



# FLANDERS TODAY

MAY 5, 2010

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# BETTER LIFE



## The Belgian Pavilion opens at Expo 2010 Shanghai China

KATRIEN LINDEMANS

Last weekend saw the opening of the seven-month cultural jamboree Expo 2010 Shanghai China. Until the end of October, 200 countries will put their best faces forward during this world exposition with the theme "Better City, Better Life". Coincidentally echoing the Human Cities festival taking place in Brussels right now, Expo 2010 pushed countries to bring examples and ideas for better living in the urban environment of the future. Belgium is one of those countries, and its pavilion – made from recycled materials and utilising solar power – is oozing all things Belgian: chocolate, beer, diamonds, gastronomy and Smurfs. The country is sharing its pavilion with the European Union, a first in history. Shanghai is expecting a record number of 80 million visitors – ambitious but also symbolic. This year's theme is a popular one in the literal sense: for the people. About

55% of world population lives in cities, constantly creating new challenges for human-centered development.

Not coincidentally, this world expo is organised for the first time in a developing country, and the timing echoes the world's expectations of China. The Chinese government's motto for Expo is: "Keeping in mind the next 60 years' development, while preparing for the six-month exhibition."

"Better City, Better Life" is largely about sustainability, so Belgium translated this into a pavilion made from recyclable materials, designed by Antwerp-based Conix Architects. The building is constructed so that it can be easily dismantled and used again for other purposes after the expo. The pavilion also has a green space, allowing visitors to rest or enjoy the shade.

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## Belgium goes to the polls

### Elections in June after crash of government last week

Belgium goes to the polls in June, with a strong chance that the people will elect either the country's first woman prime minister or the first Walloon since 1973. On Monday of this week, the inner circle of the government approved a motion from former prime minister Yves Leterme, who resigned last week, to hold federal elections. As Flanders Today went to press, the most likely date appeared to be June 13, with June 20 a possibility. Elections in Belgium are always held on a Sunday. Leterme himself will not be returning to Wetstraat 16, the office of the prime minister. Before the elections were even officially announced, his party,

CD&V, said he would be leading the list for the chamber in West Flanders, his home province. Leading the national senate list will be party chair Marianne Thyssen.

As Anja Otte explains in this week's "Fifth Column", Leterme may have jumped to avoid being pushed, and the withdrawal means he will not face the indignity of seeing his impressive vote tally from 2007 vanish like mist over the polders.

In Belgian elections, parties present lists of candidates for the Chamber of Representatives on a provincial level. For elections to the senate, however, a single national list is presented by each party. This is where

the nationwide campaign takes place, and where the big numbers are found. It was as a senate candidate when Leterme won 800,000 preference votes. Thyssen, 53, is a lawyer who studied at the Catholic University of Leuven and has been a member of the European Parliament since 1991, as well as party chair since May of 2008. She lives in Flemish Brabant. As party chair, she will also have the responsibility of deciding who gets to lead the lists in the provinces. Other than Leterme in West Flanders, none of the positions has yet been filled.

➡ continued on page 3

## Comedy act no laughing matter, say police

Anything you say may be taken down and used in evidence against you, even if you're a stand-up comedian. Last week Wim Dufrain learned that he is to be charged with slandering the police of zone Kapelle-op-den-Bos, Londerzeel and Meise in January during the performance of double-act Dufrain and De Wit. Dufrain has already had dealings with police on two occasions when he was stopped for speeding. During his show, he claimed the police of zone KLM are the stupidest in the country and gave the names and email addresses of two officers, inviting the audience to send a rude message on his behalf. A clip of the performance on YouTube has been viewed more than 3,000 times. The zone chief, Commissioner Van der Jeught, who was not present,

failed to see the funny side and wrote to the Sint-Theresia College in Kapelle-op-den-Bos, where Dufrain has a day job as a teacher. Dufrain's comments, he alleged, called into question his suitability for a position in which he was considered a role model.

Now Dufrain has to answer to a complaint lodged by the commissioner on behalf of his zone and by the two inspectors who stopped him for speeding. Other comedians have leapt to his defence. The complaint was "a thinly-disguised form of censorship," according to Alex Agnew. Commissioner Van der Jeught "has gone too far" said Youssef El Mousaoui. Others, including Raf Coppens and Nigel Williams, sent their support. ♦



## OFFSIDE



## Vote for the ugliest

What's the ugliest place in all of south-west Flanders? The choice will be made by the residents of 11 municipalities in the area, down near the border with France.

They're taking part in an action called Lelijke Plekjes, Mooie Trekjes (Ugly Places, Pretty Features), in which local people are invited to nominate the ugliest spot in their area. The winner in each locality is awarded a makeover by an architect, designers and other artists. The event is organised by the intercommunal association Leiedal, Design Kortrijk and the 11 municipalities of Avelgem, Deerlijk, Harelbeke, Kortrijk, Kuurne, Lendeledede, Spiere-Helkijn, Waregem, Wervik, Wevelgem and Zwevegem. So far, however, local people have been somewhat reticent. As *Flanders Today* went to press, there was not a single nomination of an ugly place in Avelgem, Kuurne, Lendeledede, Wevelgem or Zwevegem. Kortrijk is clearly the ugliest city so far, with six nominations, including the bridge over the Kortrijk-Bossuyt canal, described by the proposer as "filthy and unattractive", despite the recent arrival of a kayak club in what used to be the lock-keeper's cottage. Kortrijk also has problems with the crossroads by the old cannon (pictured) and the Papenstraat park, among other low points.

Deerlijk, with its 11,000 inhabitants, Brussels-Kortrijk railway line and its E17 motorway, also has two eyesores in the shape of the war monument and the statue of René De Clercq, the poet, writer and composer born in the town in 1877. In Harelbeke, urgent attention is required for the parking lot at Arendstraat and Verenigde Natieënlaan, according to one citizen who doesn't realise parking lots are supposed to be ugly. He or she suggests a bit of greenery and some benches.

The competition ends on 30 June.

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

## News in brief

The two free universities in Brussels, the French-speaking ULB and the Flemish VUB, will run **joint engineering degrees** from the academic year 2011-2012, with tuition offered partly or wholly in English. The new faculty will offer Master's degrees in a series of engineering subjects, including architectural, civil and electromechanical engineering.

New Flemish norms limiting the **radiation produced by mobile phone** masts should be introduced by the summer, environment minister Joke Schauvliege said last week. The new rules will fill a gap in legislation governing the 40,000 masts in operation in Flanders and fix a limit of three volts per metre for masts in the vicinity of homes, schools and hospitals.

The Flemish public broadcaster VRT will not televise this year's **Flemish Community festivities** on 11 July. Instead, the channels will show the final of the World Cup on één and the new *Vlaanderen Muziekland* series on Canvas. "This is a decision for the VRT in which we cannot intervene," said a spokesman for Pascal Smet, Flemish minister for Brussels affairs.

Star chef **Peter Goossens** of the triple-Michelin starred Hof Van

Cleve in Kruishoutem is Number 17 in the rankings of *Restaurant* magazine, considered by many the most authoritative listing of the world's top chefs. Goossens moves up from last year's number 19 slot, while the list is led by Danish chef René Redzepi of Noma in Copenhagen, taking over from Ferran Adrià at Spain's El Bulli.

A 28-year-old motorcyclist from Zele in East Flanders was recovering in hospital last week after **riding into a wire** stretched across a forest path in Zwijndrecht, near Antwerp. Police have opened an enquiry into what they are treating as attempted murder and are currently assuming the wire was placed by someone protesting against the presence of motorcycles in a nature area.

A 21-year-old welding **student died** last week after attempting to scale the façade of the university library in Leuven. Olivio Versluys fell 20 metres trying to pull himself up using the lance of a statue of St George as a handhold. The lance, though gilded, was made of wood and failed to support his weight.

Astronaut **Frank De Winne** was last week awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Antwerp in recognition of medical experiments carried out while he

was captain of the International Space Station last year. The experiments included research into respiratory and vascular conditions, osteoporosis and balance disorders.

New Zealand diva Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is one of the major attractions announced for this year's **Festival of Flanders Ghent**. The festival, which runs from 18 September to 7 October, features more than 200 concerts and other performances, organised on the theme of joy. Highlights include the Bayerisches Staatsorchester with music by Richard Strauss and Anton Bruckner, the Tallis Scholars and Canadian piano soloist Angela Hewitt. Actress Pascale Platel will present the premiere of her new show, based on Jean Cocteau's version of *Beauty and the Beast*.

A total of 96 well-known Flemish personalities will take part in a reading marathon on 14 May to mark the 150th anniversary of **Max Havelaar**, the ground-breaking Dutch novel by Multatuli, which was the pen name of Eduard Douwers Dekker. The event, organised by Brussels University College will feature, among others, Herman Van Rompuy, author Kristien Hemmerchts, politician Willy Claes, Flemish minister-president Kris Peeters and TV journalist Phara de Aguirre.

→ [www.150jaarmaxhavelaar.be](http://www.150jaarmaxhavelaar.be)

## FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

## Kristl Strubbe

"I became a member of the church when I was three days old. I had no choice in the matter. Now, 36 years later, I want them to cross my name out of the register."

Last week TV presenter and Mechelen alderwoman Kristl Strubbe informed her Facebook followers how to become "de-baptised" as a Roman Catholic. You have to put your request in writing, in a handwritten letter no less, addressed to Etienne Van Billoen, Vicaris Generaal, Aartsbisdom Mechelen Brussel, Wollemarkt 15, 2800 Mechelen.

The action, she accepts, has no more than symbolic value. The church continues to be subsidised at the taxpayer's expense, irrespective of the actual number of adherents.

"I saw the tears of a bishop, and of a cardinal, and they're all fake," she said. "They're concerned with nothing but their image. I saw no real empathy. There are all these spokesmen but no words of concern for the victim."

On hearing the news that Roger Vangheluwe, the departing bishop of Bruges, may have sexually abused more than one child, Strubbe's response was curt. "He's a liar. He stood there before the Adriaenssens commission [on sexual abuse by clergy] and denied categorically that there were any other victims. Lying becomes a way of life."

The process of de-baptising, according to canon law expert Rik Torfs of the Catholic University of Leuven, isn't recognised by the Catholic church in law. In spite of that, the idea has caught on in



© VRT TV

Flanders. Novelist Saskia De Coster last week wrote an open letter in *De Morgen* to Archbishop Léonard asking to be removed from the church rolls.

Isn't quitting the church, albeit symbolically, a radical step for someone who holds public office in Mechelen, the seat of the archdiocese? "People in Mechelen are not more Catholic than anywhere else," she replied. "But baptism is a real tradition in Flanders. Well, the tradition for us stops here. This has been on my to-do list for some time, along with making a Living Will and getting an organ donor card. This seemed like the moment to make my point."

## FLANDERS TODAY

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Editor: Derek Blyth

Deputy editor: Lisa Bradshaw

News editor: Alan Hope

Agenda: Sarah Crew, Robyn Boyle

Art director: Michel Didier

Prepress: Corelio P&P

Contributors: Rebecca Benoot, Leo Cendrowicz, Courtney Davis, Stéphanie Duval, Anna Jenkinson, Sharon Light, Katrien Lindemans, Alistair MacLean, Marc Maes, Melissa Maki, Ian Mundell, Anja Otte, Emma Portier Davis, Saffina Rana, Christophe Verbiest, Denzil Walton

Project manager: Pascale Zoetaert

Publisher: Corelio Publishing NV

Editorial address:

Gossetlaan 30

1702 Groot-Bijgaarden

Tel.: 02.373.99.09 – Fax: 02.375.98.22

[editorial@flanderstoday.eu](mailto:editorial@flanderstoday.eu)

Subscriptions:

[subscriptions@flanderstoday.eu](mailto:subscriptions@flanderstoday.eu)

or sign up online at [www.flanderstoday.eu](http://www.flanderstoday.eu)

Advertising: Evelyne Gregonese

02.373.83.57

[advertising@flanderstoday.eu](mailto:advertising@flanderstoday.eu)

Verantwoordelijke uitgever:

Derek Blyth







## Race is on between Thyssen and Di Rupo

→ continued from page 1

Over at Open VLD, the party which triggered the crisis that led to the elections, Alexander De Croo will lead the senate list, though in his case it is unlikely to lead to Wetstraat 16. It will, however, cement his position as party leader. In the provinces, the party can field such heavyweights as Patrick Dewael, speaker of the parliament, vice-premier Guy Vanhengel and interior minister Annemie Turtelboom. The leading light of the socialist party SP.A looks like it will be either party chair Caroline Gennez or former minister Johan Vande Lanotte. In the other parties, nothing was yet certain as *Flanders Today* went to press. On the French-speaking side, the socialist party PS stands a good chance of winning the most seats in the chamber after the election. That puts Elio Di Rupo in a strong position to become prime

minister. Di Rupo, 59, was born in Mons to Italian parents, one of seven children. He was educated as a chemist and worked for a time at the University of Leeds in England.

Who becomes prime minister is anyone's guess. CD&V won 30 seats in the 2007 election, having formed a cartel with NV-A, making it the largest party and leading to Leterme being asked to become prime minister. Going into this election, CD&V (without NV-A) and the French-speaking MR of Didier Reynders are equal, with 23 seats each, but losses are forecast. The socialist party PS, on the other hand, starts from the 20 seats won in 2007, but the party's fortunes are rising. Whether they will rise sufficiently to keep Marianne Thyssen from making history remains to be seen. ♦



CD&V's Marianne Thyssen, on course to make electoral history

## THE WEEK IN FIGURES



**80,287**

households are involved in a process of debt management, where control over the household budget is handed over to an outside agency in cases of serious debt. A year ago, the figure was 8,000 less

**€1.00**

cost of renting a car at some agencies faced with the problem of returning cars to their place of origin after they were rented by travellers interrupted by the European flight ban. Last week at Brussels Airport there were at least 500 cars with foreign plates

**3.6%**

fall in the number of tourist staying overnight in Flanders in 2009, according to Toerisme Vlaanderen. The British and the Dutch were the nationalities whose figures dropped the most

**€2,500 - €4,500**

net monthly earning of half of all family doctors, according to *Artsenkrant* magazine. One in four makes less than €2,500

**746**

new school places created in Antwerp since the latest round of registrations, which showed a shortage of 1,500 places. The places have been created in 25 pre-schools and 19 primary schools

## Young people struggle to get car insurance

Half of all 18-year-olds who pass their driving test are unable to get car insurance, the consumer rights organisation Test-Aankoop revealed last week. The organisation gathered data on two hypothetical situations: an 18-year-old woman with no driving experience and a 22-year-old woman with 18 months of experience. A request for a quote was sent to 180 auto insurance brokers across the country. In almost half of all cases, the 18-year-old was refused coverage altogether, while one in three agencies rejected the 22-year-old. "Young people are being discriminated against," said Jean-Paul Coteur of Test-Aankoop. "There is an urgent need for a code of conduct forcing insurance companies to give a reason for a refusal."

