 86; 02.649.86.65, [www.aam.be](http://www.aam.be)  
**Until AUG 2** Louise Bossut, Nicolas Van Brande and Olivier Thieffry:

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

##### Elsene Museum

Jean Van Volsemstraat 71; 02.515.64.21  
**Until SEP 13** Fading, works by 40 contemporary Belgian artists

##### Hallepoort

Zuidlaan; 02.534.15.18

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

### nieuwZwart

#### 1 & 2 August Kursaal Ostend

Be the first in Flanders to see dance phenom Wim Vandekeybus' new production, which is running for two nights as part of the wonderful Theater aan Zee festival in Ostend. Known for mixing with off-beat humour with near acrobatic dance physicality, Vandekeybus' nieuwZwart (New Black) explores dangerous human passions with texts by Flemish author Peter Verhelst and rock musician Mauro Pawlowski of dEUS, who plays live onstage. The production will enjoy an extended run in Brussels this autumn.

➡ [www.theateraanzee.be](http://www.theateraanzee.be)

**Until OCT 25** Archeologie om de hoek (Archaeology around the corner), archaeological finds in Brussels over the past 20 years

##### Jewish Museum of Belgium

Minimenstraat 21; 02.512.19.63, [www.new.mjb-jmb.org](http://www.new.mjb-jmb.org)  
**Until OCT 15** Een geheugen op papier (A memory on paper), Jewish life in Belgium recorded in historic postcards

##### Le Botanique

Koningsstraat 236; 02.226.12.57, [www.botanique.be](http://www.botanique.be)  
**Until AUG 9** Stephan Vanfleteren: Belgium, black-and-white photographs by the contemporary Flemish artist  
**Until AUG 9** From Belgium, 25 Belgian photographers illustrate "their" Belgium in celebration of Botanique's 25th anniversary. Free outdoor exhibition

##### MIVB Headquarters

Koloniënstraat 62; 02.515.20.52  
**Until SEP 26** Metro Art Memory, retrospective and genesis of 80 works in the Brussels' metro, with models, drawings and sketches by Pierre Alechinsky, Paul Delvaux and Hergé, among others

##### René Magritte Museum

Esseghemstraat 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, [www.kmkg-mrah.be](http://www.kmkg-mrah.be)  
**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 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, [www.wiels.org](http://www.wiels.org)  
**Until AUG 2** Luc Tuymans: Against the Day, 20 new paintings by the contemporary Flemish artist  
**Until SEP 13** Ben Cain: The Making of the Means, large-scale installation by the former artist in residency

##### World Bank Brussels

Marnixlaan 17; 02.552.00.32  
**Until OCT 31** In the Eyes of a Woman: Roma Portraits, the lives of various Roma communities as seen through the eyes of female

photographers.

#### Deurle

##### Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens

Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23, [www.museumdd.be](http://www.museumdd.be)  
**Until SEP 13** When the mood strikes... Wilfried & Yannique Cooreman's collection of contemporary art, with works by Franz West, Thomas Schütte, Jean-Marc Bustamante and Jan Vercruysse among others  
**Until SEP 13** Robert Devriendt, paintings

#### Gaasbeek

##### Gassbeek Castle

Kasteelstraat 40; 02.531.01.30, [www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be](http://www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be)  
**Until AUG 16** Paul & Cie, a look at Paul Arconati Visconti (1754-1821), eccentric resident of Gaasbeek Castle and fervent admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte

#### Ghent

##### Design Museum

Jan Breydelstraat 5; 09.267.99.99, <http://design.museum.gent.be/>  
**Until OCT 11** Yrjö Kukkapuro, retrospective of the Finnish designer, from the late 1950s until the present day  
**Until OCT 11** Ceramics by Raoul Dufy, 1877-1904, works by the French artist  
**Until OCT 11** Schoonhoven Silver Award: Poetry in Silver, silverware competition with 55 international artists

