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GUILTY VERDICT IN PARACHUTE MURDER



© Belga

Els Clottemans is sentenced to 30 years, amid much criticism of the case

ALAN HOPE

Els Clottemans, the 26-year-old primary school teacher accused of murdering a love rival by sabotaging her parachute, was last week found guilty by a jury in Tongeren. She was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

The three-week trial attracted wide-spread attention, including from the foreign press because of its love-triangle aspect and because it is reportedly the world's first skydiving murder. Clottemans was alleged to have cut the cords on Els Van Doren's parachute, causing her to fall to her death in November of 2006.

Among evidence brought to court was a video of the fatal fall made by a camera on Van Doren's helmet. A parachute expert offered testimony that came as a surprise to the public: the sabotage was not actually enough to be fatal: Van Doren's main chute failed to open, but the reserve was undamaged and should have opened. Instead, it became entangled in her strapping and, despite her struggles, she was unable to free it on time.

The trial was also notable for the complete lack of forensic evidence. Clottemans was in the end convicted on the basis that she was, as the victim's lawyer, Jef Vermassen,

said, the only one who could have done it. She alone had a motive, he said in his closing statements.

Van Doren was involved in an extra-marital relationship with another member of the parachute club, Marcel Somers, while Somers was also occasionally seeing Clottemans. The desire to remove Van Doren from the picture, the prosecution said, led Clottemans to commit the murder. However, there was no physical evidence linking her directly to the crime.

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The middle-moms

Surrogacy laws may never be consistent across Europe, and Belgium plays a delicate balancing act in-between

TANIA RABESANDRATANA

The number of foreign patients treated in centres for reproductive medicine in Belgium hugely increased this decade: from 1,456 in 2003 to 2,117 by 2007, according to a study by Guido Pennings, ethics professor at Ghent University.

Most of these patients come from neighbouring countries: 38% from France and 29% from the Netherlands. They seek treatments that they cannot access in their home countries for one of a number of reasons: because it is illegal, because they don't qualify (for example, they are too old) or because waiting lists are too long.

This fertility tourism is due in part to the existence of distinct legal frameworks in different countries. For example, lesbian couples and single women are not allowed to have donor insemination in France, so many of them seek treatment next door in Belgium. In the Netherlands, sperm extraction from the testicle is not done, but it is in Belgium.

Both neighbouring countries also have a different take on sperm and egg donation. In the Netherlands, children born from a donated egg and/or sperm have the right to know the identity of the donor(s). In France, it's the opposite: sperm donation must be anonymous.

Belgian law, meanwhile, caters for all: it ensures anonymity, unless both donor and recipient agree otherwise. If a Dutch couple wants an anonymous donation, this is guaranteed by default in Belgium, while a French couple may obtain insemination at a Belgian hospital from a known donor – a friend, for example.

Although these examples are cases of law evasion, these patients are not guilty of breaking any law. "You only break the law of the country you're in and cannot be prosecuted when you return. This is the territoriality principle," explains Pennings.

Surrogacy law vacuum

But one type of treatment raises important ethical questions in Belgium: surrogacy. Again, France and the Netherlands have differing laws on the subject: it is forbidden in France but accepted in the Netherlands (under specific conditions) since 1997. In Belgium, says Pennings, "there is nothing in the law that forbids it, so, strictly-speaking, it's allowed."

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OFFSIDE

ALAN HOPE

Googling the nation



The internet is already home to much of our personal data, and it's the place many of us spend our leisure hours, not to mention a fair bit of the working day. Now it's also the home of the official life of the country – its government archives – which went online last week.

The archives contain the notes of the council of ministers, or what the British and Americans call the cabinet. The keeping of notes began in 1914 after the king stopped chairing his own council meetings. They were intended to give the king a run-down on everything that had been discussed.

The new online archive runs from 1918 and the end of the First World War to 1979, the most recent year for which records may be made public under a 30-year confidentiality rule. The notes have been available for consultation before, on paper and on microfilm, for researchers and historians.

The only problem with the archive is that they were kept only in French for a large part of the time period. Up until the 1960s, records were only kept in French. After that, it became the practice to record each minister's meetings in his or her own language.

So if you were looking for, say, information about relations with England, you'd need to search "angleterre", where you would learn about the repatriation of war refugees, discussed by the government of Léon Delacroix in November 1918 or the agreement by France and Great Britain to defend Belgian neutrality against attack, reached with Lord Curzon in 1921.

Up to three terms are allowed in one search. It may only be teething problems, but the search engine does seem to turn up an awful lot of false-positives. Many of the results of my search had no mention of "angleterre" at all.

The first mention of "engeland" comes during a meeting held by the Vanden Boeynants government in April 1967, when there were worries about the adhesion of the UK to the Common Market, as it was then known. In 1968, the government of Gaston Eyskens was concerned that England and Italy were objecting to payments for the European space programme, leaving France and Germany to pick up the bill.

www.arch.be/ministerraad

News in brief

Bart De Wever is the **best political communicator** in the country, according to a poll of 16 French-speaking journalists carried out for the Belgian magazine *Lobby*. De Wever came ahead of Elio Di Rupo and Paul Magnette, both French-speaking socialists who have played a major role in the negotiations to form a new government. The period under consideration was the year to June 2010 so De Wever made his impact before his election success and arrival on the national stage. The worst communicators were reckoned to be acting prime minister Yves Leterme, followed by French-speaking socialist Michel Daerden.

The so-called centre for recognition, healing and rehabilitation, which was meant to succeed the Catholic Church's commission on **sexual abuse by clergy**, will not be put in place after all, the conference of Belgian bishops has decided. Instead, victims of abuse will be encouraged to approach their local bishop or turn to the judicial system. The decision was made to keep the barriers to reporting abuse as low as possible, a spokesman said.

Flanders last week lost **325 metres of territory** after road workers on the Lenniksebaan near Anderlecht noticed a sign announcing the

border was in the wrong place. A quick check with a surveyor and the official land map confirmed their suspicions, and 325 metres of Sint-Pieters-Leeuw was seceded back to the Brussels region.

More people in Wallonia than in Flanders consider themselves **Belgian first** in terms of identity, according to a poll carried out by Ipsos marketing bureau: 55% compared to 37%. About 45% of respondents in Flanders describe themselves as Flemish first, Belgian second and European a distant third (8%).

Flemish minister-president Kris Peeters last week stepped onto the **Lange Wapper**, but not the controversial viaduct in Antwerp that carries that nickname. He was aboard a ship belonging to Belgian dredging company Deme. The ship was in port at St Petersburg where Peeters was on a visit. The name long predates the viaduct controversy: the Lange Wapper is a figure from Antwerp folklore, a giant reputed to harass drunks in the street to get them to go home.

Belgian troops returning from a tour of duty in Afghanistan will not be given the opportunity for

rest and relaxation in Cyprus, defence minister Pieter De Crem said. Instead the troops will be able to "decompress" in Belgium where they will be given the necessary care and counselling in the military hospital in Neder-over-Heembeek.

The future **use of tasers by police officers** will be restricted to special intervention units, interior minister Annemie Turtelboom said last week. At present, only two units have access to the electric-shock weapons: the special intervention unit of the federal police and a tactical squad in Antwerp. The minister has been considering the broader use of tasers since a fatal shooting by police in Putte near Mechelen last month.

DePuy Orthopedics, a division of the US company Johnson & Johnson, has **recalled 1,500 replacement hips** in Belgium because of defects that can lead to pain and swelling. Many patients may require new prostheses, and the company has pledged to meet all resulting expenses. Patients with questions can call a free phone line: 0800 40 422.

FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

Johan Vande Lanotte

Johan Vande Lanotte, the socialist party politician who was last week chosen by the King to be the latest negotiator in a long line of people trying to break the impasse in the formation of a new government, looks every inch the political bruiser likely to stop at nothing to get things done, but he's also a thinker, an academic, and a highly respected figure in the two worlds he inhabits.

Vande Lanotte was born in Poperinge in West Flanders in 1955, though he's now associated more with Ostend, where he's been an ordinary municipal councillor since 1995, and where he backs the local basketball team BC Oostende. That sort of lowly public service is important in Belgian politics, where politicians are expected to maintain their ties with the grassroots. That's why high-rollers like justice minister Stefaan Declerck is also mayor of Kortrijk, and former foreign minister Karel De Gucht, now European commissioner, is still nominally a council member in Berlare.

Vande Lanotte took a master's in social and political science in Antwerp *summa cum laude* in 1978, and added a master's in law from the Free University of Brussels (VUB) in 1981. His doctorate is in jurisprudence, and in gaining it he worked not only at the Council of Europe, but also the Swiss Institute for Comparative Law, and universities in Leiden, Quebec and Amsterdam.

Since then, he has built parallel careers in academia and politics. In the former, he is a part-time professor at the VUB, and a full professor at Ghent university, teaching public law, with specialisms in human rights and constitutional



law. He also publishes regularly, sits on the board of scholarly journals and attends international colloquia. Freya Van den Bossche, Flemish minister responsible for energy and housing, is a graduate of Vande Lanotte's Ghent class.

In politics, he's been to the top. Currently socialist party SP.A leader in the Senate, he's also been party chairman, North Sea minister, budget minister and interior minister from 1994 to 1998, when he was forced to resign – along with Stefaan Declerck at justice – when Marc Dutroux escaped from custody for three hours before being recaptured by a forest ranger.

Such senior political experience, together with his knowledge of budgetary matters and his academic concentration on institutional affairs, ought to stand him in good stead in his attempts to bring the negotiating parties together. But his street-fighter looks will also play a role. He's said to read poetry in bed, but his ringtone is AC/DC's *Highway to Hell*. His interlocutors in the coming weeks will need to be careful to ensure they get the one, and not the other.

FLANDERS TODAY

Flanders Today, a free weekly English-language newspaper, is an initiative of the Flemish Region and is financially supported by the Flemish authorities.

The logo and the name Flanders Today belong to the Flemish Region (Benelux Beeldmerk nr 815.088). The editorial team of Flanders Today has full editorial autonomy regarding the content of the newspaper and is responsible for all content, as stipulated in the agreement between Corelio Publishing and the Flemish authorities.

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Critics cite a lack of forensic evidence in Van Doren murder

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The public prosecutor pointed out that the defence had not offered any ideas as to who might have cut the cords if it wasn't Clottemans. Critics argue that this ignores several suggestions made by the defence and goes against the principle that it is the task of the state, not defence lawyers, to identify suspects.

Observers in the verdict were surprised by the extent to which the jury followed the line of the Van Doren family's lawyer, Vermassen, in listing the reasons for their decision.

According to Freddy Mortier, an ethicist at

Ghent University, the prosecution did not prove Clottemans' guilt. A whole other set of circumstances, he said, could be chosen from all of the facts of the case and made to fit another suspect – who would also not necessarily be guilty.

Others pointed out that, considering the availability of forensic science techniques, the lack of any evidence in the Clottemans case shows either an incompetent criminal enquiry – from which no-one should be found guilty – or a criminal mastermind, able to foil the best that investigative science has to offer.

Police revealed that they had quickly excluded as suspects both Somers and Van Doren's husband, Jan De Wilde. De Wilde had no motive, they said, because he only found out about his wife's affair after her death. De Wilde's ignorance of his wife's affair is reportedly supported only by his own statements. Police also found that Somers had no motive for the killing. But neither man was investigated fully.

The defence decided this week to appeal the verdict to the Cassation court, but that rules only on procedural questions. Unusually in Belgium, a verdict of an

assizes court cannot be appealed to a higher instance. The chances of success are somewhat slim, since everything seems to have gone according to Belgian law.

Another option is an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, where Belgium has already been criticised for allowing interrogations of suspects with no legal representation. Portions of the 110 hours of such interrogations of Clottemans in this case were used as evidence in court. ♦

FIFTH COLUMN

ANJA OTTE

The mediator

Attempts to form a new federal government culminated last week in an outbreak of emotions, leaving the two main protagonists, Elio Di Rupo of the French-speaking socialist party PS and Bart De Wever of the Flemish nationalist party N-VA, incensed and humiliated respectively. Who can provide a way out of this battlefield of hurt feelings?

Maybe one man. He is a minister of state and a highly respected politician in the north and south of the country. Like Elio Di Rupo, he belongs to the socialist family. But being Flemish and having asked for a thorough state reform on many occasions, he is sensitive to Flemish demands. He is an expert on state reform, being both a professor in institutional law and a politician who has negotiated earlier state reforms. As a member of the opposition under the government of Yves Leterme, he has not been tainted by the conflicts of recent years. This man is good at numbers: he was budget minister under Guy Verhofstadt, which has left him with an extended network of experts at institutions such as the National Bank. With no deadline to be met, he has plenty of time to restore the confidence between N-VA and PS.