While some companies never refused – Argenta, Ethias, Federale Verzekeringen (FV) and P&V – coverage for the youngest of the two was often extremely expensive: €833 annually from FV, for instance, compared to €2,034 from P&V for the same driver. "The difference is inexplicable," Coteur commented, as the companies were using precisely the same data on which to base their quotes.

The differences are also significant from one region to another. An 18-year-old will pay €2,034 in Ghent and up to €3,062 in Brussels for the same legal minimum coverage.

"Young people should be judged according to their driving behaviour and any traffic violations. Those are things the driver has some control over. This is discrimination and encourages families to insure in the name of the parents." An insurance industry spokesman, however, said the study was "totally without credibility". Research by the economy ministry in 2006 showed that premiums were coming down, a spokesman for Assuralia said, adding that, while young people did pay more and cities were more expensive than rural areas, the trend was moving in a positive direction. ♦



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## Schoolteachers not switched on to computers

The days of the wired classroom, it seems, are still some way off in Flanders, according to a study carried out by the education ministry into use of computers in schools.

While nearly all teachers in both primary and secondary schools use a computer to prepare their own lessons, fewer than 2% of primary pupils and only about 3% of secondary pupils is able to work on a computer daily in the classroom. Teachers rarely use the computer as an aid to teaching during the lesson itself, the study reveals.

Hans De Four, coordinator of KlasCement, a network for teachers, gave an intriguing explanation to *De Standaard* last week. "In a normal lesson, there are two parties – you and the pupil. If the pupil has a bad day, you're trained to deal with it. But in a computer lesson there's a third party – the computer – and a computer can also have a bad day. Sadly, teachers are not trained to cope with that in a classroom situation."

**Some other figures from the study:**

- 1.7% of primary school pupils use a computer daily in the classroom

- 35% use one daily at home
- Primary schools in general have one computer for every six pupils
- Half of those computers are more than four years old
- 47% of teachers never let children look up information by themselves

- Nearly half of all 10-year-olds in Flanders already have an online profile, and many have more than one. Two-thirds are on Netlog, 39% are on Facebook (both of which have a minimum age of 13), 26% inhabit the "virtual hotel" Habbo, and nearly 16% are on YouTube.

Everyone aged 10 has access to a TV, 97% to a computer and 96% to the internet, while 87% of those aged 12 to 19 has an account on a social network site like Netlog or Facebook. The figures come from the youth network Graffiti Jeugdendienst, in conjunction with Ghent University and the Institute for Broadband Technology. ♦

## FIFTH COLUMN

ANJA OTTE

### Bye bye, Leterme

In the end, the federal government did fall over Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde, better known as BHV, the constituency the Flemish want to see split into its Flemish and Brussels components.

Right from the start, politicians started picking out scapegoats. The coalition party Open VLD is to blame, some say, because it withdrew its confidence in the federal government. Or the French-speaking liberal MR is at fault for stubbornly refusing to reach any agreement on BHV. Or did the blame lie with Leterme's own party, CD&V, for stirring up tension with French speakers during its 2007 campaign?

Yet others point out that previous governments – which included liberals and socialists – created the BHV issue by inadequately reforming the constituencies. At the same time, a popular movement is taking shape in which people are blaming *all* politicians and refusing to vote. This crisis also spells the end of Yves Leterme as prime minister.

Leterme voluntarily made way for Marianne Thyssen as party leader. This may seem like a noble gesture, but it is also convenient for a party known for patricide (killing off its own leaders).

Moreover, by not running for a senate seat, Leterme avoids comparisons between the number of votes he will receive this time and the phenomenal 800,000 he got in 2007. Another plus: unlike Leterme, CD&V party president Marianne Thyssen has not been tainted by this crisis, so she still has some credibility when quoting the new message of CD&V having a "sense of responsibility".

How will we look back on prime minister Yves Leterme? Commentators compare him to Leo Tindemans, who was prime minister between 1974 and 1978. Tindemans was even more popular than Leterme: he became known as the "one million vote man". As prime minister, he rejected the Egmont pact – an agreement between Dutch- and French-speaking party leaders (which would have included the splitting of BHV in 1978!) – which marked the fall of his government.

For his dramatic move, Tindemans used words that would become legendary: "The constitution is not a paper rag." Despite that, he was shunned ever after, since most politicians considered him untrustworthy. He never became prime minister again.

Most people believe that the politicians of the 1970s and '80s, such as Tindemans, acted irresponsibly, spending all their energy on language squabbles rather than on more pressing problems, such as the economy and a derailing budget. Ouch!

It may also be the very reason that CD&V has chosen "responsibility" as its campaign theme: to mark the end of another such era.



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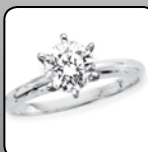
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# Better City, Better Life

Aside from wowing international visitors, the Belgian pavilion is a networking site for business

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On the roof, 1100 square-metres of solar panels will generate the energy for the pavilion's kitchen and restaurant. Inside, the building has the shape of a brain cell, symbolising intelligence (a great Belgian export). A few of Belgium's top companies will present their sustainable technologies. Umicore brings its Solar Car, equipped with germanium substrates (the base material for a set of high-efficiency solar cells). Solvay shows its Solar Impulse project, touring the world in a zero-fuel aircraft that captures energy through solar cells mounted on the wings. The Polar Foundation will be present as well, drawing attention to global warming and demonstrating how everyone can contribute to the preservation of our planet.

Visitors to the pavilion will meet not just Belgium but the entire European Union, welcomed by famous European figures like Leonardo Da Vinci and Albert Einstein. These figures introduce all 27 member countries at the same time, a unique attraction.

Visitors will learn everything about the euro, the Erasmus student exchange programme and "Open Europe", a Europe without borders. The EU exhibition also demonstrates how Europe is working on the environmental challenges of "Better City, Better Life" through three stages: "stop", a reflection on what's being achieved; "change", a section on what is currently being done; and "invent", the creation of environmentally friendly technologies and solutions to tackle global problems.

At the end of the EU exhibition, visitors get the chance to experience "Living Europe", an array of large screens with dazzling sights and sounds of European life – an impression of what it's like to be a citizen of a richly diverse union of 27 countries.

## The economies of Expo

The presence of the European Union in the Belgian pavilion will define Belgium as a unique place where different cultures live, travel and meet and should make the pavilion a much-visited spot at Expo 2010 – a blessing for Belgian companies – particularly at this time of national turmoil with a snap election looming. Tourists will flock to the Expo because of the cultural programme, but it also serves as one big networking event for scientific, technological and economic exchanges.

The gathering of almost 200 countries within the space of about five square

kilometers forms a unique platform to do business. Belgium may be a small country 9,000 kilometers away from Shanghai, but that hasn't stopped it from sealing many lucrative deals with China in the past.

The first railroad in China was built with Belgian technology, as was the first inter-city tram system. As much as 25% of Antwerp's diamond exports travel to mainland China and Hong Kong. Many Flemish companies have a stake in China, including environmental services group Waterleau near Leuven, responsible for the development of two of the summer Olympics' flagship venues, and the Penguin Group near Bruges, which, believe it or not, provides the Chinese with frozen, ready-made Asian cuisine. Even Belgian chocolate has a large export market in China, with around 802 tons exported in 2008.

The Belgian pavilion is equipped with a business center, where companies can meet each other or organise events. But any good Belgian will handle much of his or her business in the Belgian Beer Café, where they'll run into visitors sampling Duvel, Hoegaarden, Karmeliet or one of 17 other local brews.

The Belgian pavilion also hosts a Diamond Corner and a Belgian Chocolate Corner, where visitors can watch renowned Belgian chocolatiers, such as Ghent's Cédric Van Hoorebeke and Antwerp's Emiel Robberechts of Pralines Devina, take turns making fresh chocolates. Although the yearly Chinese consumption of chocolate is only an average of 150 grams a person (compared to six kilos per person in Belgium), the outlook for pralines sales overall look good.

A bit further, guests can have a taste of gastronomy in the Belgian Essence Restaurant. Twelve Belgian Michelin-star chefs from every province, including Dimitri Lysens of Magis in Tongeren and Jason Blanckaert of C-Jean in Ghent, will promote Belgian cuisine and cook for an expected 2,000 visitors every day. To stay true to the sustainable theme, chefs won't import food from Belgium but will work with local ingredients in the solar energy-powered kitchen.

Finally, Belgian fashion will leave its mark, as well. All 300 hosts of the Belgian pavilion will be dressed in an elegant outfit designed by Natan in collaboration with fashion chain JBC.♦

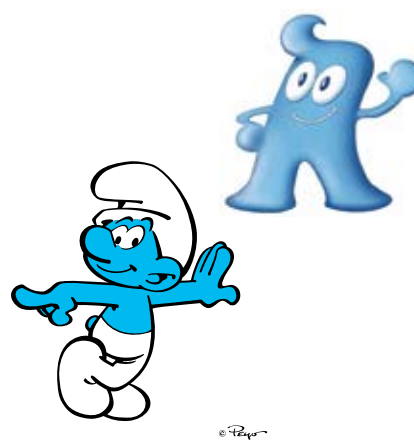
→ [www.shanghaiaexpo2010.be](http://www.shanghaiaexpo2010.be)



Belgium takes control of the presidency of Europe in June, so the Belgian Pavilion is also home to the EU exhibitions at Expo 2010. The pavilion is designed around the concept of a brain cell, with a series of walk-through tubes that dramatically change colour, lighting up the Shanghai night. The brain cell represents Belgium's innovation in the fields of biotechnology, chemistry and nanotechnology and refers to Belgium as a crossroads of civilisation

© JV Shanghai, Studio EZ

## TOGETHER IN BLUE



The official mascot of the Shanghai World Expo is called Haibao, meaning "treasure of the sea". It's a typical lucky name in Chinese tradition. Haibao is a blue-coloured figure, shaped like the character 人, meaning "people". Belgium chose the blue-coloured Smurfs as their mascot; the Smurfs are very popular in China, and the Belgium contingent thought they fit the theme "Better City, Better Life", since they are known to live in harmony with nature. The little blue Smurfs (along with other famous Belgian characters, such as Tintin) should attract even more visitors to the Belgian and EU pavilions.

→ <http://en.expo2010.cn>

EXPO 2010

## ON THE AGENDA

**9 May** Europe Day  
**24-31 May** Flanders Days  
**7-10 June** Antwerp Days  
**13 June** Belgium Day  
(Prince Philippe comes to Shanghai)  
**18-22 September** Brussels Days

## THE BELGIAN/EU PAVILION IN FIGURES

**€10 million** million construction budget  
**5,600** square-metres  
**70** traditional chocolatiers demonstrate craftsmanship on site  
**20,000** chocolates handed out each day  
**20** beers in the Belgian Beer Café  
**12** Belgian Michelin star chefs taking turns to cook  
**20,000** visitors per day  
**300** hosts and hostesses  
**200** Chinese workers helped to construct the pavilion over nine months



© Conix Architects



# Feel the love

New invention by Antwerp restaurateur becomes official drink of Belgian pavilion

KATRIEN LINDEMANS

**Y**ou would expect the official drink of the Belgian Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo to most certainly be one of many, many Belgian beers. It's not. It's ginger tea.

GingerLove is brewed by Alain Indria, the charismatic owner of Lombardia, a small eatery in Antwerp. He calls his hot and healthy drink GingerLove, and it's on its way to becoming a world-wide star.

As I enter Lombardia on the bustling Lombardenvest, I see that I'm clearly not the first journalist to come by. The colourful walls show evidence of the many articles written on this legendary vegetarian cafe. When, back in 2006, a journalist from the *Wall Street Journal* strongly recommended it for its "tasty organic sandwiches and salads and delicious ginger teas and fruit smoothies", the Lombardia-mania was set in motion. Superstar Moby, as famous for his veganism as for his voice, found his way to Lombardia and became a fan. As a result, Indria added Moby's favourite drink to the menu, a cocktail of spinach and apple juices. The rest of the extensive menu reads of a healthy mix of salads, sandwiches and day platters and illustrates the almost 40 years of experience in vegetarian cuisine. There's also a remarkable lot of advertising for the Lombardia website and their social network pages, such as Facebook, Twitter and Netlog. Without the world wide web, Lombardia would never have become what it is today.

Indria is banking on that kind of success for GingerLove. About five years ago, he created the ginger tea by mixing a few secret ingredients. A bunch of regular customers tried the new brew and all pronounced it delicious. Not long after, the ginger tea became a much-ordered item. It soon got its own website and a page on Facebook and Twitter.

From Antwerp to Shanghai

Indria did not have to think twice when he received a general email last year from Flanders Investment and Trade asking whether he wanted to give his product a

chance at Expo 2010 in Shanghai. "It turned out I was the only owner of a small company who responded to this request," he says. "Before I knew it, I found myself amid multinationals in front of Leo Delcroix [famous Flemish businessman and Expo project manager]. I offered him the Lombardia book on the history of my restaurant, and he seemed impressed."

In the meantime, Indria started networking and advertising his ginger tea. "I wanted to keep the production as local as possible," he says. "To reduce the ecological footprint, we decided to freeze-dry the ingredients. That way we could transport and sell the tea as a powder, without the extra weight and cost of water." This fit GingerLove perfectly in the sustainability philosophy of the world expo.