##### Dr Guislain Museum

Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95, [www.museumdrguislain.be](http://www.museumdrguislain.be)  
**Until SEP 13** Burland Toyland, works made from recycled materials by Swiss outsider artist François Burland  
**Until SEP 13** Unknown Secrets, paintings by Serbian artist Goran Djurović  
**Until SEP 13** De Tientoongestelde Mens: Andere culturen als amusement (Exhibited People: Other Cultures as Entertainment), posters and photographs from carnival shows and asylums that put the physically or mentally handicapped on display

##### MIAT

Minnemeers 9; 09.269.42.00, [www.miat.gent.be](http://www.miat.gent.be)  
**Until AUG 23** Felt: From Tradition to Modern Art, work by István Vidák  
**Until OCT 18** Ghent on porcelain cards from 1840-1865

##### Museum of Fine Arts

Fernand Scribedreef 1 – Citadelpark; 09.240.07.00, [www.mskgent.be](http://www.mskgent.be)  
**Until JULY 31** Jan Janssens, paintings by the Flemish master (1590 -1650)  
**Until SEP 20** Raoul de Keyser, Artist in residence, works on paper (1964-1979) by the contemporary Belgian artist

##### Sint-Pietersabdij

Sint-Pietersplein 9; 09.243.97.30, [www.gent.be/spa](http://www.gent.be/spa)  
**Until SEPT 6** Walder De Mulder, photos of conductors, photographers and other artists from the 1960s to the 1990s by the Ghent-based photojournalist  
**Until SEPT 6** Walter De Buck Verbeeldt (Represents), sculpture and drawings by the Ghent artist, singer and founder of the legendary Gentse Feesten

##### Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (SMAK)

Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03, [www.smak.be](http://www.smak.be)  
**Until AUG 2** Dara Birnbaum: The Dark Matter of Media Light, retrospective of the American contemporary video artist  
**Until AUG 2** Navid Nuur: The Value of Void

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**Until AUG 23** Beyond The Picturesque: Interpretations of Landscape in Contemporary Art  
**Until AUG 23** Meteoriti, sculptures by Bizhan Bassiri  
**Until AUG 30** Carl De Keyzer: Trinity, photographs on power and violence by the Flemish Magnum agency photographer

#### Hasselt

**Modemuseum**  
Gasthuisstraat 11; 011.23.96.21, [www.modemuseumhasselt.be](http://www.modemuseumhasselt.be)  
**Until OCT 31** In Her Shoes, trends and evolution of women's shoe design, from 1900 to contemporary designers

#### Kemzeke (Stekene)

**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 JAN 3** Thirty-five years of Playmobil

#### Tervuren

**Royal Museum for Central Africa**  
Leuvensesteenweg 13; 02.769.52.11, [www.africamuseum.be](http://www.africamuseum.be)  
**Until AUG 31** Omo: People & Design, functional objects made and used by the Omo people 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

#### Ypres

**CC Ieper – Lakenhallen**  
Grote Markt 34; 057.23.94.80, [www.acci.be](http://www.acci.be)  
**Until OCT 4** Wat overblijft (What remains), recycled assemblages by Camiel Van Breedam



**Roller Bike Parade:** Four months of rollerblading in the streets with technical staff on hand to help with rollerblade and equipment rental and maintenance  
**Until SEP 26** in Brussels (every Friday), Antwerp (every Saturday), Koksijde (every Sunday) and Hasselt (every Monday); all parades confirmed or cancelled by 16.00 [www.belgiumrollers.com](http://www.belgiumrollers.com)

**Palm Parkies:** Series of concerts in parks across Flanders, including BBQ and drinks  
**Until AUG 26** 19.00 across Flanders [www.parkies.net](http://www.parkies.net)

**Vlaanderen Feest:** 11 days of activities in celebration of the 11 July Flemish holiday  
**Until JULY 22** across Flanders [www.vlaanderenfeest.be](http://www.vlaanderenfeest.be)

#### Antwerp

**ABCA BBQ:** The Antwerp British Community Association's annual barbecue and summer party; free to members, €12.50 for non-members (€5 for children)  
**JULY 21** 16.00-21.00 at FOS Sea-scouts Clubhouse, Beatrijkslaan 41 [www.abca-antwerp.be](http://www.abca-antwerp.be)