How unlike this other man – someone the king appointed to do the same task, without consulting N-VA, by far the largest party in Flanders. A Trojan Horse sent out by PS to shape a government without N-VA – so by definition an anti-Flemish government. Someone who belongs to the socialist SPA, which is not only the ideological opposite of N-VA but also the party of Frank Vandenbroucke, who claims the figures set out in the De Wever document are false. Wallonia does not stand to lose €92 million under De Wever's plan, Vandenbroucke says, but nearly €500 million.

That is not the only reason this man is not to be trusted. He is backed by two anti-N-VA campaigns – one by the socialist trade union, which is close to his party, and one by a number of writers and artists. All of this, plus the length of time he will no doubt take to complete his task, will help to create an anti-N-VA climate in Flanders.

What is especially worrying is that these two men, the well-respected minister of state and the man with the hidden agenda, are one and the same: Johan Vande Lanotte (SPA), who has been appointed by the king to mediate yet again. These different perceptions of the same person show the depth of mistrust between the negotiating parties and the near impossibility of the task he was appointed to achieve.

New train timetable a "missed opportunity"

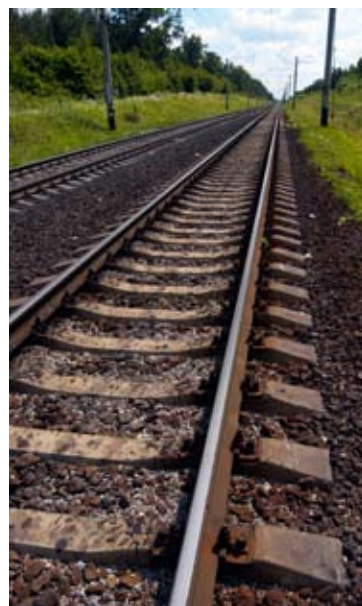
The new timetable announced last week by Belgian rail authority NMBS is a "missed opportunity", according to the public transport passengers' watchdog group TreinTramBus (TTB). The new timetable comes into force on 12 December but was previewed for the public last week.

Among the differences: a reduction in the number of trains between Ghent and Brussels, slower peak-hour trains between Brussels and Leuven and a much-reduced service at weekends, with some trains travelling only once every two hours. TTB also criticised the spread of train times. "In the space of 21 minutes, three trains leave Ghent-Sint-Pieters for Brussels," said spokesman Kees Smilde. "Then there's a gap of 39 minutes. This is the way the NMBS creates its own capacity problems."

In other areas, there are no changes, which can also be a problem. "Anyone who wants to go from Ypres to Bruges has a 40-minute wait for a connection in Kortrijk," said Smilde. "And nothing is being done about it."

NMBS this week revealed there was a 50% reduction in overcrowded trains in the first eight months of the year compared with the same period in 2009, largely due to the introduction of more double-decker trains on problem routes. The problem of overcrowding caused by cancellations still exists, said NMBS boss Marc Descheemaecker, but the problem of structural overcrowding – the NMBS considers a train overcrowded if one passenger is unable to find a seat – were being dealt with.

Descheemaecker has admitted that train punctuality will only really improve in 2013, when major infrastructure works are completed. ♦



THE WEEK IN FIGURES



196

road deaths in Flanders in the first half of the year, 3.7% higher than the same period in 2009. Weekend accidents accounted for 42% of all deaths

18,500

people signed up for Dutch language courses at the Huis van het Nederlands (House of Dutch) in Brussels over the past nine months, 2,000 more than the previous year. The house was set up in 2003 and by 2007 was organising 8,000 courses

941

speeding fines issued to drivers of De Lijn buses in 2009, or one fine per 111,000 kilometres

244

interventions by lifeguards at the coast this summer, much less than the 405 rescues in 2009. The reason was the poor weather in August, which brought fewer people to the beach

10,700

people in Belgian prisons, an all-time record. Overcrowding means that some prisoners are serving their time in Tilburg, the Netherlands

Best graveyard is in Dilsen-Stokkem

The town of Dilsen-Stokkem in Limburg has won the title of Best Flemish Graveyard in the annual Funeral Awards held in Aarschot. Dilsen-Stokkem won on account of plans for an extension, shown in the above architect's drawing. The council was praised for its decision to section the new graveyard into different "rooms," with blocks of graves separated from each other by low hedges.

Heist-op-den-Berg in Antwerp province and Tremelo in Flemish Brabant came second and third respectively. The Funeral Awards are held annually and cover Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Awards are given in the categories services, suppliers, website and a prize for the best idea for the disposal of crematory ash. The graveyards award is restricted to Flanders.

→ www.funeralawards.com



The face of a woman found dead in the dunes near Zeebrugge last August has been reconstructed by experts of the Forensic Facial Imaging team of the federal police. The woman is thought to have been between 25 and 35 years old at the time of death. She is described as 1m62 tall, of slim build and pale complexion, with long dark hair, no tattoos and well-cared-for nails. She may have had one or more children. According to isotope tests, she originates from an area east of a line drawn between Lithuania and Bulgaria, and had been in the coastal part of Flanders for no more than 36 months when she died. Anyone recognising the woman should call 0800.91.119 or email opspringen@politie.be

Cost-cutting panic or investments in human capital?

In times like these, where we have to do more with less, there are two types of managers. **Those who cut costs** across the board, and **those who even now choose to continue to invest** prudently. Which type are you? The financial crisis and the uncertain economic situation are confronting managers with new challenges, but all too often they are also driving them to take decisions that are infused with panic and doom-and-gloom. But the ones who are forward-thinking and keep to their own course don't slam on the brakes – instead, they invest in the future.

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The middle-moms

A European society has called for a professional code of practice on cross-border reproductive care

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At the same time, if a case goes to court in Belgium, the outcome can be uncertain. Under Belgian law, a woman who gives birth to a child is automatically its mother, so all parties involved must make an agreement beforehand that the child will be adopted by the intended parents. This legal vacuum means that some foreign patients come to Belgium to evade a rule in their own country. On the other hand, it also means that Belgian patients travel to other countries where surrogacy is recognised as legal to benefit from better-defined conditions. Last month, the EU Council adopted a position to clarify the rights of patients seeking medical treatment in another EU country and “facilitate the access to safe and high-quality cross-border health care”. However, consensus among EU countries on fertility treatment is highly unlikely since they have such polarised views on the question. That leaves fertility specialists deciding for themselves how to handle the ethical, legal and psychological aspects associated with requests from foreign patients. On 18 October, the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), an association of specialists, called for a professional code of practice on cross-border reproductive care. This, it hopes, will provide guidance to medical teams, better protect patients, donors and potential surrogates, and prevent bad practices sully the reputation of the profession as a whole. “We have no objection to patients seeking reproductive treatments outside their home countries because it enhances their autonomy and allows free patient movement in Europe,” says Françoise Shenfield, fertility professor at University College London, on behalf of ESHRE. “But to protect patient safety, we believe there should be a code of practice to protect patients, donors and potential surrogates.” Such a code of practice would have no legal value, but it

may push policymakers to improve the legal framework. Belgian practitioners agree that a surrogacy law is necessary. In Liège, the regional hospital La Citadelle has been carrying out surrogacy procedures since 1992 and collaborates with the Ministry of Justice. “We’re a kind of laboratory to inform the legislative debate,” explains professor Michel Dubois. But the question is when such legislation will be forthcoming. Pennings: “Every time there is a bad case in the news, some proposals are put forward, and then die down.”

Surrogacy in Belgium

Three centres are known to practice surrogacy in Belgium: La Citadelle in Liège, Saint-Pieter University Hospital in Brussels and Ghent University Hospital. “Belgium is small, so if we come across a relevant case, we refer the patient to another colleague,” explains Professor Herman Tournaye of the University Hospital Brussel, which does not carry out surrogacy procedures. Because there is no legislation, every fertility centre has to decide if and how it will handle surrogacy cases. The process includes in-depth medical examination of both the intended and surrogate mother as well as consultations with a psychologist. Cases are discussed with the hospital fertility team and with an ethics committee. Surrogacy remains the last resort and conditions are very strict. Out of about 25 requests per year on average, only three or four are accepted at La Citadelle. Foreign patients may only be included if they speak French to allow for thorough follow-up and counselling by psychologists and lawyers. Ghent University Hospital only accepts requests where the “role of the surrogate mother is purely gestational, and the child is genetically related to both desiring



Guido Pennings: Surrogacy in Belgium is allowed, “strictly speaking”

parents” and only if the intended parents provide the surrogate themselves. The hospital received 21 such requests between 2004 and 2007; six were given the green light. It also only accepted Belgian citizens “to avoid legal problems at the moment of adoption in the country of origin”. The main reasons for refusing treatment were psychological, such as an unstable relationship

between the people involved or dubious intentions of the surrogate, such as financial benefits.

→ www.eshre.eu



Most surrogacy cases go well, but those that don't become front-page headlines: In 2005, Limburg couple Bart Philtjens and Geertrui Praet (pictured) enlisted the help of a Dutch surrogate, who ended up handing the baby over to a Dutch couple, although Philtjens was the genetic father. Known as Baby D, the child is still with the couple in the Netherlands, while legal battles continue.

What is surrogacy?

A surrogate mother is a woman who becomes pregnant, carries and delivers a child on behalf of another couple (the “intended” parents). Before the procedure, the surrogate mother agrees to hand over the child to the intended parents after delivery.

How often is surrogacy carried out?

Surrogacy is a last resort solution when the intended mother cannot bear the child herself, such as in case where a woman was born without a uterus or lost it to cancer or because a pregnancy would put her health or life at risk.

Is surrogacy ethically acceptable?

Yes, according to the ESHRE ethics task force, which states that it is acceptable “if it is an altruistic act by a woman to help a couple for which it is impossible or medically inadvisable to carry a pregnancy”. Of course, there are specific conditions to fulfil. In particular, it should involve no payment whatsoever and be a well-informed, voluntary decision.

Is the surrogate mother related to the baby?

In some cases, the surrogate mother provides her own egg, so she is the baby's biological mother. In other cases, the surrogate mother has no genetic link with the baby; an embryo is produced *in vitro* from an egg and sperm from the intended parents (and/or donors) and then implanted in her womb.

Who can be a surrogate mother?

Surrogate mothers are often close friends or family members (for example the sister or mother of one of the intended parents). The ESHRE ethics task force also recommends that the surrogate be between 35 and 45 years old and already have at least one child.

Are there any health risks?

The risks (including miscarriage and multiple pregnancies) and pregnancy success rates are generally comparable to those brought by similar procedures of embryo implantation without surrogacy. Psychologically, the procedure seems to be experienced positively after careful selection and adequate counselling, although there have been exceptional cases of surrogates who wanted to keep the baby.

Building for Brussels

Can architecture solve many of a city's problems?

TOM TACK

Remember the Bozar exhibition *A Vision for Brussels – Imagining the Capital of Europe*? That expo looked into various possibilities for Brussels as the European capital based on the research of an international team of architects. Three years later, Bozar continues on this reflection with *Building for Brussels – Architecture and Urban transformation in Europe*.

In *Building for Brussels*, the reflection takes another turn: by looking into the challenges that Brussels is facing, the exhibition is grounded in harsh reality. The booming population, the shortage of public infrastructure, a dazzling unemployment rate, daily traffic problems and the never-ending political conflicts are put under the spotlight.

Due to the lack of 21st-century architectural answers in our own capital, *Building for Brussels* looks to European cities which dealt with similar issues in an architectural way. Madrid, Paris, Basel, Copenhagen, Barcelona and Rotterdam are perfect study cases as they followed a hands-on policy, making architecture and city planning more than just aesthetics. Instead they used these powerful tools to tackle their urban challenges.

One concern facing Madrid was its extensive population growth. Just like Brussels, it encountered a steep population growth in the beginning of the last decade. Instead of building grey cardboard blocks, Madrid used the housing shortage as an opportunity to design high-quality homes. For this, it relied on international renowned architects such as Office Architects or MVRVD. And while both offices dealt differently with the task, they provided strong architectural landmarks. This did not only give a face to the district, but also stimulated the private sector to ignite further development in the district.

But what's the use of new social housing if its population doesn't have the means to maintain it? With unemployment rates rocketing in Brussels, the local economic activity needs reinvention. This not only demands education and training, but also the creation of new jobs. One of the exhibited scale models deals with this problem in a specific way. Zurich architecture firm EM2N drew up a solution by transforming a 500 meter-long railway viaduct into a marketplace. Not only has this city barrier been transformed into a connecting element, it also includes a place to stimulate new creative and commercial activities. Zurich's first indoor market is the perfect example of how urban development with well-considered architecture can go hand in hand with strengthening the local economy.