When Indria finally received the news that his tea would become the official drink, a nasty surprise awaited. Chinese taxes turned out to be very high, and Indria had to look for sponsors to get his product to Shanghai. Free newspaper *Metro* and fashion organisation Modemakers helped him out and will in return be rewarded with two new additions to the Lombardia menu: a *Metro* dish and a Modemakers salad.

As soon as the news on GingerLove as the "official Belgian pavilion drink" was spread, Indria was interviewed by Japanese television. That led to contacts by Japanese companies interested in his ginger drink. He even had an Indian business man on the phone who wanted to export GingerLove to all pharmacies in the United States.

Since Belgium shares its pavilion with the EU, Indria hopes his GingerLove will seduce EU markets as well. Belgium is already catching on: besides Lombardia, the drink is available in Antwerp Zoo and all Foodmaker shops. Whereas before you needed a special machine to make GingerLove, things became a lot easier with the development of the GingerLove powder. This "home version" should be released soon. ♦

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



## Sure, but what's it taste like?

Drink inventor Alain Indria compares the first sip of GingerLove with the first sip of a beer. "It gives you a bit of a kick right away... but you're hooked before you know it." The bright yellow drink comes with a nice layer of pastel foam and has the spicy taste of ginger combined with fruity citrus. Add hot water to the powder or cold water and ice cubes for a refreshing iced tea – or try adding white wine and serving it as an aperitif.

## Museum Prize short list announced

With the wealth of museums both large and small (and tiny) across Belgium, it's always interesting to see what the judges have come up with for the short list for the annual Museum Prize, which is awarded in each of the three regions. In typical fashion, this year there is a mixture of big names and the more obscure.

**Flanders:** In Flanders Fields in Ypres, dedicated to the First World War; Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens in Deurle, which features paintings by Flemish artists; Museum Mayer Van den Bergh in Antwerp, with a collection of work and manuscripts of Flemish Primitives; the Museum of Technical History in Grimbergen, which combines labour history with a picturesque walk; and the Gallo-Roman Museum in Tongeren.

**Brussels:** Cinematek, the film museum; the Horta Museum and House in Sint-Gillis; the new Magritte Museum; the Van Buren Museum and gardens in Ukkel; and the Museum of the National Bank, which covers the history of money, from its role in the economy to its different forms and forgeries.

There are also five museums nominated in Wallonia: Folon Foundation in La Hulpe, Grand Curtius in Liège, Groesbeek-De Croix in Namur, the Museum of Walloon Life in Liège and the Museum of Notre Dame hospital in Lessines.

The results of the prize will be announced on 1 June; each winner receives a cash award of €10,000. The public can also vote for their favourite on the website.

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



## Gymnastic set-back

She's one of Belgium's brightest Olympic stars, but right now she's in bandages

LEO CENDROWICZ

**G**ymnast Aagje Vanwalleghem had an operation last week after she injured a cruciate ligament in her left knee and is out of action until at least September. It means she missed the European Gymnastic Championships in Birmingham that ended at the weekend, where she had been a favourite in the vault.

"It was the third time I seriously injured the same knee," the 22-year-old said. "One of these injuries prevented me from going to the Beijing Olympics. I'm pretty injury-prone. And rehabilitation is going to be hard work."

Vanwalleghem, who won the bronze medal in the 2005 European Championships, is now setting her sights on the World Championships in Rotterdam in October.

Born Anna Maria Pereira Da Silva in Paçao de Padra, Brazil, she was adopted at four months old by a Flemish family and renamed Aagje. She has three Ethiopian-born sisters.

Vanwalleghem has been a gymnast since the age of five and has already racked up a number of feats. Earlier in her career, she became the first female Belgian gymnast to win a World Cup medal, and she finished 23rd in the all-around final at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

She went on to win the bronze medal on vault and place sixth all-around at the 2005 European Championships in Debrecen, Hungary. At the end of 2008, Vanwalleghem won the bronze medal on vault at the World Cup Final in Madrid.

The gymnast trained in her hometown of Wevelgem in 2008 but returned to the Top Gymnastics training centre in Ghent following last year's European Championships in Milan, where she placed sixth all-around and fourth on vault.

Last year, she had a very public feud with the Flemish Gymnastics Federation after they asked controversial Frenchman Yves Kieffer to be head coach. She walked out on the federation

but has since reconciled and now appears to be training well with Kieffer.

At the moment, however, Vanwalleghem is enduring a gruelling and frustrating time. "When I am fit again, I think a big factor will be the fear," she said on her website. "The fear of another attack and another serious injury. I'm working on it with my sports psychologist." ♦

→ [www.sport.be/aagjevanwalleghem](http://www.sport.be/aagjevanwalleghem)



Down but not out: Aagje Vanwalleghem

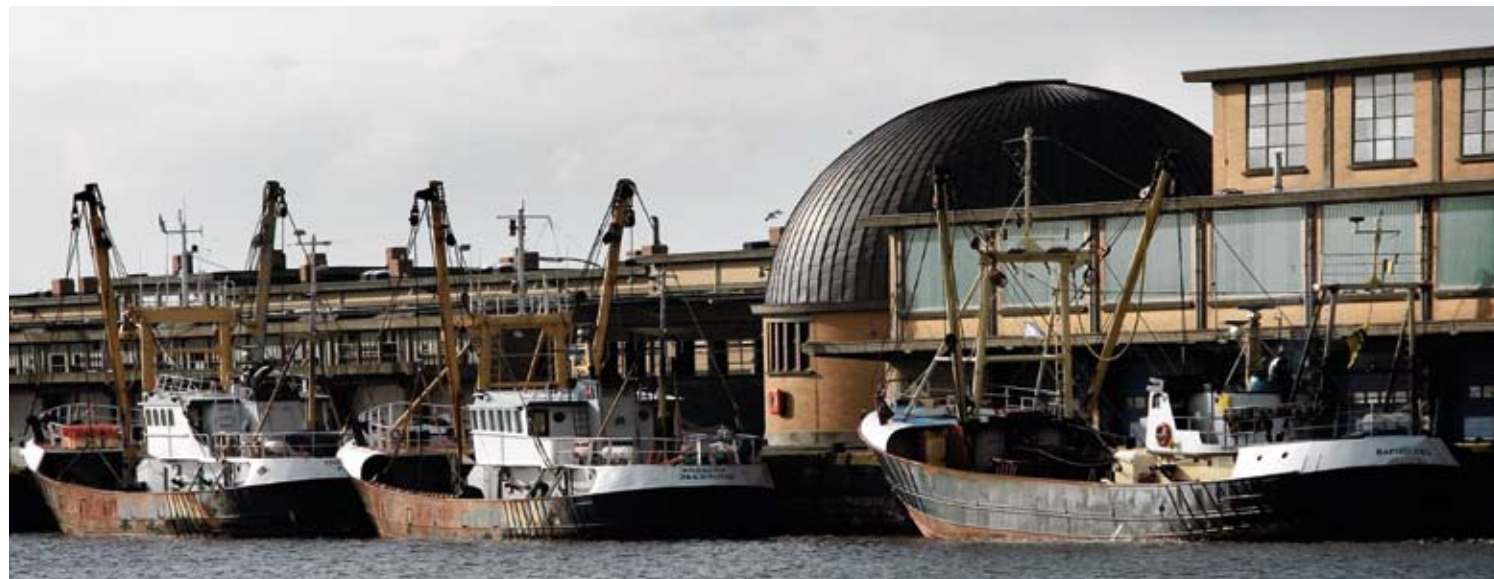
© Nicolas Maerlinckx/Belga





## Ostend ordered to repay aid

The fish market auction could owe the Flemish government up to €14 million



ALAN HOPE

The Ostend *vismijn*, or fish market auction, could be facing a bill of at least €7 million – and possibly twice that – after the European Commission demanded it pay back illegal state aid. The decision follows a complaint made in 2006 by the rival fish market in Zeebrugge. Ironically, the two bodies have recently been discussing the possibility of a merger. The fish market, where fishermen sell their catch to dealers, is owned by the Flemish government and operated by a private company,

EVO, together with the autonomous municipal company AGHO. Both received start-up capital from the Flemish government totalling over €10 million. They also benefitted from interest-free loan guarantees worth €4.3 million and free use of land and buildings belonging to the Flemish Region.

Now the EU has given EVO and AVGO four months in which to repay “all unjustified aid” – without specifying exactly how much that is. Within two months, the management of

the market will have to open their books for inspection by the European Commission, when exact figures should emerge.

The Ostend *vismijn* is where fishermen sell their catches to dealers. Typically, sales take place in a Dutch auction, where the auctioneer starts with a high price and lowers the price until a sale is made. The *vismijn* also contains facilities for cleaning and storing fish. Similar facilities exist at Zeebrugge and Nieuwpoort. ♦

## Goals of Flanders in Action highlighted at sustainability conference

It might seem ironic that an environmental crisis should pose a threat to an international conference on the environment, but the Conference for Innovation for Sustainable Production (iSUP2010) in Bruges was affected, like everything else, by the flight ban following the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull.

Fortunately, by the beginning of the four-day conference, which started on 18 April, the ban had been lifted, and the effects were limited. More than 400 delegates were able to take part in the opening plenary session.

Nobel laureate and chairman of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Professor Rajendra Pachauri, appeared by video-link to remind the delegates that sea

levels are rising, temperatures are rising, and snow levels are falling. It is expected that global average temperatures will rise over the course of this century by between 1.8 and four degrees Celsius. The amount of resources mankind now consumes exceeds the planet's ability to regenerate by 30%.

Professor Pachauri (*pictured*), who shared the Nobel prize with Al Gore in 2007, communicates a familiar message: mankind has to change its habits. In particular, developed nations have to lead from the front to cut the link between economic progress and depletion of the world's resources.

Ingrid Lieten, Flemish minister for science and innovation, talked about clean technologies in Flanders and the enshrinement of the principle in the government's Flanders in Action (ViA) programme.

As well as tackling climate change, ViA focuses on traffic mobility, the aging of the population and dependence on fossil fuels for energy. She also spoke about the Flanders Cleantech Association, which aims to develop innovative projects in conjunction with the Environmental Innovation Platform, with Flanders Investment and Trade and with the Flemish Institute for Technological Research.

“It is important to raise awareness among the general public about the importance of the transformation of our economy into a sustainable one,” the minister said. ♦

• A webcast of Professor Pachauri's address to the conference can be watched online in streaming video, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, by following the link on the *Flanders Today* website, [www.flandertoday.eu](http://www.flandertoday.eu).



© Pachauri (IPD)

## Strike costs Carrefour €20 million

The industrial dispute over the planned closure of Carrefour supermarkets in Belgium led to a fall in earnings of 15% in April, compared to the same month a year ago. Last week, Carrefour boss Gérard Lavinay made the figures known as a warning to unions just before their planned nation-wide strike last Friday. The strike, he said, would not only have a direct effect on sales but also “a negative impact” on the public's perception of the French-owned company.

Carrefour's problems are several. First came the announcement last February that it would close 14 hypermarkets and seven supermarkets of the 117 stores across Belgium. That led to widespread analysis that the company had not tailored its policies to the Belgian market – not the best publicity for a retail chain struggling to maintain market share against two extremely strong competitors, Delhaize and Colruyt. Since then, agreements have been reached for some stores to be sold, leaving eight hypermarkets and four supermarkets still facing closure. Then came the reaction – strike actions, which strengthen the public's sympathy for workers threatened with redundancy. Consumers do not like their local shops to be taken away – even if they had not been patronising the stores, which is what gave rise to the problem in the first place.

Not only has the fallout from the closures plan led to a drop in earnings (April's figures follow a first quarter that saw turnover down by 6.2%), the strike last week also levied a heavy cost, estimated by Lavinay at €20 million for Friday alone, with the effect exacerbated by the 1 May holiday on Saturday, when stores were closed.

“If only a minority take part in the strike, I can imagine the possibility of proceeding with negotiations,” Lavinay said, referring to talks with unions that have been going on since February. “But if the strike is widespread, I see no other possibility than to bring in the help of an arbitrator from the government employment service. I have every respect for the right to strike, but I find it completely irresponsible to strike between two negotiating days.” ♦

## THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

### Automotive •

#### Opel Antwerp

The Opel Antwerp car assembly plant – owned by General Motors and due to close later this year – has attracted bids from 16 candidates. The bidders include Korea's Hyundai, China's BYD and an unnamed Indian car manufacturer.

### Economy • Consumer confidence

The Belgian National Bank's indicator of future business prospects improved again in April to reach its highest level in two years. Trade and manufacturing industries went up, while the services sector was slightly lower after eight consecutive increases.

### Fast Food • Quick

Fast food chain Quick, owned by France's CDC Capital Investment, has attracted several bids, including an offer from the US private equity fund Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts. Quick, which operates some 500 outlets, the bulk of them in Belgium, is said to be worth up to €1 billion.

### Metals • Nyrstar

Zinc mining group Nyrstar, which has smelting activities in Balen, Antwerp province, has dropped its bid for the Australian CBH mining group after opposition from the company's shareholders to the improved Nyrstar offer. Nyrstar is also transferring its world headquarters from London to Zurich.

### Retail • Inno

Department store chain Galeria Inno, owned by the German Kaufhof company, is said to be attracting a bid from the US Blackstone private equity group. Inno was part of the GB-Inno-BM retailing empire until 2001 when it was sold to the Germans.

### Textiles • Van de Velde

Aalst-based lingerie group Van de Velde has acquired a majority stake in the US upmarket lingerie chain Intimacy. It expects to push the number of outlets in large US cities up to 20 with sales in excess of \$40 million.

### Transport • Zeebrugge

The Port of Zeebrugge saw its traffic rise 25% in the first quarter of 2010 on a year-to-year basis. Roll-on, roll-off traffic was the largest contributor to the surge with a 46% increase. Meanwhile, Zeebrugge port authorities have opened a representative office in Pune, India, to develop its brand image in Asia. Other representations already exist in China and Japan.