**Jackyland:** Concerts every Thursday by local talent, followed by after-parties  
**Until SEP 10** at Magiq Spiegeltent, Oosterweelsteenweg (Noordkasteel) [www.jackyland.be](http://www.jackyland.be)

**Zomer van Antwerpen:** Annual summer arts festival featuring concerts, theatre, circus, open-air film, sunset barbecues and a woodland bar; most events free  
**Until AUG 30** across Antwerp 03.224.85.28, [www.zva.be](http://www.zva.be)

#### Brussels

**Bal National:** Dance and music on the eve of Belgium's National Day, featuring The Magical Flying Thunderbirds and Gunther Neefs, among others  
**JULY 20** 19.30 at Vossenplein [www.belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be)

**Belgium's National Day:** National holiday celebrations with a parade, street theatre, exhibitions, concerts, an "olympic picnic" and children's activities. Fireworks at 23.00 at Paleizenplein  
**JULY 21** in the EU area [www.opt.be](http://www.opt.be)

**Bruksellive:** Free outdoor festival with music by Front 242, Onda Sonora Madensuyu, The Sedan Vault, Malibu Stacey, The Hickey Underworld and Lady Linn & Her Magnificent Seven  
**JULY 25** at Osseghem Park, Atomium [www.bruksellive.be](http://www.bruksellive.be)

**Bruparck:** Four themed family weekends, including music and dance activities, acrobatics, pirate shows, comic strips, Knights of the Round Table and more  
**Until AUG 23** at Bruparck, Eeuwfeestlaan 20, Heysel [www.bruparck.com](http://www.bruparck.com)

**Brussels Beach:** Urban beach with sand, concerts, beach sports, family entertainment and 50 straw huts selling exotic food and drink  
**JULY 17-AUG 23** on the banks of the Akenkaai (Saintelettesquare) 02.279.50.49, [www.brusselbad.be](http://www.brusselbad.be)

**Midi-Minimes Festival:** Classical music festival with short, lunch-time concerts grouped according to historical period.  
**Until AUG 28** 12.15 at Miniemenkerk, Miniemenstraat 62, and Royal Conservatory, Regentschapsstraat 30 02.512.30.79, [www.midis-minimes.be](http://www.midis-minimes.be)

**Mini-Europe by Night:** Sound and light show with fireworks  
**JULY 18-AUG 15** 22.30 at Bruparck, Eeuwfeestlaan 20 [www.minieurope.com](http://www.minieurope.com)

**Royal Museum of Fine Arts family events:**  
**Until AUG 28** Workshops for children (ages six to 13; in Dutch) 02.508.33.33, [www.fine-arts-museum.be](http://www.fine-arts-museum.be)

#### Ghent

**Gent Jazz Festival:** Blend of young talent and world-renowned musicians at this annual international jazz festival. Still to come: Joe Jackson, Marianne Faithfull, Lady Linn & Her Magnificent Seven, Jamie Cullum and more  
**Until JULY 19** at De Bijloke, J Kluyskensstraat 2 [www.gentjazz.com](http://www.gentjazz.com)

**Gentse Feesten (The Ghent Festivals):** The largest music and street theatre festival in Europe returns to the capital of East Flanders. Includes myriad outdoor stages, the

International Puppet Buskers Festival and 10 Days Off techno fest, plus a number of special tours, comedy shows, debates and other side events  
**JULY 18-27** across Ghent 0900.00.600, [www.gentsefeesten.be](http://www.gentsefeesten.be)

#### Hasselt

**Muscadet – Aperitiefconcerten:** Outdoor live music ensembles, choirs and orchestras every Sunday morning  
**Until AUG 30** 11.00 at Het Stadsmus, Guido Gezellestraat 2 011.23.98.90, [www.hetstadsmus.be](http://www.hetstadsmus.be)

#### Herk

**Rock Herk:** Free DJ and rock festival featuring Autokratz, D.I.M, Mixhell, Traffico, The Hickey Underworld, The Teenagers, The Rascals, And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Death, The Horrors, Woven Hand, Hadouken! and more  
**JULY 17-18** at Olmenhofpark, Herk-de-Stad (Limburg province) 070.345.346, [www.rockherk.be](http://www.rockherk.be)