The places in Brussels that could be perfectly served for similar projects (think Schaerbeek Formation marshalling yard, Tour & Taxis and the Canal Zone) are another issue. As is often the case in Brussels,



Madrid's Mirador building combines homes, a meeting place and a playground

political interference is never far away. While other cities in Europe have been working to transform their urban fabric for some decades, Brussels is hobbling along behind. The office buildings spread around the city's communes still reflect an old ambition rather than showing that Brussels wants to strengthen its international position by organising its transformation into a harmonious service city where people live, work and visit.

Maybe the less-known European city of Tirana, capital of Albania, is a perfect case study for Brussels. Still bearing strong traces of the former Communist government, it recruited French architecture firm Architecture Studio to design a plan to restore coherence in the urban fabric. Surprisingly, a Brussels-based architecture office is to construct the first tower. The firm 51N4E has drawn a tower which stands as a symbol of the transformation of the city: a rectangle that gradually converts into an ellipse. This project is a gigantic undertaking that focuses on the development of a compact, sustainable and vibrant city with mixed functions. Just like Brussels deserves to be.

All these examples are vividly shown in the exhibition with impressive models, magazine-worthy pictures and complex blueprints. The setup, which is divided into five rooms, makes it clear that this exhibition is an exercise directed at Brussels' inhabitants and policymakers. It's supported by several movies, including a visit to one of the projects, with commentary from experts. Emir Kir, the Brussels Secretary of State for Planning, is presenting this exhibition just like Charles Piqué delivered the opening speech for *A Vision for Brussels*. The question is whether we will ever have such a project built in Brussels and to whom the credits will go? ♦

Building for Brussels

Until 28 November

Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23, Brussels

→ www.bozar.be

CULTURE NEWS

The **Flanders International Film Festival**, which ended last weekend in Ghent, attracted 133,000 visitors this year, about 2,000 more than last year. Guests included French director François Ozon and actress Catherine Deneuve, and the festival opened with the premiere of the Flemish film *Smoorverliefd* (*Madly in Love*) and closed with *Somewhere*, the new film by Sofia Coppola. The World Soundtrack Awards gave Film Composer of the Year and Best Original Score awards to Alexandre Desplat (*pictured right*) for his work on the film *Fantastic Mr Fox*. The German film *Die Fremde* (known in English as *When We Leave*), the story of a young Turkish woman fighting for independence from a controlling family in Berlin, won both the Grand Prize for Best Film and the Port of Ghent Public Prize.

Flemish author and journalist **David Van Reybrouck** has been awarded the prestigious Libris history prize in Amsterdam for his work *Congo, een geschiedenis* (*Congo, A History*). The jury described the book as "brilliant, captivating and breathtaking". The prize is worth €20,000.

Flemish minister-president Kris Peeters last week laid the first stone for the new **Holocaust museum in Mechelen**. The museum will be located opposite the Dossin Barracks, an important point in the deportation of some 25,000 Jews under the Nazi occupation and currently home to the Jewish Museum of Deportation and Resistance. The new museum, which will also contain a documentation centre on the Holocaust and human rights, is due to open in the summer of 2012.

Kathryn Bennetts, **artistic director of the Royal Ballet of Flanders**, has resigned in protest at plans by Flemish culture minister Joke Schauvliege to merge the ballet with Flanders Opera under one management from 2013. "I cannot live in a country with such a cultural policy," Bennetts, an American, said, describing the plans as "arrogant and ignorant". She had not yet met the minister, she said, and was not consulted regarding the plans. Bennetts, who has considerably improved the ballet's reputation internationally since taking over in 2004, had already planned to leave in 2012 when her contract expires, in protest at the lack of subsidies available for the sector.

Prince Laurent, Princess Claire and their children were among the audience at the opening last week of *Fantasia, De Giga*

Grote Musical, based on the world-famous *Geronimo Stilton* series of children's books featuring an adventurous mouse. The musical, produced by Wouter Boits and Nick Besson, opened in Muizen and will tour across Flanders until January.

→ www.gigagrotemusical.be



Black work continues to increase

VAT reduction has done nothing to stop undocumented workers in the food-service industry

ALAN HOPE

Undeclared employees working in the restaurant industry – so-called “black work” – is as serious now as it was before the sector was granted a VAT reduction aimed at helping them tackle the problem, according to figures from the social affairs ministry.

Restaurants were allowed to drop the VAT they charge on food from 21% to 12% in return for action on black work. Most, though not all, made it plain they intended to keep the windfall dividend rather than pass any savings on to the diner (in fact, prices have gone up 2% since the VAT was cut on 1 January).

The dividend was supposed to make it easier for restaurants, bars and other food-service establishments, where black work is endemic, to employ staff legally. The €300 million the measure would cost the treasury would, the government reasoned, be more than earned back from the taxes and social security payments that would result.

But, as the table shows, more infringements were uncovered this year than last – albeit from an increased number of checks carried out by inspectors. The number of black workers also increased. Figures for both 2009 and 2010 refer to the first nine months of the year. In 2009, faults were found in 73.5% of the premises checked; this year that rose to 75%.

Danny Van Assche, director of the industry federation Ho.Re.Ca Vlaanderen, put a different gloss on the figures. “Employment in recent months has stayed more or less level, thanks to the VAT cut,” he said. “If we look at the figures for the number of employees in the first half of this year, we see it has remained the same. Declared gross wages even went up significantly by 3%. That shows that

we’re on track to creating new jobs and regularising existing jobs, just as we agreed at the time of the VAT cut. Without that, a lot more businesses would have gone broke.”

The crisis has led to both individuals and businesses cutting back on restaurant visits, while costs have risen for raw materials and products like beer, Van Assche points out. “The VAT cut ironed out the effects of the crisis for the sector. To achieve an even greater effect, VAT needs to be cut to the level of neighbouring countries,” he said. To the 6% the industry initially asked for, in other words, with the lower rate extended also to drink, which is not the case at present.

Van Assche also says that the small increase in infractions could be attributed to more targeted checks carried out by inspectors, a point conceded by Gerrit Van De Mosselaer of the social inspection service. “It’s normal that the number of infractions remains about the same because we carry out targeted checks. We only call on businesses where we have a suspicion something is not right.” Businesses are identified as suspect if, for example, they are declaring a large turnover but only paying a small amount of social security, suggesting that workers are being paid under the table. ♦

Undeclared workers in the restaurant industry

	2009	2010
number of spot-checks	1,810	2,082
number of infringements	1,329	1,564
number of staff involved	2,790	3,085

Source: FOD Social Affairs



© Shutterstock



© Checkpoint

Belgium tops the charts on shoplifting

Belgian businesses suffer more from shoplifting than any other country in Western Europe, according to the latest edition of the Global Retail Theft Barometer, issued by Checkpoint Systems, a company specialised in counter-measures. Taking Belgium and Luxembourg together, 1.38% of all goods bought by stores is lost to damage or theft – either by members of the public (in about 48% of cases) or by the shop’s own staff (in 30%).

Clothing is the most popular target for shoplifters in Belgium (and across Europe); losses to stores amount to 1.79%. Other problem lines are accessories (1.72%) and cosmetics (1.70%), but products like children’s wear, shaving products, cooked meats and baby formula are on the rise. Retail theft costs the average family in Europe €140 extra on their shopping bill every year, reflecting the cost of the various measures companies take to prevent theft.

Worldwide, retail theft cost business €87.5 billion in 2009, a 5.6% reduction on the year before – in Europe, the bill fell by 4.4%. The European average of goods lost to theft was 1.29%.

The problems of retail theft are a “vicious circle” that has to be broken, according to Unizo, the organisation that represents small businesses. “Police and magistrates don’t prosecute shoplifting often enough; that leads to shop owners reporting cases less and less often, and policy-makers, basing themselves on official figures, don’t give the phenomenon enough priority.” ♦

Job News

Brussels is falling behind with the **retraining and integration of the unemployed** into the workforce, according to Elke Roex, a socialist party member of the Brussels parliament. **Actiris** is the agency in charge of bringing the jobless back into employment, the Brussels equivalent of Flanders’ VDAB. Last year it put 10,722 people into job training, or 332 fewer than in 2008, while the VDAB in Flanders is handling more and more new job opportunities.

Actiris has a budget of about €240 million, or about €2,200 per unemployed person – roughly the same as the VDAB. However while the VDAB has one consultant for about 80 unemployed people with whom tailor-made job training programmes are drawn up, Actiris has a ratio of one to 450. As a result, only one in 10 unemployed people get job training tailored to their needs, Roex said. “Actiris belongs to the group of the worst performers in Europe.”

Local employees and their representatives need to be consulted at the beginning of any **restructuring process** if the measures are to come to a good end, according to research carried out by the Centre for Sociological Research (CeSo) at the Catholic University of Leuven. After studying a dozen case studies from across Europe, researchers Vickie Dekocker and Hanno van Eldik conclude that Belgium is in a better position than most countries, with priority given to the retraining of workers involved in restructuring. But the success of that option depends on companies having the right internal organisation, which will only come about with the participation of all involved. “The message to multinationals is to involve workers’ representatives from the very beginning of a restructuring,” the researchers said. ♦

THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

Auditing • Hiring

The country’s four leading audit and consulting companies (Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Deloitte, Ernst & Young and KPMG) plan to hire a total of 1,200 additional staff over the next 12 months to meet growing demand.

Biotech • Galapagos

Mechelen-based biotechnology company Galapagos recently signed several partnership agreements. They include a deal to develop new anti-cancer treatments with Janssen Pharmaceutica, a supply contract with the US National Cancer Institute and a services agreement with Italy’s Chiesi Farmaceutici.

Economy • Confidence

The Belgian consumer confidence index rose in October, reaching its highest level over the past 12-month period. The rise was due to an improvement in households’ savings capacity and an upturn in the general financial situation.

Materials • Umicore

High-tech composite materials group Umicore is to invest €30 million to develop photovoltaic solar panel components in three factories in North America, Europe and Asia.



Pharmaceuticals • Janssen

Beerse-based pharmaceuticals company Janssen, an affiliate of the US Johnson & Johnson group, is investing €49 million in the construction of a distribution centre in La Louvière, south of Brussels, to centralise the bulk of its dispatching activities in Europe.

Retail • Petit Bateau

The upmarket French children’s clothing group Petit Bateau will open seven new outlets over the next three years, most of them in Flanders.

Shipping • Exmar

Maritime transport group Exmar, headquartered in Antwerp, has sold its half share in two liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers to the Canada’s Teekay Corporation for some €50 million.

Tourism • Relais et Châteaux

The French luxury hotels association Relais et Châteaux is to open a representative office in Brussels to develop the chain’s image and business in the Benelux countries.

Speaking volumes

Local and international writers meet the public at Belgium's biggest book fair

ALAN HOPE

On 31 October, the 74th edition of the Boekenbeurs (Book Fair) - the biggest event of its kind in Belgium, and one of the biggest in the world - opens its doors in Antwerp. "Of its kind" because, explains Patricia De Laet of Boek.be, the publishing industry organisation that runs the show, the Boekenbeurs is an event for the public at large, unlike, say, the Frankfurt Book Fair, which is primarily an industry event.

The two floors of Antwerp Expo are taken up by the stands of publishers and booksellers, as well as events. The fair's partners, which include Antwerp province and city, Radio 1 and Canvas, Knack, Base, KBC and Duvel, will also be present.

The programme is too huge to give more than just a

flavour, but highlights include debates and discussions with authors, a special programme for schools, events aimed at attracting readers of immigrant origin and cookery demonstrations. Authors like Rik Torfs, Peter Holvoet-Hanssen and Elvis Peeters will be on hand to give budding writers advice on their craft. Two stands, run by BeBook and Sony, will give book fans the chance to try out e-readers.

The list of visiting authors also includes ex-art fraudster Stan Lauryssens, former Belgian prime minister Guy Verhofstadt, psychologist Peter Adriaenssens, Archbishop André Léonard, and whisky expert Dirk De Mesmaeker.

There's an international aspect, with visits from crime writers Donna Leon and Scott Turow, Pulitzer

Prize winner Michael Cunningham, historian James Hannam and poet Christopher Middleton, as well as Rwandan refugee Marguarita Singe and American graphic novel artist Charles Burns.

The rail authority NMBS and Flemish public transport authority DeLijn are offering combi-tickets for visitors to the Boekenbeurs which is open from 31 October to 11 November daily from 10.00 to 18.00, with late-night openings until 22.00 on 4 and 9 November. Entry is €8 for adults and €6 for children, students, teachers, the disabled and seniors over 60. Children under 11 enter for free.

→ boekenbeurs.tickoweb.be

Saskia De Coster

Dit is van mij (Prometheus)

Saskia De Coster (below) is one of Flanders' leading young novelists, and her fifth novel is the story of Jakob, hopelessly in love with Jade, and his attempt to have done with his toxic obsession. "Among literary writers it's quite the thing to look down on the commercial circus of the Book Fair," she says. "But I find it fun to come face to face with the market gurus and those book-fiends who buy their books by the cubic metre".