### Transport management • Punch Telematix

Punch Telematix, the Ypres-based transport management technology company, has received a takeover offer from the Californian Trimble Navigation, which specialises in GPS systems.





# The set to get in with

Knokke-Heist's International Photo Festival probes our obsession with stars and models

LISA BRADSHAW

It's a very good feeling to be pleasantly surprised. This is particularly true when an artist has taken a genre that is not just tired but tends to be frivolous at best, offensive at worst, and turns it into something rather magical.

Which brings us to the subject of fashion photography. Even accepting it as fantasy (which can at times be challenging), it is still about picturing people, largely women, as plastic-coated mannequins of perfection, with impossibly high heels, unnaturally long legs and more skin than clothes. The models get younger and younger, to the point of squeamishness.

The field's most brilliant artists bring fantasy to the fore, using the setting to sell the message and letting the women simply be women. It's difficult to find, but I found it at the International Photo Festival Knokke-Heist in the work of Tim Walker.

Walker is one of few fashion photographers with a fine-art inclination. After studying at the Exeter College of Art, the young Brit travelled to New York to work with fashion and portrait photographer Richard Avedon. Since then, he's worked for *Vanity Fair* and *Harper's Bazaar*, but mostly *Vogue*.

At 39, he's now a photog celebrity, and it would be easy to say that this is what gives him the freedom to be an individualist in a world defined by conformity. But his eye has always gone a different way. Walker is the epitome of that old self-help tome: do what you love, and the money will follow.

Walker is the centrepiece of Knokke-Heist's festival, which this year operates around the theme "Stars and Models". It is an exploration of the depiction of celebrities and the art of making stars into models and vice versa.

Of the several exhibitions, this one – held in the Scharpoord Culture Centre – is easily the highlight. Early on, you feel like you're meeting Walker himself in his early portraits of everyday people who lived in the Surrey and Sussex countryside.

His style is clearly quirky and sassy – leave the social realism to others, he says, as he poses for one of the most unforgettable images in the entire festival: Walker alone in a grand four-poster bed surrounded by piles and piles of lavish cakes and pies. It's called "Breakfast in bed".

In his fashion work, he shoots series with the same models; you'll see "Lily Cole and Giant Watering Can" and "Lily Cole on a Fish Hook". The first is self-explanatory but, in the second, it's not immediately clear if Lily is tiny or the fish hook giant. Walker knows precisely how to appeal to secret desires, which he achieves through picturing childhood dreams rather than sex. Hence, "Lily Cole and Cake Tree", where it would be tough to choose between the contents of the tree and the dress on the model. Walker is surely suggesting how pretty it would be to have both.

Half the show is given over to Walker's trademark fantasy sequences, such as when nature takes over the indoors: snow piles up in a plush salon, a colourful camp site springs up in



Tim Walker's "Earthquake Damage"

the dreary library of a country estate. His portrait photography delightedly perches Bill Nighy atop a giant golden egg and dresses Grayson Perry in a little girl's blue pinafore. The final image in the Walker exhibition is laugh out loud: the gingerbread man – literally – prances down a little path, tall grass on either side. It is the moment, the accompanying text says, "that he is alive".

As a student, Tim Walker worked on the archives of Cecil Beaton, and that legendary British photographer is another focus of the festival. In a pavilion built on the beach in front of Knokke's Rubensplein is a large show dedicated to the man who has probably had more influence on British photographers of the 20th century than any other.

His show is titled *The Set to Get in With*, which no doubt refers to the endless number of celebrities, artists and politicians who posed for Beaton in his 60-year career; but it also applies to Beaton himself – the man who knew everyone. His early work was stylised and glamorous: Buster Keaton, Gary Cooper and New York socialite Mona Bismarck.

War photography later had a profound effect on him – although he succeeded in making fighter pilots look like rugged, square-jawed heroes, he later mixed more realist photos in with his pampered and posed stars. Next to Audrey Hepburn's much-frilled *My Fair Lady* are a sober-looking Gertrude Stein and Alice B Toklas in an empty room, with their frumpy clothes and wire hanging from the ceiling.

The exhibition is a who's who of 20th-century life: Francis Bacon, Maria Callas,

Mick Jagger, Andy Warhol, Winston Churchill, Coco Chanel. A Truman Capote so young he's difficult to recognise. Greta Garbo ages before our eyes – Beaton's infatuation with her led to him photographing her for several decades.

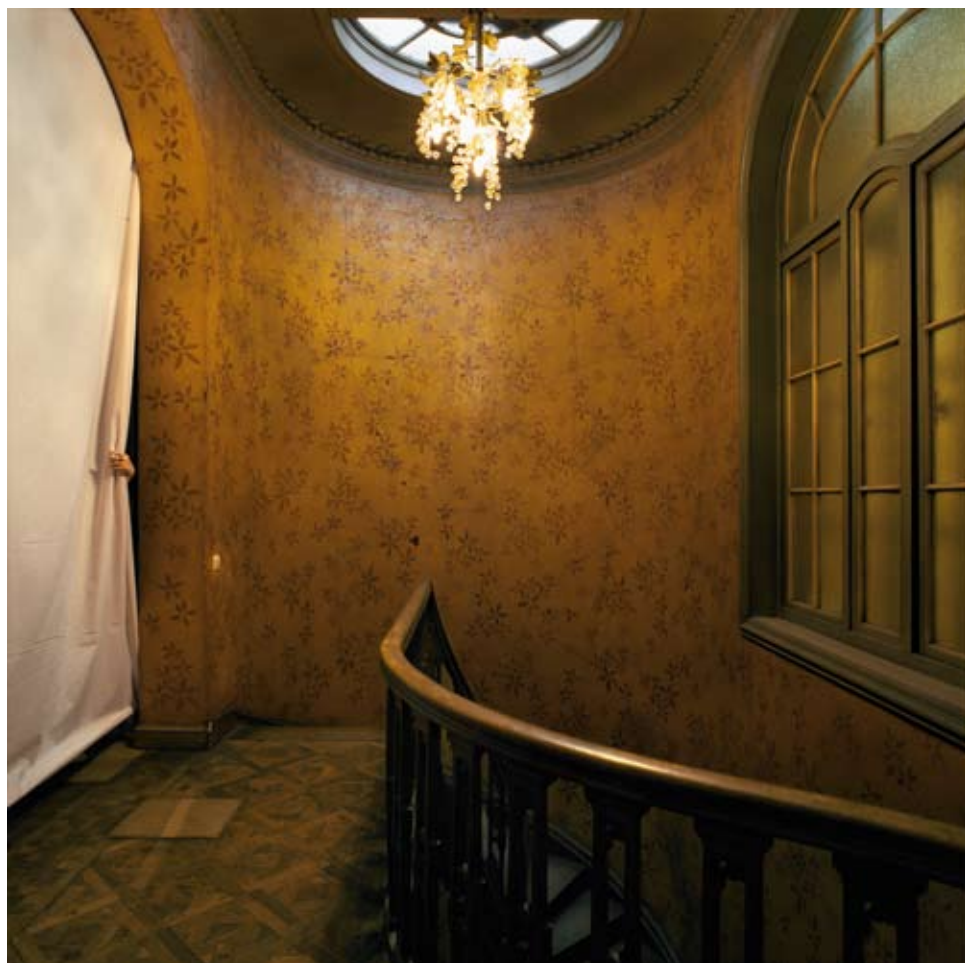
Suddenly, in a room off of the Beaton exhibition, you find the work of Flemish photographer Nadine Tasseel. It's a jarring transition – from celebrity excess to allegorical abandonment – but it's great to see Tasseel included as part of the festival. Somewhat in contrast to Beaton, she's extremely well-staged – the room is darkened and pieces individually lit so that it feels that her discarded interiors – often housing ghostly figures of past or present – could be just beyond the door. ♦

## Visiting the festival

The key exhibitions of the International Photo Festival Knokke-Heist are staged in two main venues, the Scharpoord Culture Centre and the pavilion on the beach. But there are several other key sites worth visiting, including the Sincfala Museum, which hosts a wonderful show of photos taken of celebrities who have come through Knokke-Heist in the 20th century, and the White-Out Studio, where you'll find 60 photos illustrating the Belgian surrealist movement. At the Laguna Hall, meanwhile, is a large collection of amateur photography and winners of this year's juried International Photo Competition. You can also vote for the public prize.

It's possible to get through all of these in one long day, but your entry ticket lasts the duration of the festival. So gaze, as Tim Walker would advise, so long as your heart desires.

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



Art history in every shot: Nadine Tasseel



# Meeting of the minds and the voices

## A new documentary on Flanders' famous quirky chorus

LISA BRADSHAW

Entertainment seekers like odd pairings, particularly when it comes to the old and the new. Take the retro parties of Radio Modern, where young women – who wouldn't dream of wanting to be transported back to the era – slip on 1940s dance shoes, set their artificial curls with the appropriate pins and expertly dance to swing. Take Flemish band Absynthe Minded's song "Envoi", based on the 1985 poem by the late Flemish writer Hugo Claus, which has jumped to the top of the charts and become a veritable anthem for Flemish youth.

And don't forget about Young@Heart, the American chorus of over 60s who sing the ballads of Queen and The Rolling Stones when they're not collaborating with, say, Cambodian punk rockers. Audiences of all ages go wild, and documentary filmmakers have had a field day.

And yet the phenomenal success of Scala still fills Flanders with wonder. Not to mention the choir's founders: "After all these years," says Steven Kolacny, "I still get goosebumps from my own singers."

Brothers Steven and Stijn Kolacny were pianists from Aarschot, Flemish Brabant, who in 1996 decided they wanted to work with voices instead of only music "in their free time". They started with 18 girls, who sang traditional choir under the name Scala. They did extremely well in the niche genre, winning choral competitions across Europe and in both Japan and Canada.

But the 30-something brothers still ached for something different, something that would speak to

their own contemporaries and to those of the girls. They began making choral arrangements of rock and pop songs, but reached beyond Nirvana and U2 (though those are also in the repertoire) to more cult followings, like "God in My Bed" by Flemish rock duo K's Choice and "Muscle Museum" by British rock band Muse.

Listening to Scala is disconcerting. At first, all you hear is simple choral. Then suddenly you're aware of a lyric that is wholly incompatible with choral music. Eventually, you recognise you're hearing Radiohead's "Creep".

The first album, 2002's *Scala on the Rocks*, consisted of 40 young Flemish women – mostly teenagers – and one piano. They became an overnight sensation in the Belgian music scene, and rock and pop musicians came knocking on the door looking to collaborate.

The new documentary *Scala* by Flemish director Bert Ceulemans, which is playing now across Flanders, will fill you in on the rest of the history of Scala: from their following six albums with an expanded choral repertoire of rap, electronica and metal, to their growth to more than 200 members aged 16 to 26, to their taking of Manhattan and the public broadcasting special that will be aired across the United States in August.

The film culminates with footage from last year's Just



Stijn Kolacny conducts a 20-metre high Scala in Montreal

for Laughs festival in Montreal, where 25 Scala girls are perched on a five-storey podium, surrounded by 250 Canadian backing vocals, amid an explosion of fireworks. They won the prize for Best Performance. There's no end in site: the sounds of one era or one genre meeting another continues to be a startling,

delightful surprise. And, considering the state Belgium is in right now, it might also be somewhat comforting to find that such discordant creatures can come together so beautifully. ♦

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



### Airbag Festival

8-30 May  
Across Bruges

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

## Squeeze box Bruges

### The accordion, its cousins and the masters of them all come to the capital of West Flanders

ALAN HOPE

It's an abiding mystery why the accordion should be considered a comical instrument and yet be so widespread. Nobody laughs at violinists, despite their having found the world's most absurd position for playing a musical instrument.

Few instruments, other than perhaps the guitar, are so ubiquitous in traditional and popular music as the accordion, from *forró* in Brazil to *lezginka* in the Caucasus; from *trot* music in Korea to the Scottish stylings of Jimmy Shand.

So when they announce an accordion festival, it's a sure thing it's going to be eclectic, as confirmed by the programme for the Airbag festival in Bruges this month.

Of course, whenever accordion music is mentioned, we think of Astor Piazzolla, whose music helped make one of the most striking TV images of the decade, when the Dutch crown prince Willem-Alexander married Máxima Zorreguieta in 2002. Her father, a former member of the Argentine junta, was forbidden from attending, and when Carel Kraayenhof played "Adios Nonino" by Piazzolla, Máxima (and the rest of us) lost it and wept like an exile.

Tango composer Piazzolla, though, was an exponent of the bandoneon, a type of concertina, which is a relative of the accordion. His Argentine countryman Chango Spasiuk (Spiegel tent, 20 May) plays a piano accordion, brought to his native Misiones region by emigrants from Central and Eastern Europe. He's now considered one of the major exponents of the instrument, not only crossing genres from jazz to pop and back again, but also introducing the world to *chamamé*, a blend of rural folk and dance music.

Régis Gizavo (Spiegel tent, 17 May) is from Madagascar, but he plays with the Corsican group I Muvrini, has been a guest musician of Sting and recorded with Cesária Évora from Cap Verde. His influences are as international as his contacts, from Africa to Paris (his father played and taught French *musette* music).

The accordion was invented in the early 1800s, either in Berlin

or Bavaria, and, despite its international spread over the last two centuries, it's remained a Central European fixture ever since. That includes Lawrence Welk-type polkas and German oompahs but also the Klezmer music of the Jews of Mitteleuropa, as well as folk music from Austria and Hungary down into the Balkans.

Airbag kicks off on 8 May in Burg Square with a free concert by Gurzuf and the Karl Hlamkin Ogne Opanso Orchestra. Gurzuf is a city in the Crimea in Ukraine, but it's also the name of a group that couldn't be less traditional. Trying to list their influences and sources is like trying to guess the ingredients of a cake: it's no longer possible to separate them. But they include punk and New Wave, hip-hop and beat-boxing, a sort of Klaus Nomi operatic thing and much more, depending on which song you're listening to.