## DON'T MISS Atsuko Ishii

**Until 8 August  
Avenue, Antwerp**

Japanese illustrator Atsuko Ishii lives and works in Paris, where she records daily life in her colourful, hand-printed etchings. Her technique is traditional but precise and illustrates a poetic universe with delicately drawn portraits, animals, objects and words. Ishii's first solo show in Belgium, nearly 200 small and large artworks are presented playfully in Antwerp's sneaker boutique (and sold at very low prices).

➡ [www.avenuestore.be](http://www.avenuestore.be)



#### Knokke-Heist

**Kneistival:** Music festival with line-up including De Jeugd Van Tegenwoordig, Lady Linn & Her Magnificent Seven, Kim Wilde, Level 42, Sioen, Tom Helsen, Stijn, Sweet Coffee, Magnus  
**JULY 19-24** at Heldenplein [www.knokke-heist.be](http://www.knokke-heist.be)

#### Leuven

**Zomer van Sint-Pieter:** Classical music festival with short, lunch-time concerts grouped according to historical period. Sister festival to Brussels' Midi-Minimes  
**Until Aug 28** across Leuven 016.23.84.27, [www.zomer-van-sint-pieter.be](http://www.zomer-van-sint-pieter.be)

#### Linter

**Melkrock:** Rock festival featuring Starfucker, Tracy Lane, Exit on the Left, The Galacticos, Douglas Firs,

Emperors of Decay, Hate Gallery, Milk on the Rock  
**JULY 17-19** at Melkwezer (Linter, Flemish Brabant province) [www.melkrock.be](http://www.melkrock.be)

#### Mechelen

**Parkpop:** Concerts by pop, rock, blues, salsa, reggae, disco or soul groups every Thursday evening  
**Until AUG 27** 20.30 in de Kruidtuin, Bruul 129 015.29.78.68, [www.parkpop.be](http://www.parkpop.be)

#### Ostend

**Woosha!:** Free beach festival with music by De Jeugd Van Tegenwoordig, Sharko, Venus in Flames, Daan, Tricky & Tyler, Studio Brussel Kust Ze, Sould of Stereo, Frères Deluxe, Maximum  
**JULY 15-18** at several locations in Ostend [www.woosha.be](http://www.woosha.be)

#### Peer

**Belgium Rhythm 'N' Blues Festival:** 25th edition of this world renowned festival, featuring Moonshine Reunion, Steve Winwood, Lisa Haley & The Zydekats, Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers, Hokie Joint, Jeff Beck, John Mayall, Roger McGuinn, Boo Boo Davis, James Hunter, John Fogerty and more  
**JULY 17-20** in Peer (Limburg province) [www.brbf.be](http://www.brbf.be)

#### Ronse

**Bruul 2009:** Free summer music festival with performances every Friday, featuring Raymond Van Het Groenewoud, Sons of Queen, Sois Belle, Paul Severs and Freddy Birset  
**Until AUG 21** 20.00 at Bruulpark, Ronse (East Flanders) 055.23.27.94, [www.bruulronse.be](http://www.bruulronse.be)

#### Tervuren

**Vroege vogelwandeling (Early Bird Walk):** Morning walk through the woods with a nature guide, followed by breakfast  
**JULY 19** 6.00 depart from the Vlaktedreef parking lot Reserve at 02.769.20.81 or [www.tervuren.be](http://www.tervuren.be)

#### Waregem

**Gothic Festival:** Line-up includes Psy'Aviah, FabrikC, Santa Hates You, Ashbury Heights, Zeromancer, Noisuf-X, KMFDM, Rotersand, Diary of Dreams, Die Form  
**JULY 24** at Waregem Expo, Zuiderlaan 20 [www.gothicfestival.be](http://www.gothicfestival.be)