© Serge Maes



Annemie Bulté

Niet schieten, dat is mijn papa! (Vrijdag Uitgeverij)

David Van de Steen was interviewed by detectives investigating a series of murderous attacks by gangsters (the infamous Bende van Nijvel) on supermarkets, but not until 25 years after a raid in Aalst, in which his parents and sister were murdered. This book is the story of a survivor of an attack by a gang of killers still at large, as told to Annemie Bulté, veteran crime reporter now with Flemish magazine *Humo*.

Annelies Vanbelle

Bitterzoet (Van Halewyck)

Vanbelle, formerly known as Rafaela in the weekend supplement of *De Morgen*, writes "sentence images and love-notes" about sex, relationships and love, but has recently moved away from her more, shall we say, carnal side. "At the Book Fair, I'll still try to create a sort of intimacy by thinking up a lovely dedication for everyone. And my reading on 2 November I hope to turn into something personal and intimate."

Fleur Pierets

La maitresse du pirate (VBK België)

A collection of short stories by a stylish dominatrix. Subtitled *Stories from the cabinet of lust*, these may be for adults only. "People laughed at me when I said SM was one of the highest forms of romanticism there is, but I'm convinced it's true," she says. The Victorians, of course, would have agreed.

BOEKENBEURS IN FIGURES



110

stands spread over 20,000 square metres of exhibition space in four halls

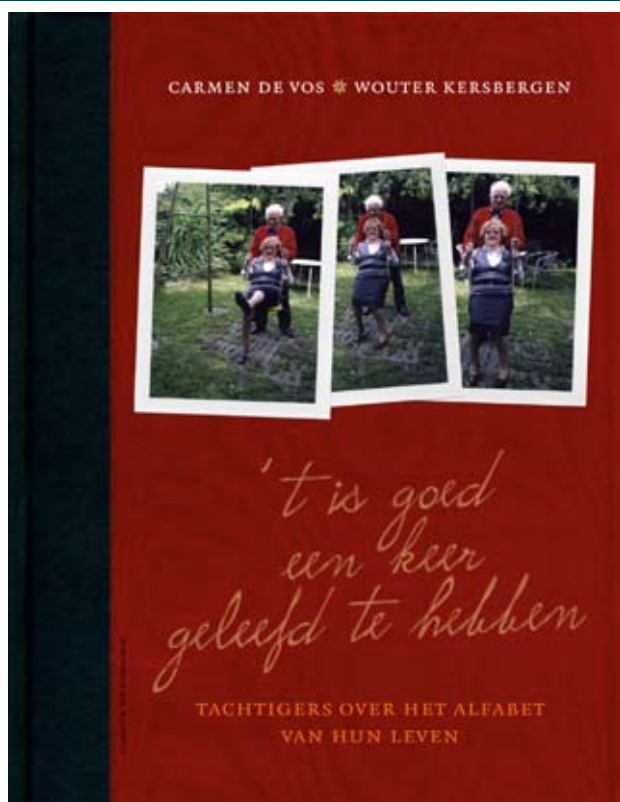
60,000

titles on offer, from the latest best-selling cookbooks to the recent stars of modern literature

220

events in the five upstairs halls, including debates, broadcasts and cookery demonstrations. Numerous authors will also be present to sign copies of their books at their publishers' stands

Life lessons down the ages • A series of interviews with the wise



Maybe it's my time of life, when there are so many books unread, but it's rare to find a book that begs to be dipped into again and again. *The Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce, perhaps, or the *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius or how about Flemish author Wouter Kersbergen's: *'t is goed een keer geleefd te hebben* (*It's Good to Have Lived Once*) with photos by Carmen De Vos.

His book is a series of interviews with people who have reached their 80s, the so-called twilight years; though twilight is the wrong word to describe the laser-sharp insights of people who have wrestled with the fundamental questions: "What was it all for?" and "How may we distinguish our lives in taking our leave of them?" The subjects include cyclist Roger Moens, comic strip artist Marc Sleen, and *Sesame Street* star Paula Sley, known as Tante Paula to generations.

"When my last grandparent died, my grandmother, I was left with a lot of unanswered questions," Kersbergen explains. "Her family had a lot of history during the war, and went from the bourgeoisie to poverty with six children, but she

never talked about it. When your grandparents go, you suddenly realise that the next generation to go will be your parents. I was 42. You could call it a sort of midlife crisis."

Kersbergen is editor and photographer for *Yeti*, a magazine for teenagers, so in his work he's surrounded by young people, but laments a world in which "everything is hip and fast and young" while seniors go ignored. It was reading the book *Het geheim van geluk* (*The Secret of Happiness*) by Leo Bormans that he realised, "All the keys to happiness he mentions are in our book, because people in their 80s know all that." The book, he says, is "a call to society not to let these old people go out alone. Parents and grandparents are a gift; this book is a sort of gift-wrapping."

The photos, by magazine editor and *De Morgen* portraitist Carmen De Vos, are her trademark Polaroids. She buys the film, which is no longer made, on eBay or specialist trade sites. "With Polaroid film you're not starting with a blank canvas," she explains. "Polaroid always gives of itself. The film is not made to be perfect; the

colours are washed-out, there are faults in the distribution of the chemicals that give spots, it's not perfectly sharp."

And indeed, her portraits are reminiscent of old, bleached-out photos where not only is the image in the process of disappearing, but somehow also the thing which is portrayed. In some cases, like the twin rest-home bedroom of Pol Lievin Pollentier (83) and Elza Diendoné (86), the subjects are poignantly absent. "Older people have faces that speak volumes," she says. "Life has engraved itself into their skin, and that's always more interesting than the inexpressive face of youth."

't is goed een keer geleefd te hebben is published by Van Halewyck. De Vos will be taking Polaroids of readers on 31 October and 7 November. Wouter Kersbergen will be signing on the same dates as well as interviewing radio and TV legend Jos Ghysen on 31 October.

→ www.carmendevos.com

Poetry in motion

Chances are small you'll visit a more engrossing exhibition of contemporary art this autumn than *A Story of Deception* by Francis Aljys

CHRISTOPHE VERBIEST

Francis Aljys is giving sense to senseless acts: pushing a block of ice for nine hours through the streets of Mexico City until it has completely melted (*Paradox of Praxis I (Sometimes Doing Something Leads to Nothing)*); the driver of a red Volkswagen Beetle trying to ascend a hill while listening to a brass band rehearsing, but when the musicians stop playing and start tuning their instruments, the car rolls downhill again (*Rehearsal I*).

Or how about 500 volunteers, each equipped with a shovel, forming a single line and replacing by 10 cm the dune they're standing on (*When Faith Moves Mountains*)? A man walking in circles, and every time he has completed a tour, a sheep is added in a line behind him: the circle is closed with sheep number 23 (*Patriotic Tales*)?

All these actions have been induced or performed by Francis Aljys and in themselves they were a clear artistic articulation. But they have been 'saved' for prosperity by turning them into video installations. A generous overview of these videos forms the basis for *A Story of Deception*.

Aljys likes — or at least his critics like (since he's reluctant to talk to the press) — to stress the political underpinning of his works: *Patriotic Tales* refers to a key phase in the Mexican student protests of 1968; *Paradox of Praxis I* comments on the imbalance between effort and result in daily life in Latin America; and *Rehearsal I* should be seen as "an allegory of the struggle of Latin American societies to adjust to the social and economic expectations of their northern neighbours".

But honestly, I wouldn't have known all this if I hadn't read it in the excellent book, also called *A Story of Deception*, which accompanies the exhibition. More than just a catalogue, it gives an overview of Aljys' work to date. But, although this knowledge does add an extra dimension to his work, it's not necessary to appreciate it. On the contrary, I would say, because it might narrow the works down to something too specific. Without this knowledge, they stay poetic mysteries, based on the hypnotic power of repetition.

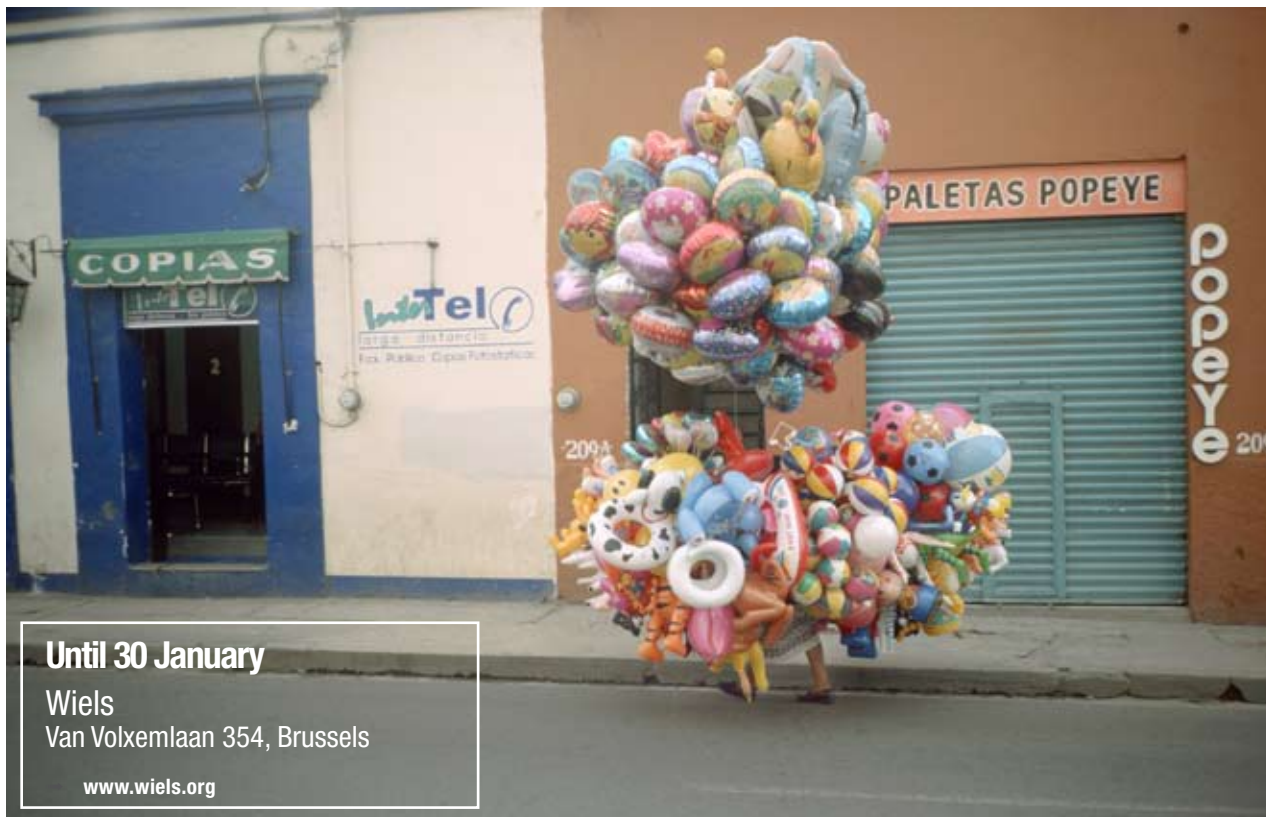
Indeed, repetition may be the weakness of a lot of video art; far too many artists think that if they just keep repeating an action it becomes interesting art. Aljys fortunately doesn't fall into that trap; the subjects he chooses and the way he films them leave the viewers spellbound and, at least for me, that, ultimately, is the power of his art.

One installation is overtly political: *The Green Line*. Aljys walked the border between East and West Jerusalem, carrying a dripping can of green paint. Two days and 58 litres later, he's back at his starting point. Shortly thereafter, a video of his journey was shown to selected people who were asked to comment. Their comments, varying from musings on art to the history of the state of Israel, combined with the original video, form this impressive installation.

Aljys' penchant for repetitiveness is also present in the other works: *Camguns* is a series of fake wooden rifles constructed with film rolls. And the amazing, both disquieting and touching, *Le temps du sommeil* is a collection of 110 (and counting) small paintings. At first glance, they seem very similar but, admired at close range, they start to look very different.

Along with repetition, collecting is one of the cornerstones of Aljys' intriguing art. This aspect remains underexposed in this exhibition, but it would be petty to criticise the curators for this, since what is present forms a very coherent unity.