Karl Hlamkin is a drummer and TV actor from Riga whose music is made up of Balkan and Jewish melodies, Cuban and Jamaican rhythms, ska, punk, rumba and Klezmer. Nobody could put it better than one online fan site:

"Ogne Opanso Orchestra means dancing 'til one drops when all body hurts next day; klatches up to the stop with a hangover next morning; love until death with an illegible phone number on a crumpled napkin." No, I don't know what it means, either. But it sounds like something worth trying.

The festival also includes exhibitions and a workshop on the accordion, paintings by Oscar Haus, street concerts and an initiation into the mysteries of the tango with Quinteto El Boleo from – where else? – Buenos Aires.

The highlight? Probably the The Samurai Concert (Stadsschouwburg, 23 May) featuring six of Europe's top accordionists: Ricardo Tesi from Italy, Didier Laloy and Bruno Le Tron from Belgium, David Munnelly from Ireland, Markku Lepistö from Finland and Marc Perrone from France. They've been travelling on tour from the South of France, and they'll be heading north from Bruges. ♦



# A lesson in lambic

Highly prized in the world of beer, lambic is partially brewed in the open air – and only in Belgium

MELISSA MAKI

When most people think of Belgian beer, they usually imagine a golden-coloured and strong but also astonishingly drinkable ale. But open your palate, dear readers, and you will find that this small country has an extensive array of styles to sample beyond the blonde or tripel.

And sampling is the name of the game during a brewery tour. This week, we begin our four-part series of articles on brewery tours in Flanders with Cantillon and an old and underappreciated style: lambic.

Chances are, if you have had commercially available lambic, it was not of the traditional variety. By means of a 1993 Royal Proclamation, any beer can be labelled a "lambic" if it contains even a trace amount of lambic beer. Many larger breweries sweeten a lambic base with sugar, fruit juice or syrup – rather than the traditional way of using whole fruits – to make krik and framboise, a cherry and raspberry lambic respectively, which appeal to larger markets.

Cantillon eschews this practice of sweetening a beverage that is naturally sour. "Our beer is never manipulated to make a 'modern' beer," says Julie Van Roy.

"Forget everything you know about beer." That's the sound advice Van Roy gives at the beginning of Cantillon's self-guided brewery and Gueuze Museum tour. She's the great-granddaughter of Paul Cantillon, this family brewery's founder, and the sister of head brewer, Jean Van Roy, so she knows what she's talking about.

Cantillon has been a family business since its inception in 1900. Paul Cantillon passed the craft down to sons Marcel and Robert, and, in 1968, Marcel's son-in-law Jean-Pierre Van Roy (Julie and Jean's father) took over the reins.

Tradition is an obvious and integral part of Cantillon's operation. A walk through the brewery is a little bit like travelling back in time. Old photos and antique furniture decorate the tasting area, and tables are fashioned from old, wooden barrels.

Much of the brewery's equipment dates back to the 19th century. Copper figures prominently, from the massive hop boilers to the "cool ship" – a large, shallow vat used to cool the wort, a mixture that forms during the brewing process. This is unusual these days; modern breweries have shifted to stainless steel to keep costs down.

Ten years ago, Cantillon made a conscious decision to move away from ingredients grown with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, both out of respect for natural agricultural methods and a desire to use only the highest quality ingredients in their beer. They now use all organic wheat, barley and hops as well as some organic cherries.

## What is lambic?

Cantillon is the only lambic brewery in Brussels and one of only nine lambic breweries in Belgium – and in the world. Lambic is a very traditional style of beer that originates in the Zenne Valley (which includes Brussels) and Pajottenland, the picturesque rural area just west of Brussels. Authentic lambic gets its distinct character from specific micro-organisms that

are abundant in this particular region.

All beers are made with yeast, but most yeast is cultivated and carefully controlled by brewers in order to produce a very specific product. Lambic brewing, on the other hand, relies on the inoculation of wild yeast. In a critical stage of the brewing process, the wort (a liquid containing the sugars that will be converted by the yeast into alcohol) is cooled in the open air (rather than in a sterile, covered environment). This gives airborne bacteria and wild yeast access to the beer, which activates spontaneous fermentation.

Though European Union hygiene regulations frown upon this manner of brewing, it is currently protected. The Beersel-based Hoge Raad voor Ambachtelijke Lambikbieren (High Council for Artisanal Lambic Beers) is a group of brewers and blenders devoted to promoting and protecting the lambic tradition.

Prior to yeast cultivation, all brewing – dating all the way back to ancient Egypt – relied on this method of spontaneous fermentation. But now it's restricted almost exclusively to Belgium. Most brewers are wary of wild yeast because, once introduced to the brewing environment, it could forever change the beer produced there.

Lambic is a still, sour beverage that is more comparable to wine than beer due to its dryness and complexity. Cantillon ages their lambic for three years in oak wine barrels. During much of this time, fermentation is still occurring.

*Oud* (old) and *jong* (young) lambic are combined to make gueuze, a sparkling beverage that is sometimes referred to as the "Champagne of Belgium". To make gueuze, old beer with a distinct character is blended with young beer that has enough sugar to trigger further fermentation in the bottle.

Blending lambic requires an experienced palate; some even view it as an art form. Gueuze can be cellared like wine and *oude gueuze* is highly prized by aficionados.

I won't lie; the first time I tasted an *oude gueuze*, years ago, I recoiled and never put it to my lips again. But a recent weekend of tasting tours with a lambic connoisseur brought me around a bit. Although I can't begin to match his enthusiasm for the style, I definitely gained an appreciation for it, as well as the brewers and the fervent fans keeping this unique beer alive. ♦



Head brewer Jean Van Roy checks the quality of the lambic, a beer that nearly died out a decade ago

## Finding lambic

It is rare to find lambic on tap, but you can find some specialised places in Brussels and Pajottenland that do it. The capital's **Chez Moeder Lambic** is a destination for beer connoisseurs in general, with over 300 bottled beers to choose from. But, as the name implies, lambic lovers specifically might like to show up to see what's on the rotating tap (usually one of Cantillon's brews). *Savoiestraat 68, Brussels*

**De Rare Vos** is a charming, traditional restaurant in the Pajottenland that serves up delicious, beery fare like rabbit cooked in gueuze and *stoofvlees* made with krik. Try their homemade house beer, Girardin Rare Vos. *22 Markplein, Schepdaal*



## Tour Cantillon

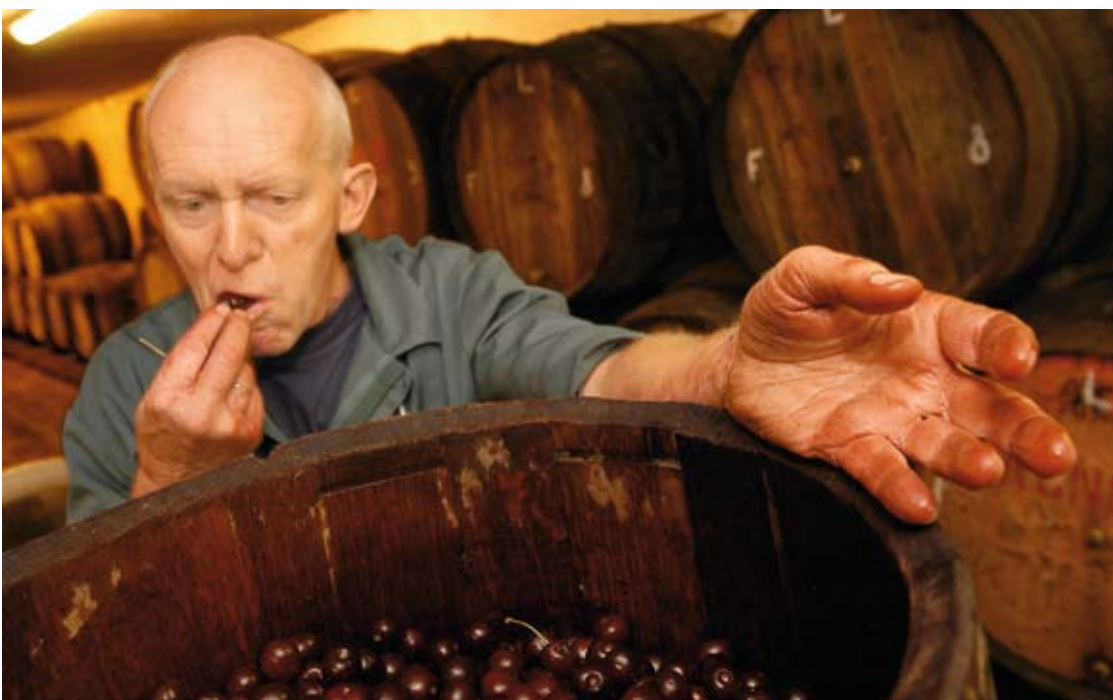
You can take a self-guided tour of Cantillon and the gueuze museum any day of the week except Sundays for only €5, which includes two samples of beer. Guided group tours can also be arranged.

The brewing period lasts from April to October. I recommend calling ahead to find out their brewing schedule. It is particularly valuable to see the brewing process, and, if you're lucky, you'll get to chat with the brewer and maybe even sample some warm wort (think of it as nobly immersing yourself in Flemish culture). Cantillon also hosts special tasting events and two open brewery days with guided tours each year.

You can download a PDF map from the Cantillon website of a historical walking route that takes you all the way from Brussels' Grote Markt to the brewery in Anderlecht.

**Cantillon**  
Gheudestraat 56  
Brussels

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



Jean-Pierre Van Roy, father of Jean and Julie, tastes the produce before the brewing process even begins



# The Sikhs of Sint-Truiden

A Limburg town is tackling the issues of multi-culturalism head on by bringing its secondary school students face-to-face with cultures who call the region home

DENZIL WALTON

It was 1972 when the first Sikhs arrived in Flanders. All male political refugees, they had been expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin. Many more arrived in 1984, fleeing India after the bloody June massacre of scores of followers of Sikhism by Indian troops at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The storming of the Golden Temple followed weeks of growing tension between the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Sikhs in Punjab, who believed they were being discriminated against by the Hindu majority. A consequence of the massacre was the assassination of Gandhi herself later the same year by two Sikh bodyguards. Anti-Sikh riots followed, leading to their emigration in large numbers.

Apart from a few exceptions, the Sikhs arriving in Flanders were mainly poorly educated labourers. Accustomed to working in the fields, they soon found employment in the agriculture sector, particularly in Limburg where they worked on the many fruit farms in the Haspengouw region.

Some showed more of a commercial aptitude, and their night shops and DVD rental outlets were readily patronised by the locals. It wasn't long before the Sikh men brought families over from the Punjab region and established what are now thriving Sikh communities.

There are currently about 8,000 Sikhs in Flanders, with a particular concentration in the Limburg town of Sint-Truiden. In 1993 in Halmaal, on the outskirts of Sint-Truiden, a former farmhouse was converted into a Sikh temple: Gurdwara Sangat Sahib.

The Gurdwara (a Punjabi word meaning house of worship) is the focal point for the large Sikh community in Sint-Truiden, which swells to over 1,000 during the fruit-picking season. Here they come together to pray, read from the holy book (the *Goeroe Granth Sahib*), celebrate births and weddings and enjoy a communal meal every Sunday.

In the Gurdwara in Halmaal, thick carpets cover the floor; the roof and walls are decorated with orange and red garlands; and the *Goeroe Granth Sahib* is given a prominent position on a raised platform

covered by an ornately decorated canopy. People of all – or no – religious faith are welcome in Gurdwara Sangat Sahib. Before entering, visitors must remove their shoes and socks and cover their head with one of the orange scarves provided at the door.

## Teaching tolerance

Of course, it hasn't always been easy. Soon after the Gurdwara was established in Halmaal, Sikh agricultural workers reported being repeatedly harassed and intimidated. A house where 10 Sikhs lived was damaged by a fire-bomb, and a Sikh was shot in the arm.

In recent years, efforts have been made from both the Sikh community and local government towards greater integration and understanding. Louke Bamps regularly puts this into practice. A former council worker involved in helping political refugees, she has come to know and love the Sikh community and to follow their lifestyle and beliefs to some degree. She is also a fount of knowledge on Sikhism and regularly gives guided tours around Gurdwara Sangat Sahib, including an introduction to Sikhism.

"The Sikhs in Limburg are very peaceful, tolerant and respectful," says Bamps. "Many of them have become proficient in Dutch, and a lot of Sikh families have had children in recent years, who are becoming well integrated in the schools. What's more, Sikhs make an important contribution to the economy of Limburg, thanks to their willingness to work hard on farms and in factories and in the shops they have established."

Bamps is involved with Hapje Sint-Truiden, a brand-new project focusing on diversity and tolerance aimed at students in the first year of secondary schools. It's a joint initiative between Djapo, an NGO that strives to encourage world citizenship and sustainable development in the classroom, and the Integration Department of Sint-Truiden.

"It's an important and very useful initiative," says Sint-Truiden mayor Ludwig Vandenhove. "Its objective is to give pupils between 12 and 13 a taste of



Louke Bamps explains Sikhism to Flemish school kids at the Gurdwara Sangat Sahib in Halmaal

other cultures in Sint-Truiden. Children from various local schools will be spending significant time with four of our local communities: Moroccans, Nepalese, Sikhs and Ahmadiyya Muslims from Pakistan."

## In the temple of the Sikh

Last month, it was the turn of 20 children from the Zonnegroen School in Zoutleeuw (plus one reporter) to visit the Gurdwara Sangat Sahib in Halmaal. Once the students had overcome their initial embarrassment of having to remove their shoes and wear scarves, it was a great success.

Food, of course, is always a good way to break down those cultural barriers. We were all warmly welcomed with masala chai (a sweet, spiced milk-based tea) and pakoras (vegetables like onion, cauliflower and potato, fried in a flour batter). The children then sat surprisingly quietly in the temple and listened to Bamps give an overview of Sikhism. This was followed by a group of Sikhs playing traditional Indian instruments and singing songs in Punjabi. Then it was time for lunch, and we all sat cross-legged on carpets to enjoy a typical Punjabi meal. There were a few anxious

faces when the first exotic-looking ladles of dahl (thick lentil stew) and sabzi (vegetables with homemade cheese) were served. However, once it was realised that the food was not too spicy, the rice marvellously scented and the raita (yogurt and mint) very tasty, appetites returned and many of the children were happy to accept second helpings (particularly of the pancake-like chapattis).