#### Watou

**Poëziezomer:** Annual festival of contemporary art, architecture and poetry. This year's theme is Verzamelde Verhalen (Collected Stories, which looks at the relationship between image and language  
**Until SEP 6** in indoor and outdoor venues in the village of Watou, near Poperinge 059.56.45.98, [www.watou2009.be](http://www.watou2009.be)

#### Zulte

**Hoeverock:** Fourth edition of this free rock/blues festival, featuring concerts every Tuesday  
**Until AUG 25** 19.30 in Het Gouden Hof, D'hoyestraat 32, Olsene (East Flanders) <http://hoeverock.wordpress.com>

## DUSK 'TIL DAWN

SAFFINA RANA



## Carl Craig

### 10 Days Off, Ghent

DJ and producer Carl Craig will be flying in from Detroit on 24 July to spin some of his magic at one of the most globally renowned dance music festivals in the world, which kicks-off in Ghent this week.

Prepare to feel the hairs at the back of your neck stand on end as he weaves darker jazz-infested strands of melodies into his uplifting, multi-layered blend of electronica. "There is no set game plan for the parties except to have a good time, to party like its 1999," he says.

Starting in the 1980s as an apprentice to Detroit techno godfather Derrick May, Craig has become something of an international techno icon himself. But he has never been afraid to mix styles and genres over the span of his 18-year career. His experiments with rhythm and syncopation are widely regarded as influencing the drum 'n' bass subgenre that developed out of the UK in the mid-1990s.

He won't be the only big name descending on Ghent. Whether you're a party animal or just looking to let loose on the national holiday mid-week, the Ten-Days Off festival provides an unbeatable opportunity to discover over 80 of the hottest national and international names on the club circuit – from 23.00 to 7.00 on 10 consecutive nights.

As well as Carl Craig, my favourites include Amsterdam's Joris Voorn on 19 July and rock-infested techno from Copenhagen's Anders Trentemøller on 26 July. Try not to miss the final night when Berlin's resident Canadian Ritchie Hawtin and UK acid house king, Andrew Weatherall, feature in the 14 act line-up.

17-27 July  
Vooruit, Ghent

➡ [www.10daysoff.be](http://www.10daysoff.be)



## FESTIVAL OF FLANDERS

PAUL STUMP

### Rock fest madness

*You cannot step out of your front door without running into a rock festival in Flanders this summer*

There's a school of thought in Britain that suggests that music festivals have become a new form of ritual for the middle classes – a summer rite of passage. It's certainly not the best way to keep cool at this time of the year, surrounded by hundreds of sweaty, animated bodies. So what's the attraction?

Well, quite a lot, if the sheer number of such festivals in Flanders is anything to go by this year. Thanks largely to the Werchter effect, Flanders is transformed into one massive festival site every summer. Whereas Glastonbury introduced the multiple-stage concept to festival going, Flanders seems to be pioneering the multi-village approach, where every town and commune gets to be a venue for a day or two.

With purse-strings being tightened in these exacting times, locals are starting to regard festivals as a cheap alternative to full-blown holidays. And, of course, students have never had any money to begin with. This could be the reason for the proliferation of rock festivals this month and into the next.

The benefit of this rock festival frenzy is that it sandwiches an awful lot of bands (good and bad) into a relatively small space somewhere in Flanders every single weekend. Coming up are the much-loved Marktrock, Lokersefeesten, Suikerrock and, the grand-daddy of summer rock festivals, Pukkelpop. In between are a dozen or so you've never heard of, including two this weekend.

Herk, which sounds like a dose of the hiccups, is the village of Rock Herk and may just be the pick of the bunch, thanks in no small part to the presence of scenery-chewing, post-rock And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead. These guitar noisemakers make precious few festival appearances, but have chosen this Belgian backwater for a much-publicised whistle-stop tour of Europe.

Conveniently located within the Hasselt/Diest/Sint-Truiden triangle, Herk features a range of original artists from most corners of the underground: Local boys The Hickey Underworld (whose mouths, we hear, are as malicious as their



music) are becoming Flanders' next big thing with a hard-rock beat that occasionally slips into a 1960s-sounding guitar-laden groove. The Teenagers, on the other hand, who are French but operate from London, bring good old fashioned alt pop-rock to the fore, a sound that seems almost nostalgic.