If you want to see every video from start to end — and I can recommend this for most of them — you'll need a whole afternoon to savour this exhibition. That seems a lot, but it guarantees an overwhelming experience. But be warned: Aljys' images will still be haunting you, long after you've left Wiels. ♦



Until 30 January

Wiels
Van Volxemlaan 354, Brussels

www.wiels.org

Saints and sinners • High-profile punk for your holiday weekend

GEORGIO VALENTINO

There's something in the water in Hasselt: this Flemish city is populated almost exclusively by discerning music lovers. Its annual Sinner's Day festival is just the most recent in a series of (sub)cultural events more fitting a world capital than this modestly-sized provincial capital of Limburg.

The concept is simple: Sinner's Day is an inverted celebration of All Saints' Day. Officiated by as many high-profile punk and New Wave bands as can fit in the city's Ethias Arena, the festival's premier edition brought together, among others, The Human League, Gary

Numan and Gang of Four on 1 November of last year. This year's calendar didn't quite oblige irony and so the second edition of Sinner's Day will go down on Sunday, 31 October (All Saints' weekend at least), but the calibre of guests won't suffer. Headliners Echo & the Bunnymen and The Psychedelic Furs share the festival's two stages, one in the arena itself and the other in the adjoining club, along with Heaven 17, The Fall, Nina Hagen, Marky Ramone, U.K. Subs, The Young Gods and more. I expect the highlight of the day to be The Damned's early evening set. These psychedelic-goth-punk misfits sadly

never got their due from any of the crowds with whom they flirted, probably on account of their unforgivable cheek and curiosity, but they continue to be one of the best live bands around. Plus, singer Dave Varian's hammy, horror-movie chic is tailor-made for Halloween. Soft Cell's flamboyant frontman, Marc Almond, who may surprise with a Jacques Brel tune, is also recommended, as is Jah Wobble. Wobble famously played dub bass with John Lydon (Johnny Rotten) in the original incarnation of Public Image Limited and later, not-so-famously, with Winston Tong during his tenure in Brussels. Bauhaus

singer Peter Murphy would have been an added bonus but, after confirming early, he dropped out at the eleventh hour, his agent citing typically vague "unforeseen circumstances". ♦

Sinner's Day

31 October, 12.30
Ethias Arena, Hasselt

→ www.nsinnersday.com

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GOSSELIN moving

BELGIUM - MEMBER GOSSELIN GROUP

Out of mischief for Halloween

ALAN HOPE

Autumn is the cosiest time of year and a school break made for walks in the woods followed by hot chocolate and waffles, and maybe for the adults, a first taste of the year's gluhwein. If the school holidays leave you wondering where to park the kids, there are plenty of activities going on to keep everyone busy. The Flemish website www.uitmetvlieg.be offers tips for child-friendly activities all year round and their calendar is particularly full in the holidays. We chose a selection of the hundreds of things kids can do to keep them busy and happy this autumn season.

Gaasbeek

On 31 October every year, the spirits awake and move across the earth, sowing mischief and confusion wherever they go. This year, Halloween is given a Grimm flavour at the castle of Gaasbeek with a whole evening's events beginning at 18.00 as the sun begins to go down.

The evening is for all ages, says Marieke Debeuckelaere of Gaasbeek, though it is inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairy tales, which, as we all know, can be pretty strong stuff. On the trip around the grounds, you'll come into contact with princes and princesses, Sleeping Beauty and Snow White, not to mention the Big Bad Wolf and Red Riding Hood. Along the way are all sorts of music, special effects and sideshow entertainment and spectacular costumes designed by Daila Laika.

→ www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be



© Viona Elegans

Temse

Mexican art is the theme of a workshop for kids aged six and over at the Temse cultural centre on Sunday 31 October. The children can construct skeletons out of all sorts of discarded materials – newspapers, elastic bands, rags – and take them home in time to decorate the house before darkness envelops all.

Skeletons, death and masks are also the theme of two workshops in the Museum of Fine Art in Ghent, one for kids aged four to six, the other covering the group six to 12.

→ www.mskgent.be

Leuven

The Tweebronnen library in Leuven is offering a workshop to make a special type of bookmark that grips the page so you don't lose your place. For ages four and up, this one is free and held Thursday 4 and Saturday 6 November from 15.00. Also at the library on Saturday 6 November, a red-dog workshop, and no, it isn't some sort of cocktail. These are dogs of the barking variety and they're red! Make one of your own, from 14.00 to 17.00. Also free.

→ www.leuven.be/vrije-tijd/bibliotheek

At the Vleugel F youth centre on the Brusselsestraat, meanwhile, kids of five and up can, if you ask them nicely, bring along their parents to an afternoon of music, handcrafts, dancing and more, all built around the red dog motif. Saturday 6 November, price €2.50, email jeugddienst@leuven.be or call 016 24 66 90

Over at the Marleen Sempels dance studio in Diestsestraat there's plenty to do. A dance-puppet-theatre-factory all day daily from Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 November, culminating in a final performance costs €98 for four full days, which doesn't seem too much to ask. For kids aged seven to 14.

For kids aged three to six there's a similar all-week workshop centring on movement and dance. Held on the same days, but this time only €52 for the week.

And, finally, what would happen if all the people you invited to your birthday party failed to show up? Disaster! But wait! One guest has arrived – and it's Elvis! A one-hour show for four-year-olds and up on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 November.

→ www.spoor6.be/elvis.html

For workshops contact inschrijvingen@dansatelier-ms.be

→ www.dansatelierms.be/db/node/132

Bruges

Workshops for over-sixes on working with plaster (including plaster bandages), hand-made felt, Fimo clay and sculpting in soapstone. Organised by De Banier, a chain of shops catering to the Chiro (the Flemish version of the Scouts). Workshops last one day from Tuesday 2 November through to Saturday. Make sure you give them old clothes to wear! Also in Ghent, Antwerp and Mechelen.

→ www.debanier.be

Brussels

Musical instrument Museum, Hofberg, Brussels

Two-day workshop for over-sixes on Corneille, a member of the Cobra group, his paintings and music. Thursday 4 and Friday 5 November.

Also, a one-day workshop on recycling musical instruments with Luc Van Hende, on Wednesday 3 November.

→ www.mim.be

Ham

The old rectory in Ham is the perfect place for getting a feel of Halloween with a workshop for four to fives where they'll make spooky beasts out of socks and listen to tales of ghoulies and ghosties. Come dressed up! In the annexe, the eight to twelves can listen to Halloween stories and make themselves up into Frankensteins and zombies. Both start Thursday 4 November at 16.00. Contact bibliotheek@ham.be

Peer

Just like in the movies is the theme of a three-day workshop for six-to-ten-year-olds, organised by Merel Vercoetere, dance teacher at Leuven's art centre Mooss. Instead of sitting glued to the DVD player, kids will step into the shoes of Happy Feet, Billy Elliott or the cast of Willy Wonka, learning to express themselves in the style of the musicals. From Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 November in Peer cultural centre. Reservation required.

→ www.biccpeer.be

Mechelen

It may be a bit chilly to go out of doors but where else can kids find the natural materials to create all sorts of creatures? On Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 November, a workshop for children aged nine and over is being organised by Flemish environmentalist organisation Natuurpunt in the Mechelen rivers area. Wellies and a parka advised.

→ www.mechelsrivierengebied.be

Kortrijk (Heule)

Workshop for four to six-year-olds on Wednesday 3 November, making lamps and then taking them on a candlelight march. They'll also be cooking up some pancakes! De Vonke, Heule. Also on Wednesday 3, for kids aged seven to 12, the same workshop, this time in Heule castle, and with waffles.

Contact: oc.devonke@kortrijk.be

Roeselare

Brooddoos (Lunchbox) is a musical based on the book for children by Dimitri Leue. A young girl's friends all mock her, calling her a lunchbox, and in the end she feels like one because every day somebody comes rifling through her feelings and at the end of the day she's empty. It's a clever, entertaining examination of feelings: a lunchbox is all about love from home; sometimes it's the only thing that gets you through the day. The production, for over-fives, starts on 30 October in Roeselare and goes on to Bilzen, Oudenaarde, Bruges, Borgerhout and Ghent.

→ www.bronks.be



Strombeek

Kids of six to 12 have several options at Piereman on Nijverheidslaan in Strombeek: trompe l'œil artworks or an art workshop inspired by Picasso and Bosch, both on Tuesday 2 November.

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Nordic paradox

MARIE DUMONT

Risør, pronounced Ree-seur, is a small Nordic paradise. A secluded harbour on the south-eastern coast of Norway with white wooden houses and screeching seagulls, it has for one week every June since 1991 been home to a chamber music festival that the *New York Times* once described as one of the world's best known secrets. "It's a magical place," says homegrown pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, who for the past 17 years has shared the festival's artistic directorship with viola player Lars Anders Tomter. "There's this wonderful sense of closeness. You feel that the music speaks directly to you." Far from big concert halls, the idea behind Risør's festival is to experiment with a different, more laid-back and creative approach to music making: musicians, both famous and aspiring ones, stay for the entire week, socialise with the public and take part in collective concerts that mix repertoire staples with more challenging works. Friendships form and new ideas emerge. "There is no routine," says Andsnes. "Some concerts are a bit half-baked, because time is so tight. But you get a spark that doesn't usually happen in normal concert circumstances. And the public feels it." Before he steps down from his post next year, Andsnes, a world-famous performer brimming with ideas to make classical music more attractive to the general public, is bringing Risør to Brussels (and from there to the London Wigmore Hall and New York's Carnegie Hall), minus the seagulls, but, hopefully, with its freshness and energy still intact. Over three days in November, Bozar and the Royal Conservatory of Brussels will host a bracing

sampler programme performed by the likes of pianist Marc-André Hamelin and bubbly soprano Measha Brueggengosman. Not to forget Andsnes and Tomter themselves. If this sounds exciting and adventurous, wait until you see the rest of the programme of Norway Now!, a festival of Norwegian culture of which *Risør in Brussels* is part. A joint venture between Bozar, the Ancienne Belgique and a few other Brussels venues, the festival is an electrifying mix of edgy sounds, stunning modern architecture and the latest in film and literature, projecting a hip and ebullient image of the land of fjords and northern lights. Norway, which is geographically and culturally part of Europe but not a member of the EU, has produced Edvard Grieg's gentle ballads but also Edvard Munch's iconic depiction of anguish "The Scream". It defies categorisation. A young country that earned its independence from Sweden barely more than a century ago, it is still in a state of cultural flux and open to experimentation. "We don't have to carry on our shoulders the full weight of tradition," says Andsnes. "We can still do things for the first time." Musically, this translates into a rich underground scene that goes from free jazz to electronica to so-called noise music. All will be amply covered in the festival, courtesy of a handful of small energetic record labels which have been invited to showcase their most prominent artists, including Sonic Youth clones The Megaphonic Thrift and Maja Ratkje (pictured), whose wacky vocals have been described as a cross between Björk and a squealing pig. On the literature front, one of

Norway's foremost novelists, Lars Saabye Christensen, who has just had one of his works translated into Dutch, will expound his love affair with The Beatles, while film-wise Bozar will present sneak previews of two tender and quirky films by Hans Petter Moland and Bent Hamer. Special mention must also go to Sverre Fehn, a leading architect who died last year and will be the subject of a retrospective. The author of several bold, airy buildings, including the Norwegian pavilion at the Brussels Expo in 1958, he stands as a beguiling Nordic answer to American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It is a paradox of this gentle democracy that it has also spawned Black Metal, a brutal sub-branch of heavy metal whose followers have been held responsible for cases of torture, murder and church burning. The movement's dark menace will be charted in a documentary at Cinematek, as well as in a strangely fascinating exhibition by American photographer Peter Beste in which leather-clad Vikings stand scowling at us amid picturesque scenery. Even paradise has a darker side. ♦

Norway Now!
Until 24 May
Across Brussels

→ www.norvege.be



Aalst

CC De Werf
Molenstraat 51; 053.73.28.12
www.ccdewerf.be
OCT 29 20.00 Motek

Antwerp

Oude Badhuis
Stuivenbergplein 38; 03.292.60.00
OCT 30 20.00 Radio Modern à la Belge, featuring The Rattlekings, Boss & Roeland and King B

Sportpaleis

Schippoortweg 119; 070.345.345
www.sportpaleis.be
Until NOV 6 20.30 Night of the Proms 2010, featuring John Fogerty, Grace Jones, Boy George, more

Trix

Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00
www.trixonline.be
OCT 28 19.30 Alter Bridge **OCT 29** 22.00 Rampage, featuring Danny Byrd, Flux Pavillion, Murdock **OCT 30** 19.00 ReCharge with Stef Kamil Carlens + Stijn + Flip Kowlier + Fixkes + Balaji + The Bony King of Nowhere + more **NOV 1** 19.00 Therion + Loch Vostok + Leprous **NOV 3** 20.00 Feeder

Bruges

Stadsschouwburg
Vlamingstraat 29; 050.44.30.40
www.cultuurcentrumbrugge.be
OCT 29 20.00 Axelle Red