The mayor also popped in to see how the event was going. He answered the children's questions and emphasized the need for integration and tolerance among the different communities in Sint-Truiden: "I am very pleased to see the project progressing successfully. It shows that it is worth taking the effort to understand different cultures and faiths. And sharing a meal is one of the best ways to break down barriers and prejudices. With this project, Sint-Truiden is taking an important lead in the area of multi-cultural integration in Flanders."♦

## Sikhism in a nutshell

- Founded by Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1538) after receiving a vision to preach the way to enlightenment and God
- The goal of every Sikh is to build a close, loving relationship with God – a single, formless God with many names, who can be known through meditation
- Belief centres around *samsara* (the repetitive cycle of birth, life and death), karma (the accumulated sum of one's good and bad deeds) and reincarnation
- Sikhism rejects the caste system of the Hindu religion. Everyone has equal status in the eyes of God
- Sikh males share the name "Singh" (lion), and Sikh women "Kaur" (princess)
- The Five Ks are clothing practices followed by strict Sikhs:
  - Kesa – long hair, which is never cut
  - Kangah – comb
  - Kacha – short pants
  - Kara – a metal bracelet
  - Kirpan – a ceremonial dagger



Food, always a good ice breaker

Flanders is becoming increasingly multi-cultural, so *Flanders Today* is setting out to discover some of the more out-of-the-way cultures in the region in a four-part series. Check the first issue of every month



Sikh musicians at the Gurdwara Sangat Sahib in the Sint-Truiden suburb of Halmaal



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# Muur

JACQUELINE FLETCHER

On a wasteland dotted with derelict buildings, four children run towards a huge, circular structure gleaming in the sunlight. Startled crows flap upwards from the long grass, and, in the distance, 21st-century cars pass over a rusty 19th-century bridge. We hear the children on headphones as they shout eagerly to one another, and music adds to the ambiguous sensation of being an eavesdropper. This is *Muur*, an open-air performance piece by the young Flemish director Inne Goris, which premieres as part of the kunstfestival des arts in Brussels.

Goris is remarkably versatile, for the last decade devising excitingly innovative work with children, amateurs, dancers and actors. She has been likened to a sculptor in the way she creates strong visual and atmospheric imagery. She prefers to adapt her staging for each new production, establishing unique relationships with her audiences.

"I'm always intrigued by what happens to people when you put them in a special situation," she says. This pertains to her audiences as well as her characters, and she is present at every performance hoping that people will approach her to discuss the work.

Myths and fairytales are a source of inspiration, and Goris is searching for "what has been left unsaid,

the crack in the fabric that allows for a personal connection". Speaking of her previous work *Zeven*, she says: "When I was researching Snow White, it struck me that she must be terribly lonely. Otherwise, why would a young woman go off with seven strange men in a wood? This isolation is something with which we can easily identify." Trusting in intuition, she turns to the work of female artists when she is "stuck". French artist Louise Bourgeois is one of her most cherished sources.

Goris tackles conflict unflinchingly. Having explored the story of Judas and directed two variations on the Medea myth, one of them with children, her work often has been dubbed "dark" and at the same time magical. She investigates aspects of human behaviour that confound explanation and yet trusts that we can always find the strength to evade patterns of negative behaviour. In dealing with violence, she explores "that very fine boundary between victim and perpetrator, often in family contexts. I'll never be able to understand how Medea could murder her children, but I can ask the question 'what does she want from this man?' And I can look at how this type of conflict is passed on to future generations."

*Muur* deals with our need to organise chaos by making up stories, to understand our past by creating

mythologies and to invest our future with hope through utopian visions. "The wall," she explains, "has no story of its own to tell. It's a sounding-board for a multitude of stories brought to it by pilgrims from across the globe, with their own needs and desires. It is a receptacle."

The audience witnesses the action as visitors to the wall – free to walk around it and touch it, listen in on conversations, make up our own stories. "I work associatively," Goris says. "The work stimulates the imagination through personal associations. The most beautiful thing that could happen would be if the audience were to stay behind and talk about their own visions."♦



**13-16, 18-19 May**

**Tour & Taxis site  
Entry 16, Havenlaan 86c  
Brussels**

→ [www.kfda.be](http://www.kfda.be)



## Antwerp

**Arenbergschouwburg**  
Arenbergstraat 28; 070.222.192  
[www.arenbergschouwburg.be](http://www.arenbergschouwburg.be)  
**MAY 6** 20.15 Candi Staton  
**MAY 8** 21.00 Fouradi

## De Roma

Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40  
[www.deroma.be](http://www.deroma.be)  
**MAY 5** 20.30 Konono N°1  
**MAY 6** 20.30 The Original Elvis Tribute 2010  
**MAY 12** 20.30 15 years The Seatsniffers

## Petrol

Herbouvillekaai 21; 03.226.49.63  
[www.petrolclub.be](http://www.petrolclub.be)  
**MAY 7** 00.00 Digitalism  
**MAY 8** 21.00 De Mens + Ete 67

## Rataplan

Wijnegemstraat 27; 03.292.97.40  
[www.rataplanvzw.be](http://www.rataplanvzw.be)  
**MAY 7** 20.30 Patrick Riguelle

## Sportpaleis

Schijnpoortweg 119; 070.345.345  
[www.sportpaleis.be](http://www.sportpaleis.be)  
**MAY 5** 20.30 Mika

## Trix

Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00  
[www.trixonline.be](http://www.trixonline.be)  
**MAY 5** 20.00 Third Eye Blind **MAY 6** 20.00 Peter Pan Speedrock **MAY 8** 22.30 Untitled! with N-Type + Kromestar + Starkey + Trolley Snatcha + more **MAY 9** 16.00 Bolt Thrower + Rotting Christ + Dew Scented. 17.00 The Bones + Street Dogs + Reno Divorce + Left Alone **MAY 10** 20.00 Lightning Dust + Thee Oh Sees + Bachelorette **MAY 11** 20.00 Bear in Heaven

## Ardoois

**Cultuurkapel De Schaduw**  
Wezestraat 32; 0479.80.94.82  
[www.deschaduwnet](http://www.deschaduwnet)  
**MAY 7** 20.30 Isbells + Roselien

## Brussels

**Ancienne Belgique**  
Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24  
[www.abconcerts.be](http://www.abconcerts.be)  
**MAY 7** William Souffreau  
**MAY 10** Natalie Merchant  
**MAY 12** Ólafur Arnalds + Wovenhand

## B'zou

Wandelingstraat 13; 02.346.04.07  
[www.aubizou.be](http://www.aubizou.be)  
**MAY 8** 20.15 The Funny Boys

## Fuse

Blaesstraat 208; 02.511.97.89 [www.fuse.be](http://www.fuse.be)  
**MAY 8** 23.00 Curle label night: Stewart Walker live, Franklin de Costa, Fader, more

## Koninklijk Circus

Onderrichtsstraat 81; 02.218.20.15  
[www.cirque-royal.org](http://www.cirque-royal.org)  
Concerts at 20.00 (part of Les Nuits Botanique):  
**MAY 7** Ludovico Einaudi + Ballake Sissoko & Vincent Segal **MAY 9** Mickey Green + Emmanuelle Seigner + Revolver **MAY 10** Joli Coeur + Hole **MAY 11** Gaëtan Roussel + Arnaud Fleurent-Didier + Samir Barris **MAY 12** Gill Scott-Heron

## Le Botanique

Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32  
[www.botanique.be](http://www.botanique.be)  
Concerts at 20.00 (part of Les Nuits Botanique):  
**MAY 7** Peggy Sue + Tanlines + Shameboy, more **MAY 8** Trans Am + My Little Cheap Dictaphone + The Tragic Tale of a Genius, more **MAY 9** Jean-Louis Murat + Ellie Goulding + Le Peuple de l'Herbe, more **MAY 11** Eté 67 + The Tellers + Dez Mona, more **MAY 12** Dum Dum Girls + A Sunny Day in Glasgow + Deerhunter, more

## Magasin 4

Havenlaan 51B; 02.223.34.74  
[www.magasin4.be](http://www.magasin4.be)  
**MAY 6** 20.00 Headcharger + Driving Dead Girl  
**MAY 7** 20.00 Despo Rutti (DRC) + Guillotine Records

## Nova Cinema foyer

Arenbergstraat 3; [www.nova-cinema.org](http://www.nova-cinema.org)

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

## Jeff Beck

**12 October, 20.00**

**Ancienne Belgique  
Brussels**

The guitar and Jeff Beck go together like Belgium and beer. Having followed up Eric Clapton as part of the legendary Brit beat band The Yardbirds, Beck's reputation for feedback and distortion was sealed, and he put out two solo albums in the 1970s before going on to work with Stevie Wonder, ZZ Top, Rod Stewart, Morrissey and Joss Stone, just to name a few. He appears here front and centre, flanked by three hand-picked musicians and probably about 10 guitars. Don't miss it.



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

**MAY 7** 22.00 Eugène Chadbourne

## Recyclart

Ursulinenstraat 25; 02.502.57.34  
[www.recyclart.be](http://www.recyclart.be)  
**MAY 7** 22.00 Sickboy + Celtric + Live Tattoo, more (free)  
**MAY 12** 21.00 Zun Zun Egui + Gurfuf + Les Hoquets

## Viage

Anspachlaan 30; 070.44.34.43  
[www.viage.be](http://www.viage.be)  
**MAY 7** 20.30 Clouseau

## Vorst-Nationaal

Victor Rousseaulaan 208; 0900.00.991  
[www.forestnational.be](http://www.forestnational.be)  
**MAY 6** 20.00 Vasco Rossi  
**MAY 9** 18.00 Garou  
**MAY 11** 20.30 Pascal Obispo

## Ghent

### Vooruit

St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060  
[www.vooruit.be](http://www.vooruit.be)  
**MAY 7** 20.00 The Decap Machine featuring Mascotte, mechanic organ beat  
**MAY 10** 20.00 Bedroom Community  
**MAY 12** 22.00 Scout Niblett

## Hasselt

### Muziekodroom

Bootstraat 9; 011.23.13.13  
[www.muziekodroom.be](http://www.muziekodroom.be)  
**MAY 7** 20.00 Free Fresh Limburgers

## Kortrijk

### De Kreun

Conservatoriumplein 1; 056.37.06.44  
[www.dekreun.be](http://www.dekreun.be)  
**MAY 9** 17.00 Arte Libre Deluxe with Isbells & Silver Junkie

Kulak (KU Leuven Campus Kortrijk)

Etienne Sabbelaan 53; <http://student.kuleuven-kortrijk.be>  
**MAY 6** 20.00 Cantinia Cubana, feat Yevgueni, School is Cool, Lovely Gazbaby and DJ Buscemi

## Leuven

### Het Depot

Martelarenplein 12; 016.22.06.03  
[www.hetdepot.be](http://www.hetdepot.be)  
Concerts at 20.00:  
**MAY 6** De Kreuners **MAY 7** Peter Pan Speedrock **MAY 8** Ed Kowalczyk **MAY 12** Flip Kowlier

## MORE PERFORMANCE THIS WEEK

**Het Toneelhuis, In de strafkolonie** → *Bourla, Antwerp* →

**Troubleyn, De keizer van het verlies** → *Vooruit, Ghent*

**De Toneelmakerij, Een konijn van porselein** → *Cultuurcentrum Hasselt*





## Antwerp

### Buster

Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53  
www.busterpodium.be  
**MAY 5** 21.00 Playtime Session - Halewynstichting **MAY 6** 21.00 SingersNight **MAY 7** 22.00 Jazz meets Tango **MAY 8** 20.00 Een Kick van Cole **MAY 11** 21.30 Nordic Quintet **MAY 12** 21.00 Julien Fraipont Trio

### De Hopper

Leopold De Waelstraat 2; 03.248.49.33  
www.cafehopper.be  
**MAY 9** 16.00 Blue Bounce 5  
**MAY 10** 21.00 Marjan Van Rompay Quartet

### Rataplan

Wijnegemstraat 27; 03.292.97.40  
www.rataplanvzw.be  
**MAY 8** 20.30 Hijaz

### Zuiderpershuis

Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00  
www.zuiderpershuis.be  
**MAY 12** 20.30 Rawfishboys + Os Meus Shorts

## Bruges

### De Werf

Werfstraat 108 ; 050.33.05.29  
www.dewerf.be  
**MAY 7** 20.30 Hijaz

## Brussels

### Ancienne Belgique

Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24  
www.abconcerts.be  
**MAY 12** 20.00 Robin Verheyen

### Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**MAY 9** 11.00 Pascal Schumacher, vibraphone; Jef Neve, piano

### Jazz Station

Leuvensesteenweg 193; 02.733.13.78  
www.jazzstation.be  
**MAY 6** 20.30 Jazz Station Big Band **MAY 8** 18.00 Alain Cupper 4tet **MAY 9** 15.00 Family jazz: Marius aime Le Swing. 20.00 André Geraissati, guitar **MAY 12** 20.30 Vegetal Beauty & Guest

### Sounds Jazz Club

Tulpenstraat 28; 02.512.92.50  
www.soundsjazzclub.be  
Concerts at 22.00:  
**MAY 5** Los Soneros del Barrio (Caribbean)  
**MAY 6** Julien Tassin Trio (tribute to Jimi

Hendrix) **MAY 7** Sumelius Quartet **MAY 8** 21.00 Brussels Rhythmin Blues Club: The Witness **MAY 10** Master Session **MAY 11** Laurent Doumont Soul Tuesdays **MAY 12** Chamaquiando, salsa

## The Music Village

Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45  
www.themusicvillage.com  
Concerts at 21.00:  
**MAY 5** Zola Quartet **MAY 7** Alexandre Furnelle Quartet **MAY 8** The Jeggpap Jazz Band **MAY 10** Royal Music Conservatory Jazz Section **MAY 11** The Music Follies Nights **MAY 12** Mr Pringle's & The Bouyaka Horns