Friday at Herk is DJ all the way: dance freaks will prick up their ears at the name of London club favourites Autokratz (see photo), not to mention The Panacea, aka German mix-meister Mathis Mootz. Styled modestly as "the hardest man in drum 'n' bass", he makes his name with his own "techstep-punk," employing subgenres like drum 'n' bass techno and rave – but cranks up the aggression with attitude and volume to create a kind of beats-per-minute run-off between man and machine.

Over in the neighbouring province on the same weekend, meanwhile, Ed & Kim, along with Sigi, remind the rock crowd that dance music is about more than mindless repetitive looped beats while waiting for the good-time indie anthems

of Flanders' own The Galacticos and the British-Finnish band Hate Gallery.

You'll find them all at Melkrock (Milk Rock), the name of which can only be interpreted as a typically surreal Belgian counterweight to Suikerrock (Sugar Rock). Now all we need is a Koffierock.

Seriously, though, this festival's excellent programming digs deep for an across-the-board flavour of genre-surmounting invention and down & dirty attitude. (All taking place at the Melkwezer site in Flemish Brabant. Okay, we admit, that's where the name comes from.)

Aside from the two above, don't miss Douglas Firs, the Gertjan Van Hellemont-fronted foursome whose easy-going alt-rock is sweeping small clubs, generating a fanatical fan base.

If a new "festival faith" is indeed afoot, it's smaller quality festivals like these that could decide whether or not Flanders remains one giant gig for many summers to come.

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

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

## TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



### de Tour →

Time for a break. Get away from it all. A change of air and of scenery. As in recent years, we will be heading south. Gone are the days of July in Bonnie Scotland – well at least until climate change comes into full effect.

Many have already migrated and those remaining are gearing up for the event of the summer for many Flemings: *De Ronde van Frankrijk* or *de Tour de France* or simply *de Tour*. You can be sure that many of those lining the flanks of Mont Ventoux will be Flemish. During the rest of the year, local tourism in that part of Provence seems to depend on cycling Flemings whose test of manhood is to climb that mountain.

At the beginning of July, the blocks of flats that adorn the Belgian coast fill up as people take to the beach and promenade. You don't need a watch to know when *de Tour* is on television: there is a sudden dearth of men on the beach, and the shopping streets are full of women and children. What more can a man want than to sit on his balcony overlooking the sand and sea, a well-stocked fridge and the sight of Tom Boonen making up for the embarrassment of being caught with some recreational drug in his blood.

The organisers of *de Tour* tried

to ban our Tom from competing, but a last-minute appeal to a French judge cleared the way to allow him to compete. This was headline news. The goings-on at Werchter, the prima donna of the summer rock festivals, were interrupted for the good news. Or perhaps it was a marketing trick to ensure massive interest in Belgium for the race.

My first encounter with *de Tour* was when I was introduced to the in-laws all those years ago. I unwittingly arrived during *de Tour* and soon discovered that my future father-in-law and my girlfriend's brother Alex would be glued to the box every afternoon watching men on bikes. I have been trying ever since to develop an interest in bike racing in its various forms but, though I accept that two wheels are good, for me, four wheels are better.

Yet, I should add that some of the best Flemish TV and radio journalism comes from the reporters on the scene. As with cricket matches in the English-speaking world, you have a lot of filling in to do as you describe those wheels turning endlessly. Also the next day's newspaper will have pages devoted to the same.

I will miss *de Tour* next week, though I may wave as they fly over on their way to Limoges.

### The last word →→→

#### Storms ahead

*"I need a good crew. We're entering stormy seas."*

Kris Peeters, Flemish minister-president, following the naming of the new government ministers

#### Stars in her eyes

*"I would like to write a book about my stars. But the problem is that I only speak Kortrijk dialect."*

Kimberley Vlaeminck, the Flemish girl who had 56 stars tattooed on her face, looks to the future

#### Crowd pleaser

*"Belgium, you have been a great crowd"*

Madonna, who sang in front of 65,000 fans at the Werchter festival site on 11 July



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