Brussels

Ancienne Belgique
Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24
www.abconcerts.be
Concerts at 20.00:
OCT 27 Level 42 **OCT 30** Estopa.
Warpaint **OCT 31** Zap Mama **NOV 3** Root + Hindi Zahra. Surfer Blood

Beursschouwburg

Auguste Ortsstraat 20-28; 02.550.03.50
www.vkconcerts.be
NOV 3 22.00 Benito Band

Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
NOV 1 20.15 John Hiatt & The Combo with special guest Admiral Freebee

Koninklijk Circus

Onderrichtsstraat 81; 02.218.20.15
www.cirque-royal.org
OCT 28 Chimène Badi
OCT 30 20.30 Joe Satriani

Le Botanique

Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32
www.botanique.be
Concerts at 20.00:
OCT 27 Solillaquists of Sound + Duke Special + The Magic Numbers **OCT 28** Happy Birthday + Health **OCT 29** Buscemi + The Michel Bisceglia Ensemble. Sophia **OCT 31** Geneva Jacuzzi + Ariel Pink **NOV 1** Dag För Dag + Shout Out Louds. **NOV 3** Professor Green

Magasin 4

Havenlaan 51B; 02.223.34.74
www.magasin4.be
OCT 28 20.00 Planey + My Princess is a Whore + Wastd Years + Olduvai **OCT 29-30** 20.00 Halloween Weekender: Moonhop + Train's Tone **OCT 31** 19.00 KK Null + Phil Maggi + Y.E.R.M.O **NOV 3** 19.00 Amber Asylum + ?Alos + Diskrepan + more

Ghent

De Centrale
Kraankindersstraat 2; 09.265.98.28
www.decentrale.be
NOV 1 19.30 Darwin Deez

Handelsbeurs

Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65
www.handelsbeurs.be
OCT 27 20.15 Score Man
OCT 30 20.15 Miek & Roel + Eva De Roovere + Jean Blaute + Mathias Sercu & Roland

Kinky Star

Vlasmarkt 9; 09.223.48.45
www.kinkystar.com
OCT 29 21.00 Kraak: U.S. Girls

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TICKETS NOW!

Lady Linn & Her Magnificent Seven

20 March, 20.00

Ancienne Belgique, Brussels

She's been gone awhile, but now she's back: Lien De Greef, aka Lady Linn, brings her seven-piece back to the AB, a show that will sell out lickety-split. The loungey jazz sounds of the Flemish outfit are a mating call to brass band aficionados and Flemish hipsters alike. A new album precedes the concert, so expect plenty of new tunes.



→ www.abconcerts.be

OCT 30 Quiet

OCT 31 Luis Francesco Arena

Vooruit

St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060
www.vooruit.be
OCT 27 22.00 Balthazar + Broken Glass Heroes **OCT 28** 22.00 The Terror Pigeon Dance Revolt! **OCT 29** 20.00 Steven De Bruyn, Tony Gyselsinck & Roland. 22.00 KRS-One 23.00 Africa Hitech featuring Mark Pritchard & Steve Spacek **OCT 31** 20.00 Stef Bos **NOV 2** 20.30 Splash: The Mighty Diamonds + Linval Thompson

Hasselt

Ethias Arena

Gouverneur Verwilghensingel 70; 011.29.94.99 www.grenslanthalen.be
OCT 31 12.30 Sinner's Day: New-wave and punk festival, featuring The Fall, The Damned, Echo and the Bunnymen, Nina Hagen Band, more

Kortrijk

De Kreun

Conservatoriumplein 1; 056.37.06.44
www.dekreun.be
OCT 27 20.00 Flip Kowlier
OCT 30 20.00 Gesman
NOV 2 20.00 Clubside Down, Studio Brussel party with Xiu-Xiu + Zola Jesus + Former Ghosts

Leuven

Het Depot
Martelarenplein 12; 016.22.06.03
www.hetdepot.be
OCT 28 20.00 De Jeugd Van Tegenwoordig
OCT 29 21.30 HiNDU NiGHTS: Broken Glass Heroes + Hindu Radio DJs, more
NOV 1 20.00 Jamie Lidell



Antwerp

Buster

Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53
www.busterpodium.be
OCT 28 21.00 Jurassic Jam **OCT 29** 22.00 Jozef Dumoulin Trio **OCT 30** 22.00 Wendy & Friends **NOV 3** 21.00 Playtime Session

Café Hopper

Leopold de Waelstraat 2; 03.248.49.33
www.cafehopper.be
OCT 31 16.00 Yvonne Walter & guests
NOV 1 21.00 Bert Lochs Trio

De Roma

Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40
www.deroma.be
OCT 27 20.30 Deolinda
OCT 29 20.30 Ian Siegal
OCT 30 20.30 Roby Lakatos: The Devil's Fiddler

MORE FESTIVALS COMING SOON

I Love Techno → Flanders Expo, Ghent

Bâtard Festival → Beursschouwburg, Brussels

Crossing Border → Arenbergschouwburg, Antwerp



Rataplan
Wijnegemstraat 27; 03.292.97.40
www.rataplanvzw.be
OCT 29 20.30 Ben Sluijs & Erik Vermeulen

Brussels

Jazz Station
Leuvensesteenweg 193; 02.733.13.78
OCT 27 20.30 Narcissus **OCT 28** 20.00 Phil Abraham Quartet **OCT 30** 18.00 Pink Free Evolution **NOV 3** 20.30 Augusto Pirodda Quartet

Marni Clube
Vergniestraat 25; 02.639.09.82
www.theatremarni.com
NOV 2 21.30 Raf Debacker Trio

Sounds Jazz Club
Tulpenstraat 28; 02.512.92.50
www.soundsjazzclub.be
Concerts at 22.00:
OCT 27 Los Soneros del barrio **OCT 28** Manuel Hermia Trio **OCT 29-30** Daniel Romeo **NOV 1** Master Session **NOV 2** Julien Tassin Trio

The Music Village
Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45
www.themusicvillage.com
Concerts at 21.00:
OCT 27 Banij's Afro **OCT 28** 12.30 Sam Vloemans. Bal Tabarin **OCT 29** The New Orleans Roof Jazzmen **OCT 30** Edgar Van Asselt 4tet with David Schnitter **NOV 2** Ewout Pierreux Quintet

The Wood
Floralan 3-4; 02.640.19.68
www.thewood.be
OCT 28 23.00 Cue V + Laurenzinho + Lee Jones

Ghent

Vooruit
St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060
www.vooruit.be
NOV 3 20.00 John Scofield Trio. 22.00 We Have Band

Hasselt

Muziekodroom
Bootstraat 9; 011.23.13.13
www.muziekodroom.be
OCT 27 20.00 John Mayall, blues



Brussels

Art Base
Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20
www.art-base.be
OCT 29 20.00 AZU-K
OCT 30 20.00 Bert Cornelis & Udhav Shinde
OCT 31 19.00 Harald Haugaard & Hélène Blum Quaret

Atelier 210
Sint-Pieterssteenweg 210; 02.732.25.98
www.atelier210.be
NOV 3 20.00 What the Folk! Troy Von Balthazar + Turner Cody

Ghent

De Bijloke
Joseph Kluyskenstraat 2; 09.269.92.92
www.debijloke.be
OCT 27 20.00 Ustad S Dagar and Sons

Leopoldsbuurg

CC Leopoldsbuurg
Kastanjedreef 1; 011.34.65.48
www.ccleopoldsbuurg.be
OCT 29 20.15 Blindnote
OCT 30 20.15 The Helene Blum & Harald Haugaard Quartet



Antwerp

Amuz
Kammenstraat 81; 03.292.36.80
www.amuz.be
OCT 31 15.00 Musical homage to the 20th-century writer Willem Elsschot, featuring a few of his favourite composers (Bach, Corelli, Boccherini, more)

deSingel
Desguinlei 25; 03.248.28.28
www.desingel.be
Concerts at 20.00:
OCT 27 Artis Quartett Wien: lecture/recital focusing on Schubert's Death and the Maiden **OCT 28** Artis Quartett Wien: Haydn, Schumann, more **OCT 29** DeFilharmonie conducted by Christian Lindberg, trombone: Prokofiev, Sibelius, Lindberg **OCT 30** I Solisti di Vento, Collegium Vocale, Accademia Chigiana Siena conducted by Philippe Herreweghe: Bruckner, Brahms, more

Bruges

Concertgebouw
't Zand 34; 070.22.33.02
www.concertgebouw.be
OCT 27 20.00 Europa Galante conducted by Fabio Biondi: Telemann, Caldara, more **OCT 29** 20.00 Collegium Vocale Gent, Accademia Chigiana Siena, I Solisti di Vento conducted by Philippe Herreweghe: Brahms, Schubert, more **OCT 30** 17.00 Jukebox Prokofiev with guests Frank Westerman and Francis Maes. 20.00 DeFilharmonie conducted by Christian Lindberg, trombone: Prokofiev, Lindberg, Sibelius **NOV 3** 20.00 Tae-Hyung Kim, piano: fifth laureate of the 2010 Queen Elisabeth Competition

Brussels

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
OCT 27 12.40 Trio Aristos: Dohnanyi, Sorensen, Beethoven. 20.00 München Philharmoniker conducted by Christian Thielemann: Franz Schreker, Mahler, Brahms
OCT 28 12.30 Alexei Moshkov, Akika Hayakawa, violins; Dmitri Ryabinin, viola; Taras Zanchak, cello; Gen Tomuro, piano: Schnittke, Brahms. 20.00 Collegium Vocale Gent, Accademia Chigiana Siena conducted by Philippe Herreweghe: Bruckner, Brahms, Cornelius
OCT 29 20.00 Royal Wallonia Chamber Orchestra conducted by Augustin Dumay, violin; with Lorenzo Gatto, violin: Mozart
OCT 31 11.00 Rubens Ensemble: Anton Arensky, Chausson

Flagey
Heilig Kruisplein; 02.641.10.20
www.flagey.be
OCT 29 20.15 Brussels Philharmonic conducted by Michel Tabachnik: R Strauss, Brahms
OCT 30-31 11.40/13.30 It's Oh So Choir: mini choral music festival featuring Belgian schoolchildren, choirs from

the Netherlands and Denmark and the Vlaams Radio Koor

Royal Music Conservatory
Regentschapsstraat 30; 02.213.41.37
www.kcb.be
OCT 28 20.00 Evgeni Bozhanov, piano: Chopin

Ghent

De Bijloke
Jozef Kluyskensstraat 2 09.233.68.78
www.debijloke.be
OCT 30 20.00 Brussels Philharmonic conducted by Michel Tabachnik, with Christiane Oelze, soprano: Strauss, Brahms

Handelsbeurs
Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65
OCT 28 20.15 Llyr Williams, piano: Beethoven, Debussy, Liszt

Leuven

30CC – Predikherenkerk
Onze Lieve Vrouwstraat; 016.23.84.27
www.30cc.be
NOV 1 20.00 Ensemble Micrologus conducted by Patrizia Bovi: Le Jeu de Robin et Marion by Adam de la Halle
NOV 2 20.00 ClubMédiéval conducted by Thomas Baeté



Antwerp

Vlaamse Opera
Frankrijklei 1; 070.22.02.02
www.vlaamseopera.be
Until NOV 7 15.00/20.00 Mozart's Die Entführung aus dem Serail (The Abduction from the Seraglio) conducted by Umberto Benedetti Michelangeli, staged by Eike Gramss (in the original German with Dutch surtitles)

Brussels

De Munt
Muntplein; 070.23.39.39 www.demunt.be
Until NOV 14 15.00/20.00 Janacek's Káťa Kabanová, conducted by Leo Hussain, staged by Andrea Breth (in Czech with Dutch and French surtitles)



Antwerp

Monty
Montignystraat 3-5; 03.238.91.81
www.monty.be
OCT 28-29 20.30 Action Scénique in Tres Scripturae, choreographed by Etienne Guilloteau

Brussels

Cité Culture
Citroenbomenlaan 61; www.belgart.be
OCT 28-30 20.30 Qui bent-tu?, dance, music and video show about Belgium and its linguistic quarrels, choreographed by Christophe Carpentier

Les Brigittines
Korte Brigittinenstraat 1; 02.213.86.10
www.brigittines.be
NOV 3-6 20.30 Still Alive, choreographed by Barbara Mavro Thalassitis

Ghent

Capitole
Graaf van Vlaanderenplein 5; 0900.69.00
www.capitolegent.be
OCT 27 15.00 National Opera & Ballet Theater of Ukraine in Sneeuwwitje (Snow White), choreographed by Henrik Mayorov and Marc Krone (ages 4-11)



Aalst

CC De Werf
Molenstraat 51; 053.73.28.12
www.ccdewerf.be
OCT 28 20.00 The Dirty Brothers, comedy (no dialogue)
OCT 30 20.00 Han solo in MultiKul, comedy (in Dutch)

Antwerp

De Zwarte Komedie
Leguit 15-17; 03.233.56.78

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30 October – 11 December

Argos Centre, Brussels

As the name suggests, this is the second event that finds Brussels' top-notch media centre plunging its archives in the name of connective history – what do they find there that relates to today's contemporary society? It's 12 thematic weeks of surprises in exhibitions and city walks, with an evening programme of debates, performances and film screenings. Visit the exhibition Walking the Hinterland at this weekend's opening night, which concludes past midnight with Messieurs Delmotte and his Jukebox Recorded Orchestra.