## Ghent

### Vooruit

St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060  
www.vooruit.be  
**MAY 5** 20.00 Tom Wouters' Flick-Flack-Bat + Elephant9  
**MAY 6** 20.00 Carla Bley & The Lost Chords  
**MAY 11** 20.00 Little Women + Chaos of the Haunted Spire



## Antwerp

### Zuiderpershuis

Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00  
www.zuiderpershuis.be  
**MAY 6** 20.30 Officina Zoe (Italy)  
**MAY 7** 20.30 Iran: Masters of Improvisation

## Brussels

### Art Base

Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20  
www.art-base.be  
**MAY 7** 20.00 Vinylio (Greece)

### Atelier 210

Sint-Pieterssteenweg 210; 02.732.25.98  
www.atelier210.be  
**MAY 5-7** 21.00 What the Folk!: Sinus Georges + Emmanuel  
**MAY 6** 20.30 Automatique Deluxe + Matt Bioul

### Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**MAY 10** 20.00 George Dalaras (Greece)

### Théâtre Molière

Bastionsquare 3; 02.217.26.00  
www.muziekpublieke.be  
**MAY 5** 12.30 Rawfishboys (Belgium/France) meets Shahram Mirjalali & Dadmehr (Iran)  
**MAY 7** 20.00 Nervin (Turkey/Belgium) with Özlem Taner, Ertan Tekin, more



## Antwerp

### deSingel

Desguinlei 25; 03.248.28.28  
www.desingel.be  
Concerts at 20.00:  
**MAY 5** Elias String Quartet, feat Jonathan Biss, piano: Mozart, Britten, Brahms  
**MAY 7** Nelson Freire, piano: Schumann, Chopin **MAY 8** Takacs Quartet: Beethoven string quartets **MAY 12** Budapest Festival Orchestra and Collegium Vocale Gent conducted by Iván Fischer: Bartók, Arvo Pärt, Mozart

### Sint-Norbertuskerk

Dageraadplaats; www.polyfoon.be  
**MAY 8** 20.30 Ensemble Polyfoon in 'The Ultimate Mass, conducted by Lieven Deroo: John Taverner (1490), John Taverner (1944)

## Bruges

### Concertgebouw

't Zand 34; 070.22.33.02  
www.concertgebouw.be  
**MAY 9** 15.00 Chimoe d'Oro baroque ensemble: Monteverdi, Frescobaldi, Barbara Strozzi, more

## Brussels

### Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**MAY 6** 12.30 Chamber Music Ensemble of the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth: Beethoven, Shostakovich. 20.00 Symphony Orchestra of Flanders conducted by Etienne Siebens: Gershwin, Barber, Bernstein, more  
**MAY 7-9** 15.00/20.00 Belgian National Orchestra conducted by Roberto Minczuk: Luc Van Hove, Barber, Tchaikovsky

### De Munt

Muntplein; 070.23.39.39 www.demunt.be  
**MAY 11** 20.00 Matthias Goerne, baritone; Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano: Schubert's Die Schöne Müllerin

### Sint-Marcuskerk

de Frélaan 72; 02.331.37.14 or www.32sonates.be  
**MAY 7** 20.30 OpéraBulles vocal ensemble conducted by Cyrille Serio: Verdi, Schubert, Mozart, more

### St Michael and St Gudula Cathedral

Sinter-Goedeleplein; 02.507.82.00  
**MAY 6** 20.30 Dominique Preschez, organ: Beethoven, Mozart

## Ghent

### De Bijloke

Jozef Kluydensstraat 2 09.233.68.78  
www.debijloke.be

**MAY 7** 20.00 Graindelavoix conducted by Björn Schmelzer: Le Carnet de Villard de Honnecourt, 13th-century vocal music  
**MAY 8** 20.00 Symphony Orchestra of Flanders conducted by Etienne Siebens: Adams, Gershwin, Ives, more  
**MAY 9** 11.00 Nicolas Achten Ex Tempore ensemble conducted by Florian Heyerick, Operastudio Vlaanderen: cantatas by Christoph Graupner

## Leuven

### 30CC – Predikherenkerk

Onze Lieve Vrouwstraat; 016.23.84.27  
www.30cc.be  
**MAY 7** 20.00 Zefiro Torna: music from Renaissance Venice



## Antwerp

### Vlaamse Opera

Frankrijklei 1; 070.22.02.02  
www.vlaamseopera.be  
**MAY 12-20** 15.00/20.30 Giasone by Francesco Cavalli, staged by Mariame Clément and conducted by Federico Maria Sardelli (in the original Italian with Dutch surtitles). Opera Lunch with Tenor Filippos Adami and the Scorpio Collective on 6 MAY

## Brussels

### De Munt

Muntplein; 070.23.39.39 www.demunt.be  
**MAY 4-19** 15.00/20.00 Don Quichotte by Jules Massenet, conducted by Marc Minkowski/Nicholas Jenkins, staged by Laurent Pelly (in the original French with Dutch and French surtitles)

## Ghent

### Vlaamse Opera

Schouwburgstraat 3; 070.22.02.02  
www.vlaamseopera.be  
**Until MAY 6** 19.30 Giasone by Francesco Cavalli conducted by Federico Maria Sardelli, staged by Mariame Clément (in the original Italian with Dutch surtitles). Opera Lunch with Tenor Filippos Adami and the Scorpio Collective on 7 MAY



## Antwerp

### deSingel

Desguinlei 25; 03.248.27.28  
www.desingel.be  
**MAY 6-8** 14.00/20.00 Royal Ballet of Flanders in Artifact, choreographed by William Forsythe

## Brussels

### Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**MAY 5** 20.00 Spanish flamenco dancer Maria Pagés in Autorretrato (Self Portrait), choreographed by Pagés



## Antwerp

### Arenbergschouwburg

Arenbergstraat 28; 070.222.192  
www.arenbergschouwburg.be  
**MAY 7** 20.30 Academie Borgerhout in De meisjeskamer (The Girls' Room) by Geertui Daem, directed by Ludo Ghooos (in Dutch)  
**MAY 8** 20.15 ManManMan in Aap (Ape), cabaret (in Dutch)

### De Roma

Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40  
www.deroma.be  
**MAY 7-8** 20.30 De Nieuwe Snaar: Foor 11, music theatre

## DON'T MISS



© LB courtesy of the artist

## Angel Vergara

Until 19 June

Argos Centre, Brussels

Posters appearing around Brussels reading "Monday: Firework; Tuesday: Illuminations; Wednesday: Revolution" lead back to a show at Argos. The cryptic slogan dates from the Belgian revolution of 1830, and Brussels-based Spanish artist Angel Vergara uses it to begin an anarchic exploration of the national identity. Fragments of painting, text and TV are combined in seven video screens, each with a painter's hand hovering over the images, highlighting and obscuring detail with dabs of paint on the screen itself.

[www.argosarts.org](http://www.argosarts.org)

## Fakkelteater

Hoogstraat 12; 03.232.14.69  
www.fakkelteater.be  
**Until MAY 30** 15.00/20.30 Ensemble cast in Venetië in de sneeuw (Venice in the Snow), directed by Jan Verbist (in Dutch)

## Zuiderpershuis

Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00  
www.zuiderpershuis.be  
**MAY 5** 20.30 Union Suspecte in 25 Minutes To Go, directed by Ruud Gielens (without dialogue)

## Ghent

### Capitole Gent

Graaf Van Vlaanderenplein 5; 0900.69.900  
www.capitolegent.be  
**MAY 5** De Nieuwe Snaar: Foor 11, cabaret (in Dutch)  
**MAY 6** Gunter Lamoot: Softie, one-man show (in Dutch)  
**MAY 7** Freddy de Vadder: Freddy gaat naar de bakker, one-man show (in Dutch)  
**MAY 8** Kommil Foo, cabaret (in Dutch)

## Lakenmetershuis

Vrijdagmarkt 24-25; 0488.374.322  
www.klupartistik.be  
**MAY 7-8**, 14-15 Quartier Cartier presents the stories of neighbourhood residents in an improvisational production

## Vooruit

St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060 w  
www.vooruit.be  
**MAY 8-12** 20.00 Vlaamse Opera presents The Rage of Life, music theatre for young people composed by Elena Kats-Chernin, written and staged by Igor Bauersima (in English with Dutch surtitles)



## Antwerp

Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)



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Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60  
www.muhka.be  
**Until SEP 19** Art kept me out of jail, performance installations by Jan Fabre

**Fashion Museum (MoMu)**  
Nationalestraat 28; 03.470.27.70  
www.momu.be  
**Until AUG 8** BLACK: Masters of Black in Fashion & Costume

**FotoMuseum**  
Waalse Kaai 47; 03.242.93.00,  
www.fotomuseum.be  
**Until MAY 16** Congo (belge), photographs of contemporary Democratic Republic of Congo by Flemish photographer Carl De Keyzer  
**Until MAY 16** Congo belge en images, historical photographs of the Belgian Congo, curated by Magnum photographer Carl De Keyzer  
**Until MAY 16** Bamako Encounters 2009, works by young African photographers

**Royal Museum of Fine Arts**  
Leopold De Waelplaats; 03.238.78.09  
www.kmska.be  
**Until OCT 3** Closing Time, paintings by Flemish artist Jan Vanriet alongside related pieces from the museum's collection

**Sterckshof Silver Museum**  
Hoofvonderlei 160; 03.360.52.52  
www.zilvermuseum.be  
**Until MAY 16** Designed 4 You, work by jewellery design students from Antwerp's Sint-Godelieve, created under the mentorship of well-known Flemish designers, such as Nico Taeymans and Robb Zilla  
**Until JUNE 13** Delheid 1828-1980: From Michel to Climax, historical documents, photographs, tableware, sculpture and other objects from the Brussels-based silver manufacturer Delheid Frères

**Bruges**  
**Hospitaalmuseum**  
Mariastraat 38; 050.44.87.11

WEEK  
IN FILM  
LISA BRADSHAW

## EuroCine

9 May  
UGC Cinemas, Brussels



Quick, how many countries in the EU? Every year I am reminded of the figure by EuroCine, a festival that shows one film from each member state over one day. But wait! There are only 24 hours in a day! you say knowingly. Well, films are shown simultaneously in five time slots in both Brussels' UGC cinemas. So you have to choose your five. If you are like me, you'll obsessively research all 27 and carefully make a colour-coded Excel sheet of your choices, which would include Bulgaria's *The World is Big and Salvation Lurks Around the Corner*, where a young man's memory loss leads to retracing not only his past but that of his people, and Belgium's *Liar*, where a young man's lies lead him into more and more trouble. If you are, on the other hand, a free spirit, you'll throw a dart at a map of Europe and let fate be your guide.

→ [www.eurocine27.eu](http://www.eurocine27.eu)

www.museabrugge.be  
**Until NOV 7** Ivory in Bruges, rare pieces from museums, churches and monasteries

**Brussels**  
**Argos Centre for Art and Media**  
Werfstraat 13; 02.229.00.03  
www.argosarts.org  
**Until JUNE 19** Andrea Geyer: Spiral Lands, photos and documents examining the complex history of North America and the identity of its people  
**Until JUNE 19** Angel Vergara: Monday: Fireworks; Tuesday: Illuminations; Wednesday: Revolution, the early days of the Belgian monarchy and its cultural, social-political and economic context. Mixed media works by the Brussels-based Spanish artist  
**Until JUNE 19** Alexander Kluge: Poetics in Between Media, video art by the German film director

**Bozar**  
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00  
www.bozar.be  
**Until JUNE 20** Laurent Ney: Shaping Forces, first monographic exhibition by the Belgian architect-engineer  
**Until JUNE 20** Junctions: Arno Roncada, work by the Belgian artist paired with selections from Antwerp's FotoMuseum  
**Until JUNE 20** El Ángel Exterminador, major show of contemporary Spanish artists exploring the ambivalence between exterior and interior, on the occasion of the EU Spanish presidency (part of El Ángel Exterminador Festival)

**De Markten**  
Oude Graanmarkt 5; 02.512.34.25  
www.demarkten.be  
**Until MAY 25** For Your Eyes Only, group show of international women painters

**Jewish Museum of Belgium**  
Minimenstraat 21; 02.512.19.63  
www.new.mjb-jmb.org  
**Until MAY 30** Charles Szymkowitz: Schilder in het bloed (Painter in Blood), paintings by the contemporary Belgian artist

**Royal Museums of Fine Arts**  
Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11  
www.fine-arts-museum.be  
**Until MAY 30** Marc Mendelson, paintings, drawings and other work by the multi-media British-Belgian artist  
**Until JUNE 27** Symbolism in Belgium, the evolution of Symbolism from its origins in the romantic painting of the end of the 19th century, featuring Fernand Knopff, Félicien Rops and Jean Delville, among others

**WIELS**  
Van Volxemlaan 354; 02.340.00.50  
www.wiels.org  
**MAY 8-JUNE 6** Do/Redo/Undo, survey of 50 years of performance art in video

**Deurle**  
**Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens**  
Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23  
www.museumdd.be  
**Until JUNE 20** Sophie von Hellermann & Josh Smith, paintings  
**Until JUNE 20** Emo Verkerk, paintings

**Gaasbeek**  
**Gaasbeek Castle**  
Kasteelstraat 40; 02.531.01.30  
www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be  
**Until JUNE 1** Studio Job presents Alter Ego, sculptures inspired by icons from Northern European (art) history

**Ghent**  
**Design Museum**  
Jan Breydelstraat 5; 09.267.99.99  
www.designmuseumgent.be  
**Until JUNE 6** Richard Hutten, furniture, interiors and objects by the Dutch designer  
**Until JUNE 6** The Scandinavian Touch in Belgian Furniture 1951-1966

**Museum of Fine Arts**  
Fernand Scribedreef 1 – Citadelpark; 09.240.07.00 www.mskgent.be  
**Until JUNE 27** Gustave Van de Woestyne, a retrospective of the 20th-century Flemish painter  
**Until JUNE 27** Jean Delvin, paintings by the former director of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts

**Museum of Modern Art (SMAK)**  
Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03 www.smak.be  
**Until MAY 16** Loek Grootjans: Leaving

Traces, installations by the Dutch artist  
**Until MAY 16** Koen van den Broek: Curbs & Cracks, paintings by the Flemish artist  
**Until MAY 16** Collection FAKE?, interpretations of reality  
**Until JUNE 16** Ed Templeton: the Cemetery of Reason, photographs, paintings and sculpture by the American artist

**Grimbergen**  
**CC Strombeek**  
Gemeenteplein; 02.263.03.43  
www.ccstrombeek.be  
**Until MAY 10** 10.00-22.00 Feel Home, art and design project curated by Design September director Marie Pok

**Kortrijk**  
**Museum Kortrijk 1302**  
Houtmarkt-Begijnpark; 056.27.78.50  
www.kortrijk1302.be  
**Until MAY 16** Miniaturen: Gras dat verder groeit (Thumbnails: Grass That Continues to Grow), group show with works based on texts by Flemish writer Jozef Deleu

**Leuven**  
**Museum M**  
Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28; 016.27.29.29  
www.mleuven.be  
**Until MAY 9** Wellness for Art, insight into the decay, recovery and conservation of several works from the M collection

**Ostend**  
**Kunstmuseum aan zee (Mu.zee)**  
Romestraat 11; 059.50.81.18,  
www.pmmk.be  
**Until AUG 29** Bij Ensor op Bezoek (Visiting Ensor), the world of master Flemish painter James Ensor seen through the eyes of a variety of artists, writers and filmmakers who visited him in Ostend

**Ypres**  
**In Flanders Fields Museum**  
Grote Markt 34; 057.239.220  
www.inflandersfields.be  
**Until JUNE 6** Gas! Attack, Protection, Care, exhibition on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the first chemical warfare in the world, during the First World War in West Flanders  
**Until AUG 15** Toiling for War, films, photos and objects tell the story of 140,000 Chinese workers in the First World War



**Metalopolis:** Metal bands in concert on the big screen  
**MAY 5** 20.00 in Kinepolis cinemas across Belgium  
www.kinepolis.be

**Antwerp**  
**Nuff Said:** Evening of stand-up comedy, jazz and spoken word  
**MAY 7** 20.30 at CC Berchem, Driekoningenstraat 126  
03.286.88.20, www.cbe.be

**Beervelde**  
**Beervelde Garden Days:** More than 200 international horticulturists, designers and artisans, plus a variety of plants, flowers, garden wares and local foods  
**MAY 7-9** 10.00-18.00 at Beervelde Park  
09.356.81.82, www.parkvanbeervelde.be

**Brussels**  
**European Opera Days:** Open door event on the theme of Don Quixote, featuring readings, tours, film screenings, family activities and more, plus the evening production of the Vlaamse Opera's Don Quichotte broadcast live on television and on a big screen in the Grote Markt  
**MAY 8** from 13.00 across Brussels  
www.operadays.eu

**Een goed expatbeleid: Vlamingen in de wereld** (Flemish in the World) host the free seminar Een goed expatbeleid: minder zorgen, meer resultaat (Good expat management: less worries, more results) for Flemish people moving abroad (in Dutch)  
**MAY 11** 10.30-16.00 at Paleis der Academiën, Hertogstraat 1  
www.viw.be

**Iris Day:** Free celebration of the Brussels Region, with music, street parties and fireworks  
**MAY 8-9** at Paleizenplein and across the city centre  
www.irisfeest.be

**Jette Organ Festival:** Sixth edition of the festival featuring concerts every Sunday in May  
**MAY 16.00** at Sint-Pieterskerk, Kardinaal Mercierplein  
0478.28.31.02, www.kerkjette.be

**Kunstenfestivaldesarts:** International festival of contemporary performing arts, including installations and film  
**MAY 7-29** in venues across Brussels  
www.kfda.be

**Night of Lights:** Free University of Brussels (VUB) celebrates its 175th anniversary with a banquet, free concerts, performances and more  
**MAY 7** 17.00-midnight at Paleizenplein  
www.nachtvandevertlichting.be

**Ocean Liner Art: Ships that Shaped Our Lives:** Lecture organised by BRIDFAS (British Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Brussels) by James Taylor, former curator at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich (in English)  
**MAY 12** 20.00 at the Dominican Church, Renaissancelaan 40  
02.782.16.12, www.bridfas.org

**Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition:** Brussels' annual international competition involving some 80 young pianists  
**Until JUNE 14** at Brussels Conservatory, Bozar and Musical Instruments Museum  
www.qeimc.be

**Royal Greenhouses of Laeken:** Annual spring opening to the public of the impressive collection of plants, flowers and tropical trees in the linked glass-and-steel greenhouses  
**Until MAY 9** at Koninklijke Parklaan  
02.551.34.01, www.monarchie.be

**Stoemp!** Brussels Café Concerts: Free concerts by Flemish musicians in cafes across the city  
**Until June 9**  
www.stoemplyve.be

**Tervuren park walk:** Social event organised by the Meet the Belgians department of People to People International, which seeks to bring foreigners together with Belgians for cultural activities  
**MAY 5**  
02.733.13.38, www.peopletopeople.be

**Groot-Bijgaarden**  
**Floralia 2010:** Annual floral exhibition in the castle's 14 hectare-park, featuring more than 500 types of flowers, a 1000 square-metre greenhouse and a flower labyrinth  
**Until MAY 6** at the Castle of Groot-Bijgaarden, Is Van Beverenstraat 5  
0494.47.72.56,  
www.kasteelgrootbijgaarden.be

**Knokke-Heist**  
**International Photography Festival:** Photography festival featuring Belgian and international artists, including Tim Walker, Cecil Beaton and Paul Nougé  
**Until JUNE 13** across Knokke-Heist  
www.fotofestival.be

**Leuven**  
**Ne Vuilen Avond:** Radio's Modern's retro cabaret night, with Jan Desmet, De Ludo's Live, 4 Schoon Madammen and more  
**MAY 13** from 20.00 at Het Depot, Martelarenplein 12  
016.22.06.03 www.hetdepot.be

**Wuustwezel**  
**Puntpop:** Outdoor music festival featuring Das Pop, Mintzkov, Daan, School is Cool, Clouseau and more  
**MAY 7-9** outside of Wuustwezel (Antwerp province)  
www.puntpop.be



## High Needs Low

Upbeat music and a crowd that's raring to move to it makes for a good enough party. But add an atmospheric and imaginatively decorated venue, and it becomes something special. That's exactly what High Needs Low will be on Saturday, 8 May if the last edition is anything to go by.

This fledgling monthly night of Berlin and Brussels DJs is set at Congres, one of three decommissioned railway stations in the centre of Brussels that is becoming increasingly popular with underground rave organisers. There's a slightly illicit feel to slipping through the entrance tucked out of sight underneath Pachecolaan, facing a block of run-down social housing and a car park.

The old tiled corridors lead to a warren of passages, some of which have been roughly divided to make small anti-chambers, used as bars or chill-out zones. Seeing the first usually cold brick chamber entirely covered in bright gold fabric sheeting and lit with tall lounge lamps added a buzz to the atmosphere. Amongst the deep melodic layers of techno wafting through from the main room, a pleased 20- and 30-something crowd fingered the walls, exchanged glances and smiled at each other.

A beaded curtain marked the beginning of the low-roofed dance space, and projections of starbursts hit large canvas sheets hung around its sides, scattering hundreds of little lights into the blue and green darkness of the room.

Who knows what visuals the crew will think up for the next one. But even if they don't quite delight you, Berlin DJs John Roberts and Marc Pop-pcke and the glorious Brussels DJane Dancemachine will probably have you on the dance floor 'til daybreak.

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



SHARON LIGHT

## bite



© Visual News

## RestoPass

When making dinner plans, most people are repeat performers, visiting restaurants that they know and like. Logically, if you're going to spend money on a meal, you'd like to know ahead of time that it will be money well spent.

If you're feeling a bit adventurous, you might try a new restaurant because a friend recommended it, because you walked past a place that looked cute or unusual, or because you read about it in this column (ahem).

In Brussels, RestoPass offers a special way to broaden your restaurant spectrum.

Here's how it works: you pay €39 for the pass, which is a cute Passport-sized booklet. It gives you an identical discount at 40 different Brussels restaurants – 30% off your whole table's food bill (drinks excluded). And not just one restaurant – as many of the 40 as you want.

The discount applies – up to €50 per restaurant – no matter what: no matter how many people, no matter what day of the week, no matter what you order. You don't need to notify the server at the beginning of your meal, either – just break out your RestoPass when the bill arrives and reap the savings.

RestoPass – available in Dutch, French or English – is now in its second year in Brussels. The project piloted in Singapore, where Belgian Nicolas De Ridder was studying for an MBA and launched it as a project for one of his courses. De Ridder had no background in or connections to the restaurant industry (except as a patron).

While working as a consultant, he often travelled but usually ended up eating in the hotel's restaurant or a touristy area. He craved recommendations from locals but could rarely find reliable information online (or in guidebooks). With RestoPass, he seeks to remedy that situation, to everyone's benefit.

Each year, RestoPass issues a survey to local residents, who select their favourite establishments.

Contact Bite at [flandersbite@gmail.com](mailto:flandersbite@gmail.com)

The survey for 2010 received 2,000 responses. Restaurants are then approached to confirm their participation; most say yes, seeing it as a positive advertising opportunity and a way to grow their clientele. De Ridder (photo, left) emphasises that no money changes hands between the restaurants and RestoPass.

The pass remains valid for one year from its first use. Five thousand passes were printed for 2010 – up from 3,000 in 2009. RestoPass is expanding, with a June launch in Barcelona and a September launch in Paris. De Ridder and Brussels RestoPass co-founder Jean-Charles Malherbe hope to reach 20 cities across Europe by the end of 2011.

Although the selection is ultimately up to the survey results, you do find a decent variety. Plenty of classics of the Brussels restaurant scene made it on the list, such as Le Pain et le Vin, Le Quincaillerie or Belgo-Belge. But there are several Thai options, as well as Greek, Italian, Japanese and vegetarian establishments. The RestoPass website gives you the basics on each venue, or you can link to the restaurant's own website for menus and further details.

You can buy the pass online or at one of their retail outlets, including fnac and Standaard Boekhandel. I've dined out RestoPass-style on several occasions (including mooching off friends' passes, I must admit), and the scheme worked seamlessly. It's a great way to explore some new restaurants, or perhaps even score a discount at one of your old favourites.

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

- 📍 Forty restaurants in Brussels
- 🕒 Now!
- ★ A pass that gives you 30% off on your entire table's bill for an entire year. Pardon us for saying, but you'd be crazy not to try it

## TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



## kringloopwinkel →

Spring cleaning – *grote schoonmaak* is in the air. The sun this time of year shows up the cobwebs, not to speak of all that recent dust and, before you know it, you are having a clear-out. The trouble is what to do with all the *rommel* – rummage ("junk" is what other people have collected). If you have enough, you could hire a pitch and try to sell it at your local *rommelmarkt* – jumble sale or check the dates of the next Rommelant, a large second-hand fair held in Antwerp Expo.

You could search the small ads in your local paper in the hope of finding someone looking for just those items you are about to bin. I was disappointed not to find anyone looking for a perfectly good chest of drawers. Instead I discovered a great trade in *prentkaarten* – picture postcards and, strangely enough, *doodsbrieven* – mourning cards. Unfortunately, my collection of *rommel* does not match these requests, nor the ones I found for a tape recorder or food bags: *Heeft iemand een bandopnemer van Philips die nog speelt?* – Does anyone have a Philips tape recorder that still plays?; *Wie kan mij helpen aan etenzakjes van wielerploegen?* – Who can help me out with food bags from cycle teams? With or without the crumbs?

Others are desperate to get rid of stuff: *Van een tante heb ik een nertsjas geërfd. Wie wil, kan hem*

*komen halen* – I have inherited a mink jacket from my aunt. If you want it, come and get it. You can almost smell the mothballs.

Perhaps I'll have more luck with my local *kringloopwinkel* – second-hand shop. There are more than 100 in Flanders, where goods are given a second life. I can bring my *rommel* to the shop: *er is altijd iemand om u te helpen bij het uitladen* – there is always someone to help you unload. Or I can ask them to come to me; all I have to do is *een afspraak maken* – make an appointment.

A third option is to take unwanted items to the *containerpark* – recycling centre, where items such as appliances and old paint cans are properly disposed of. But they will refuse to take your regular household rubbish and certain other items, including *vervuild textiel* – dirty textiles, *kleerhangers* – coat-hangers and *surfplanken* – surf boards.

In the *kringloopwinkel* all the electrical goods are repaired and certified safe before being put on sale. So I can give them that coffee machine that recently gave up the ghost. These shops create employment: *"U helpt ons mensen tewerk te stellen – You help us give people work."* And they are extremely popular: ours has had 150,000 people pass through its doors in the past year. Well worth a visit, and you never know what will catch your eye.

→ [www.kringloop.net](http://www.kringloop.net)

## THE LAST WORD...

## Damning criticism

"You're familiar with the paintings of Heironymus Bosch. Those who went to Hell were often wearing a mitre."

Canon law expert Rik Torfs, commenting on the case of the Bruges bishop who confessed to molesting a minor

## Last call

"I'm starting to get the feeling everyone is happy I'm stopping. My wife and my dog will be happiest. At last I'll have more time for them."

Opera singer José Van Dam, 69, who begins his last opera at De Munt this week

## Electric shock

"We have €300 million too little because masses of individuals and businesses have installed solar panels."

Electricity provider Eandis explains why prices have to go up

## Game over

"I've always really enjoyed doing it, but it's difficult to mix with my job. Above all, my wife complains that she never sees me."

Philippe Muyters, Flanders' sport minister, who has quit as a player for FC Amber F, the amateur team he's been with for five years

## NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY #129

## Feature

Art forgery is big business: we meet Flanders' most famous forger

## Arts

Bozar follows up its Mexico festival with the country's cousin: exhibition, film, concerts and performance celebrate Spain's presidency of the EU

## Active

Turning slabs of clay into the nude in front of you at Atelier Vogler

## Living

Find brewery tours in English in our three-part series