→ www.argosarts.org

www.dezwartekomedie.be
Until NOV 13 15.00/21.00 Pieter Klinck and Katrien De Winter in Obama en Osama (De Vrede), written and directed by Katrien Scheir (in Dutch)

Zuiderpershuis
Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00
www.zuiderpershuis.be
OCT 29-DEC 16 20.30 Chokri Ben Chikha in Heldenood voor de beschaving: de finale (Heroic death for civilisation: the finale) (in Dutch)

Brussels

KVS Bol
Lakensstraat 146; 02.210.11.12
www.kvs.be
NOV 2-11 20.00 Monkey Sandwich, theatre/film, staged and directed by Wim Vandekeybus (in English and German with French and Dutch surtitles)

Ghent

Capitole
Graaf van Vlaanderenplein 5; 0900.69.00
www.capitolegent.be
NOV 1 14.00 Deborah De Ridder in Tell Me On a Sunday, one-woman musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber (in Dutch)

Leuven

STUK
Naamsestraat 96; 016.32.03.20
www.stuk.be
Until OCT 29 20.30 Monkey Sandwich, theatre/film, staged and directed by Wim Vandekeybus (in English and German with French and Dutch surtitles)

Ostend

Kursaal (Casino)
Monacoplein 2; 070.22.56.00
www.sherpa.be
OCT 30 20.00 Herman Van Veen, one-man cabaret (in Dutch)



Antwerp

Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)
Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60
www.muhka.be
Until NOV 14 Modern Dialect, contemporary artists look at the work of late Flemish architect Renaat Braem
Until JAN 16 Confluence and Consequence, tapestries by Craigie Horsfield based on his own photographs

Diamond Museum
Kon. Astridplein 19-23 (03.202.48.90
www.diamantmuseum.be
Until DEC 31 For Honour & Glory: Treasure of Napoleon, the pomp and splendour of Napoleon and Marie-Louise's jewelry on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of their arrival in Antwerp

Extra City
Tulpstraat 79; 03.677.16.55
www.extracity.org
Until OCT 31 The Formative Years, works by German experimental filmmaker and artist Heinz Emigholz
Until OCT 31 (Conditions of Agency), objects, texts, videos and interviews by Dutch artist Falke Pisano

Fashion Museum (MoMu)
Nationalestraat 28; 03.470.27.70

www.momu.be
Until FEB 13 Stephen Jones & The Accent of Fashion, retrospective of works by the world-famous British hatmaker

Fotomuseum

Waalse Kaai 47; 03.242.93.00
www.fotomuseum.be
Until JAN 16 Boris Becker 1984-2009, photographs by the German modernist
Until JAN 16 Willy Kessels 1930-1960, photographs by the Flemish modernist

Bruges

De Bond
Buiten Smedenvest 1; 050.44.30.40
www.ccbrugge.be
Until NOV 28 Exhibition Models, installations by Chohreh Feyzjdjou, Meschac Gaba and Wesley Meuris

Groeningemuseum

Dijver 12; 050.44.87.43
OCT 29-JAN 30 Van Eyck to Dürer, paintings by Flemish Primitives paired with work by painters from the Holy Roman Empire who were directly influenced by the Primitives

Hospitaalmuseum

Mariastraat 38; 050.44.87.11
www.museabrugge.be
Until NOV 7 Ivory in Bruges, rare pieces from museums, churches and monasteries

La Brugeoise

Vaartdijkstraat 5-7; 050.44.30.40
www.ccbrugge.be
Until NOV 2 Iran&co, three-part project by curator Amirali Ghasemi, with works by contemporary Iranian artists, an archive of Iranian art over the last decennium and the documentary Iran Beyond Borders

Brussels

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
Until FEB 13 Ensor: Composer and Writer, autographs, publications, documents and photographs by the Flemish Surrealist master James Ensor
Until NOV 28 Belge 3 fois/3 keer Belgisch, drawings and installations by French artist Catherine Van den Steen illustrating her impressions of Brussels, Antwerp and Liège
OCT 29-JAN 23 Gilbert & George: Jack Freak Pictures, major exhibition of the Italian-British artist duo's celebration of the Union Jack

Brussels Info Place (BIP)
Koningsplein; 02.563.63.99
www.biponline.be
Until DEC 19 The history of towers in Europe via 150 architectural projects
Until DEC 31 Europe in Brussels: Fragmented Past, Shared Future?, video exhibition looking at the European quarter, from its beginnings to the present day (www.europeinbrussels.be)

ING Cultural Centre

Koningsplein 6; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
Until FEB 13 Ensor Revealed, drawings and paintings reveal the imaginary and artistic evolution of the Ostend artist on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth

Magritte Museum

Koningsplein 1; (0)2 508 32 11,
www.musee-magritte-museum.be
Until JAN 2 The painting The Threatened Assassin comes to the museum on loan

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from MoMA in New York to hang beside its companion piece 'The Secret Player', bringing Magritte's sole diptych temporarily together

Museum van Elsene
Jean Van Volsemstraat 71; 02.515.64.22
www.museumvanelsene.be
Until JAN 16 Paul Delvaux: Starting Points, paintings by the Belgian surrealist shown alongside works by artists who influenced him
Until JAN 16 From Dürer to Jan Fabre: Masterpieces, paintings from the museum's collection including 19th- and 20th-century works by Ensor, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Miró, more

Royal Museum of the Armed Forces
Jubelpark 3; 02.737.78.33
www.legermuseum.be
Until OCT 31 Lisolo Na Bisu (Our Story) and Tokopesa saluti (We Salute You), objects, documents photographs and audiovisual material reveal 125 years of Belgo-Congolese military relations
Until NOV 30 Crazy Flying Machines, drawings by Belgian illustrator Jean Leclercqz

Royal Museums of Art and History
Jubelpark 10; 02.741.72.11
www.kmkg-mrah.be
Until NOV 30 The Etruscans in Europe, multimedia tour of the Etruscan civilisation from their conquest of Italy to the rest of Europe

Royal Museum of Fine Arts
Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11

WEEK IN FILM

LISA BRADSHAW



Filem'on

30 October – 7 November
Across Brussels

At a time when movies seem to be going the way of music, with fans afraid of how pirating and downloading might make the industry financially unpalatable to new filmmakers, it's heartening to see so many film festivals devoting part of their programmes to children – the filmmakers of the future. Perhaps showing them how much fun it is to make their own movies – and to watch those of others on a big screen will convince them to pay for their future viewing pleasures

Filem'on, though, beats them all – it's an entire film festival for kids, with international cinema fit for the whole family, such as *Boy* (pictured), Taika Waititi's light-hearted film about an 11-year old in 1984 New Zealand who imagines that his ex-con father is a hero and close personal friend of Michael Jackson. There's also *Dessine-toi (Draw Yourself)*, a documentary profiling children from 33 countries, and a strong selection of animation, particularly from Eastern Europe. It all starts with a ciné-concert of silent films accompanied by live music for kids of all ages, and ends with screenings of films made by kids who followed the week-long workshop.

➔ www.filemon.be

www.fine-arts-museum.be
Until NOV 28 Javier Marin: De 3 en 3, urban installation by the Mexican sculptor
Until JAN 9 From Delacroix to Kandinsky, Orientalism in Europe, European Orientalist art during the 19th century with paintings, drawings and sculpture
OCT 29-FEB 6 Jules Schmalzigaug: A Futurist Belgian, retrospective of paintings by the artist (1882-1917) who was the only Belgian to be involved in the Italian futurist movement before the First World War
OCT 29-FEB 6 Reinhoud, tribute to the Belgian sculptor and graphic artist, member of the CoBrA movement, who died in 2007

Tour & Taxis
Havenlaan 86C; 02.549.60.49
www.tour-taxis.com
Until NOV 14 Morocco & Europe: Six Centuries in the Glance of the Other, the 600-year history of immigration and commercial and political relations between Morocco and Europe
Until DEC 5 Art in All of Us, photos from an around-the-world trip by Anthony Asaël and Stéphanie Rabemiafara (www.artinallofus.be)
Until MAY 9 America: It's Also Our History, three centuries of cross-Atlantic relations with frescoes, charts, audiovisual material, installations, objects and artwork

WIELS
Van Volxemlaan 354; 02.340.00.50
www.wiels.org
Until JAN 30 Francis Alys: A Story of Deception, installations, paintings, drawings, and documents by the Mexico-based Flemish artist

Deurle

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens
Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23
www.museumdd.be
Until DEC 5 Thomas Hirschhorn: Too Too - Much Much, installations by the contemporary Swiss artist

Gaasbeek

Gaasbeek Castle
Kasteelstraat 40; 02.531.01.30
www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be
Until NOV 7 Dragon Brood!, collection of works and objects on the theme of dragons

Ghent

Dr Guislain Museum
Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95
www.museumdrguislain.be
Until JAN 27 Bobby Baker Diary Drawings: Mental Illness and Me, more than 150 drawings by the British performance artist illustrate her 10-year journey through psychiatric institutions
Until MAY 8 The Weighty Body: Of Fat and Thin, Perfect or Deranged, a history of fasting for personal, esthetic, religious or economic reasons

Museum of Modern Art (SMAK)
Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03 www.smak.be
Until NOV 21 Tegenlicht (Backlight), young visual artists and writers confront famous artists from the literary, arts and music scene
Until DEC 3 Inside Installations, 10 installations from the museum's collection
OCT 31-FEB 27 Hareng Saur: Ensor and contemporary art, the work of James Ensor associated with the work of contemporary artists

Stadsmuseum Gent (STAM)
Bijloke - Godshuizenlaan 2; 09.269.87.90
www.stamgent.be
Until MAY 1 Enlightened City, an examination of how light affects a city through diaries, models, paintings, photographs and installations

Hasselt

Fashion Museum (MMH)
Gasthuisstraat 11; 011.239.621
www.modemuseumhasselt.be
Until JAN 9 Devout/Divine: Fashion vs Religion, examples of religious symbolism in designs of the past decennia

Literair Museum
Bampslaan 35; 011.26.17.87
www.literairmuseum.be
Until NOV 7 Tom Schamp: Feest in de stad (Party in the City), work by the Flemish illustrator

z33
Zuivelmarkt 33; 011.29.59.60 www.z33.be
Until DEC 12 David Huycke: Re-thinking granulation, sculptures by the Flemish silver designer
Until DEC 12 Toegepast (Applied), works by students selected from Belgian and Dutch design academies

Kasterlee

Frans Masereel Centre
Zaardendijk 20; 014.85.22.50
www.fransmasereelcentrum.be
Until NOV 30 Reunalla/Aan de grens, contemporary Finnish lithography

Kemzeke

Verbeke Foundation
Westakker; 03.789.22.07
www.verbekefoundation.com
Until OCT 31 Green Summer, ecological projects and art works
Until OCT 31 Stan Wanner: De Hondenmepper, moving installations and robotics by the artist-in-residence
Until OCT 31 Wout Hoeboer (1910-1983); Dandy Dada, retrospective of the surrealist Dutch painter

Knokke-Heist

Cultuurcentrum Scharpoord
Meerlaan 32; 050.630.430
www.congocollectie.be
OCT 31-JAN 16 Congo Collection, Congolese sculptures and masks

Kortrijk

Museum Kortrijk 1302
Houtmarkt-Begijnpark; 056.27.78.50,
www.kortrijk1302.be
Until JAN 9 OnGELOOFlijk: van hemel, hel en halleluja (UnBELIEVEable: From Heaven, Hell and Hallelujah), religious objects and symbols from the past 500 years

Leuven

Museum M
Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28; 016.27.29.29 www.mleuven.be
Until DEC 5 The Anjou Bible: A Royal Manuscript Revealed, a rare manuscript from the 14th-century court of Naples
Until DEC 5 Matthew Brannon, lithographs and screenprints by the American artist
Until JAN 16 Robert Devriendt: Victimes de la Passion, paintings by the Flemish artist
Until JAN 23 Mayombe: Meesters van de magie (Master of Magic), sculptures and objects from KU Leuven's Congolese collection

Saint Michael Church
Naamsestraat 57a;
www.gijsvanvaerenbergh.com
Until OCT 31 The Upside Dome, installation by Flemish artist duo Gijs Van Vaerenbergh

Ostend

Vrijstaat O
Zeedijk 10; 059.26.51.27
www.vrijstaat-o.be
Until NOV 7 Citybooks presents Martijn van de Griendt, photographs of Ostend

Tervuren

Royal Museum for Central Africa
Leuvensesteenweg 13; 02.769.52.11
www.africamuseum.be
Until JAN 9 Congo River: 4,700 Kilometres Bursting with Nature and Culture, interactive exhibition on the lifeblood of Congo, from source to mouth
Until JAN 9 100 Years in 100 Photographs, outdoor exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the African Museum building
Until JAN 9 Indépendance! Congolese Tell Their Stories of 50 Years of Independence, multi-media exhibition looks at the Democratic Republic of Congo from independence to today
Until JAN 9 Congo belge en images, photographs by Carl Dekeyser and Johan Lagae



Opera in the Cinema: Opera from the Met in New York live via satellite on the big screen
Until MAY 14 in Kinepolis cinemas across Belgium
www.kinepolis.com/opera

Antwerp

Boekenbeurs: Flanders' largest book fair with dozens of author appearances and thousands of new books for sale
OCT 31-NOV 11 10.00-18.00 at Antwerp Expo, Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 191
03.260.81.20 www.boekenbeurs.be

Bruges

Brugge Centraal: Festival celebrating the art and culture of Central Europe, with dance, theatre, music, literature, film and exhibitions
Until JAN 30 across Bruges
www.bruggecentraal.be

Brussels

Artisanart & Be Well/Bio: Crafts and gastronomy fair featuring organic products
OCT 29-NOV 1 10.00-19.00 at Tour & Taxis, Havenlaan 86C
www.artisanart.be

Bâtard Festival: Theatre, dance and performance festival for and by young artists
OCT 28-30 at Beursschouwburg, August Ortsstraat 20-28
02.550.03.50, www.batard.be

Michael Cunningham: The American author of the Pulitzer prize-winning book The Hours talks about his new book By Nightfall (in English)
NOV 3 20.00 at Passa Porta, Antoine Dansaertstraat 46
02.226.04.54, www.beschrijf.be

Freedom Festival: Multidisciplinary festival promoting human rights through concerts, performances, exhibitions, international film competition, talks and more
Until OCT 30 at Théâtre National, Emile Jacqmainlaan, and KVS, Lakensestraat
www.festivaldeslibertes.be

Museum Nocturnes: Late-opening in Brussels' museums, with at least six different museums open until 22.00 every Thursday, plus guided tours and special events
Until DEC 16 on Thursdays, across the city
http://nocturnes.brusselmuseums.be

Norway Now: Festival of contemporary Norwegian culture with classical and pop music, literature, architecture, film and graphic design
NOV 1-MAY 24 at Bozar, Ancienne Belgique, Beursschouwburg and VK
www.bozar.be, www.abconcerts.be

Skoda Jazz: The 25th edition of this international jazz festival featuring Herbie Hancock, Toots Thielemans, Philip Catherine, Lady Linn, more
Until NOV 30 across Brussels
www.skodajazz.be

Gaasbeek

Grimm Halloween: Spooky forest of scenes from fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm, for all ages
OCT 31 18.00-22.00 at Gaasbeek Castle, Kasteelstraat 40
02.531.01.30, www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be

Ghent

L-Day: 25th annual day for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, including concerts, readings, dance lessons, information from local clubs and agencies, dance party with DJ Buscemi, more
OCT 31 at Vooruit
www.l-day.be

Hasselt

Een rijm in mijn oor (A Rhyme in My Ear): Poetry festival for children, ages 8-12
NOV 3 at the Literary Museum, Bampslaan 35
011.26.17.87 www.literairmuseum.be

Leuven

Beste Multatuli... (Dear Multatuli...): Series of readings on topics such as post-colonialism and multiculturalism by various authors to honour 150 years since publication of the book Max Havelaar by satirical novelist Multatuli. This week featuring Flemish writer and scientist David Van Reybrouck
OCT 29 20.00 at Museum M, Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28
www.deburen.eu

PM DOUTRELIGNE

CAFE SPOTLIGHT



© Myriam Vander Eecken

When 'friendly' trumps 'trendy'

Supra Bailly
Baljuwstraat 77, Brussels

Personally I like to blame Frédéric Nicolay. Not that he'll take umbrage, mind you or even notice for that matter. Nicolay, a.k.a the "Belgian Terence Conran", is the man responsible for opening or relaunching a dozen bars and restaurants in Brussels, most notably Café Belga, half of Sint-Gorikspein, Le Bar du Matin and De Walvis. My gripe is not with the fact that all his creations have the same feel. I am, after all, a regular Ibis patron and a lover of Soviet-era state architecture. No, the bone I have to pick with him concerns the pseudo-*Brusseleir* identity oozing from every brick, every slab and every plank of his bars. Now, forgive me for stating the oh-so-obvious, but from its food to its dialect and from its larger-than-life politicians to its arts scene, Brussels has always had a strong identity. To reinvent a *Brusseleir* vibe when it had never gone away in the first place is, at best, pointless and, at worst, downright insulting. Surprisingly (and thankfully), the Supra Bailly doesn't seem to feature on Nicolay's 'to-do' list. Its location, on Elsene's increasingly trendy Baljuwstraat, a stone's throw from the even trendier Kasteleinsplein market, coupled with its indefatigability would have made it a prime contender. But Le Supra is one of those places you suddenly realise has been there all your life. Originally a nondescript neighbourhood pub, the Supra acquired minor cult status in the mid-90s, largely thanks to its incredibly generous opening hours. Also popular was the fact that you could get a microwaved spag-bol or an equally bland croque-monsieur at 3.00; cheap, unhealthy and therefore the perfect companion to a late night on the sauce. Such culinary delights are sadly no longer on offer (the owners have opted to keep the place 100% smoking), but, to be frank, you don't go to the Supra Bailly for its food or its wine list (there isn't one). Beer (more than enough to choose from), a lively chat and non-judgemental staff are the key ingredients here. No need to reinvent anything.

ROBYN BOYLE

bite



De Vlaamsche Pot

In times of war and post-war, when Flemish farmers' wives struggled to feed the hungry mouths of their multiple children, the key was to prepare large portions of warm, hearty fare using ingredients that were not too expensive or hard to come by. Hence all the stews and wonderfully simple combinations like sausage and potatoes with boiled cabbage. They basically threw everything they had together into one pot.

Nobody knows this better than Mario Cattoor, chef and owner of De Vlaamsche Pot (The Flemish Pot), who opened his restaurant 26 years ago in a quiet side street near Bruges' main square. Pointing out some old framed portraits on the wall near the entrance, he said: "These are my grandparents and great-grandparents. All the recipes come from them." Music to my ears; I was eager to get seated.

However, it appeared we were in for a long wait. The cosy ground-level was completely packed; every wooden table was filled with boisterous diners. The restaurant can hold 200 customers at a time and welcomes right around that number on a daily basis. "Follow me," Mario said. So we did; through an incredible maze of rooms and up to another level with equally snug and crowded spaces. But there it was: one lone free table with a red-and-white checked tablecloth against a window with matching curtains.

With two large, house-brewed amber beers in our hands we acquainted ourselves with the menu. You can trace the origins of all the products served, including rabbit and blue-white beef from local West-Flemish farmers and daily fresh fish from nearby Zeebrugge. Knowing this made my dinner choice no easier but when my companion finally settled on the Vlaamsche menu, it persuaded me to take the Noordzee menu.

In the meantime, a paper bag arrived. Curiosity (or hunger) got the better of us and we opened it up for a peek. Inside were warm chunks of springy, grey-brown bread encased

in a crispy crust. Slathered in butter, this bread alone, baked fresh in-house, made the journey to Bruges worth it. But we were in for more pleasant surprises.

The Vlaamsche menu starter was a slice of artisanal farmer's *pâté*, presented next to tart red berries, slices of apple, and a light salad. The *pâté* tasted of liver, although subtle and palatable, and a pleasant mix of onion and other spices. The Noordzee starter consisted of heaps of little grey shrimps coated in a light pink, creamy cocktail sauce with, underneath, a handful of ripe red cherry tomatoes.

My main dish was *waterzooi*, the original fish-based version of the classic stew, consisting of boiled potatoes under long strips of delicate white cod, venus and razor clams, a langoustine, plus carrots, celery, leeks, parsley and loads of heavy cream. My companion's main was another classic: Flemish beef stew, *stoofvlees*, and a lot of it, served in a cast-iron pot. The sauce was dark, sweetened to the taste with Leffe beer and brown sugar, and seasoned with mustard, parsley, thyme and bay leaf. It came with all the fresh fries you could eat.

Dessert was exorbitant at this point. Regardless, we tucked into a generous dish of vanilla ice cream, and a glass jar of Bruges cream, a white pudding-like base with a yellow *advocaat* and milk chocolate topping. This particular dessert is a secret family recipe, according to Mario.

Those with a real penchant for sweets are advised to visit De Vlaamsche Pot in the afternoon for their specialty waffles and pancakes.

→ www.devlaamschepot.be

📍 Helmstraat 3-5, Bruges; 050.34.00.86

🕒 Wed-Sun, 12.00-22.00
(reservation recommended)

★ Authentic Flemish comfort food from grandmother's time

Contact Bite at flandersbite@gmail.com

TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



‘walnoot’

Nuts, I've never seen so many nuts as this year. Our *eikeboom* – oak tree – has finished shedding its thousands of *eikels* or acorns; shame we don't keep pigs. Standing unobtrusively a short distance away is another tree. I don't know where it came from; we certainly didn't plant it. It's a *walnotenboom*, walnut tree, though usually it's just called *een notenboom*. And like the *eikeboom*, it has produced a vast quantity of nuts. Which all means work for me.

The *eikels* I binned, but I thought I would harvest the *walnoten*. Backbreaking work, but soon I had filled a pail. Washed and then dried in the oven, they look great in two large bowls. Alas, most are just an empty shell.

A pity, since they are about the best thing to keep you in good shape. With fridges more and more resembling medicine cabinets, *noten*, and *walnoten* in particular, really do you good: *Die hebben bijzonder veel goede effecten* – They have a great many good effects is what a recent article stated.

It surely must be a coincidence that the brain-shaped nut is good for the brains. Certainly, they are a godsend for the circulatory system: *Walnoten bevatten beschermende vetten die*

de bloedvaten en het hart soepel en gezond houden – Walnuts contain protective fats that keep the blood vessels and the heart supple and healthy. In fact, unlike the neutral fats of olive oil, the oils of walnuts have a remarkable effect on a fatty diet: *ze maken de schadelijke effecten ongedaan* – they undo the damaging effects. And if you are a die-hard couch potato, there's one thing you can do for your health: *vervang je zak chips door een handvol noten* – replace your bags of crisps with a handful of nuts.

I'm looking again at all those nuts and wondering what got into me. I should just have left them where they were. We have hungry *veldmuizen* – fieldmice – in the garden, as the cats like to show. And every autumn we have visits from *Vlaamse gaaien*, Flemish jays, big jaunty birds that act as if they own the place, which collect the nuts they want. So I think I am going to return most of the nuts to the back of the garden and let the beasts work out which shells are worth opening.

THE LAST WORD...

Reality bites

"Of course I was shocked, although I did think for a few moments that it was a scene set up by the programme makers."

Flemish minister Hilde Crevits, who was heckled by an angry audience member during a show on Radio 2 last weekend

Buy my broken heart

"For Sale: One heart, horrible condition, will take anything for it."

A lovelorn Limburg woman, who offered her broken heart for sale on eBay

Train trouble

"We have had to conclude that in the last 30 years nothing has been done to improve safety in any significant way."

Patrick Lafontaine, an expert brought in to evaluate railway safety in Belgium

No going back

"Just because there's a problem with paedophilia doesn't mean that statements about sexual matters are taboo. Abortion remains a problem, just like homosexuality and divorce."

Archbishop Léonard, who recently spoke of Aids as a "sort of inherent justice", interviewed in NRC Handelsblad

NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY #154

Arts

Flemish artist Wim Delvoye's new show is getting a lot of attention, even from those who don't step foot inside Bozar – it's gothic tower sticks up from a central courtyard into the Brussels' skyline. We'll tell you what's inside in the rest of the new exhibition

Active

The Week of Flavour is back in Flanders and Brussels – two weeks of food events, including markets, cooking exhibitions, storytelling, herbal healing, mayors cooking for their constituents and enough tastings to keep you fed through November

Agenda

The beautiful voice of An Pierle can soon be heard in the Ancienne Belgique; we talk to the Flemish singer about her music and her muse