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Beasts of burden

The number of animals used in experiments has dropped in Belgium, but does it have more to do with economics than welfare?

TANIA RABESANDRATANA

Earlier this month, the government announced that 41,000 fewer animals have been used in Belgian labs in 2010 than the year before. Researchers used 700,708 animals for their scientific experiments last year, a 5.5% drop compared to 2009, according to figures released by the animal welfare service of the federal department Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment.

"It's an encouraging decrease," says Michel Vandenbosch, president of animal welfare association Gaia in Brussels. "But we must make sure that this is not just a stroke of luck."

Gaia has asked the government to set up a federal action plan to decrease experiment animal numbers by 20% by 2015. "These recent figures confirm that our demand is reasonable," he says.

"Today before you design experiments with animals, you think twice; that was not the case 10 years ago"

Last year's decline comes after a decade-long upward trend. In 2000, about 650,000 animals were used, and the figure has generally been on the rise ever since – apart from specific types of animals that have received particular attention. For instance, the number of primates used in research has dropped from over 500 monkeys used for research in 2000 to just 21 last year, used to control the quality of vaccines or to study the brain.

Biggest decrease in pharmaceuticals

There appear to be several reasons for this recent change in overall animal numbers. Last year's decrease is mostly due to pharmaceutical companies rather than university labs, a government official told *Flanders Today*. Out of the 397 Belgian laboratories that are allowed to use animals for experiments, only 28 (7%) belong to businesses. Yet, these private labs account for three-quarters of the decrease in animal numbers.

Pharmaceutical companies increasingly use *in vitro* rather than *in vivo* methods in the early stages of research and development, the government suggests. Also, recent screening methods used before toxicology tests allow labs to use fewer animals, or even no animals at all, and to test a large number of substances all at once.

► *continued on page 5*

Home sweet horror

A blogger who collected pictures of the ugliest houses in Belgium and posted them to the internet has taken down his site after legal advice that warned he might be vulnerable to a lawsuit by an insulted architect.

Hannes Coudenys from Kortrijk ran the blog Ugly Belgian Houses, where he posted photos and comments in what he called "ugly Belgian English". The site became a cult hit, and even spawned an opposition: another blog called Nice Belgian Houses. But Coudenys has decided to call it a day after Antwerp's local TV station ATV reported on the site

and then tried to interview some of the people whose homes were featured. "That wasn't the idea of the website, and I've no desire to face a lawsuit," Coudenys said. According to one legal expert, an architect whose work had been targeted for mockery might be inclined to bring a legal action for libel, though none has so far. Coudenys has now removed most pictures from the site, with one notable exception: His own house. His comments on that subject are not suitable for reproduction in this newspaper. The site will remain, but will no longer be updated.

► www.uglybelgianhouses.tumblr.com



Antwerp shopkeepers clash with drug dealers

A man suffers a stab wound as the situation in Seefhoek gets out of control

ALAN HOPE

Shopkeepers in the Seefhoek area of Antwerp will form a Citizens' Information Network to cooperate with police in the fight against drug dealers, after clashes last week in the area. Four people were arrested and two others charged when frustrated shopkeepers took the law into their own hands to expel the dealers from the area.

Antwerp has operated a strict zero tolerance policy in the neighbourhoods in the north of the city, including Seefhoek, since last year, with daily patrols and special police actions aimed at drug dealers and their customers. Offences such as possession can be dealt with through a fast-track court

system, while administrative fines can be used for public drunkenness, loitering and other anti-social behaviour. The courts have dealt with 105 cases this year, with 2,500 administrative fines handed out.

"The measures we agreed in the council are producing real results," commented Guy Lauwers, alderman for public works standing in for mayor Patrick Janssens. "If I go by the reactions of residents and businesses, there's been an improvement. With the fines system we can take on those buying and selling drugs. It's fast, and it hits them where it hurts the most: in the wallet."

► *continued on page 3*



ALAN HOPE

Dr Luc Beaucourt

One of Flanders' most prominent physicians has announced he is changing jobs. Luc Beaucourt is the head of emergency medicine at the Antwerp University Hospital, but his professional life is even more dramatic than even that description makes it sound. If one of the characters in the TV show *ER* had been given storylines like Beaucourt's, the producers might have considered it a wee bit too far-fetched.

Beaucourt, 63, was best known over the years for his campaign against drunk driving, the results of which he sees all too often. He visited schools, community centres and anywhere else that would have him, armed with slides and descriptions of some of the most grisly road accident cases he had handled. He thought that if people could see for themselves the results of drunk driving, they might no longer consider it the trifling offence the public, and sometimes also the justice system, seem to think it is.

He stopped in 2009, after 15 years and 8,000 presentations. But, rather than put his free time into something a little less harrowing, he decided to concentrate on his work with intervention teams that show up at disasters worldwide. His skills as a trauma expert are obviously much in demand.

Shortly after that announcement, he was caught speeding at 186 km/h on the E34 motorway, a drastic error he later said had, together with the death of his father, turned 2009 into his worst year of his life.

Since then, he has been working with V-Med, the medical intervention team set up by the Flemish government, as well as carrying on in his emergency department. V-Med was present at the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, as well as at disasters in Chile and Pakistan. He will continue with that work, as well as teaching disaster medicine in Burma and Pakistan.

"After 20 years as head of the emergency room, I wanted to spend the last years of my career concentrating on my first passion: emergency medicine in disasters at home and abroad and the provision of structural help. I'm now ready 24 hours a day to get going," he said. His place at the hospital will be taken over by Koen Monsieurs, a former student at Antwerp and currently emergency specialist at the Ghent University Hospital. A former clinical head of the emergency room there, he's an expert in resuscitation techniques and was a prominent lobbyist for the provision of defibrillators in public places.

Don't forget

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FLANDERS TODAY

AUGUST 17, 2011

News in brief

Ghent has been chosen to host the 2012 **Guardian and Observer Readers Travel Awards**, it was announced last week. Tourism agency Toerisme Vlaanderen had applied to host the 2011 awards, which went to Tenerife, but the judges were so impressed with Ghent they decided to award the hosting for next year without a new selection process. "We are confident that all participating delegates will enjoy the experience of this highly refined and cultured region of Flanders," said a spokesperson.

top spots include Terkamerendal in Elsene and Leo Erreraan in Ukkel (both €6,000) and Brugmannplein, also in Elsene (€5,000). However even those prices are dwarfed by the cost of an apartment on the seafront in Knokke-Heist: €23,000 per square metre.

An action to prevent hooliganism at coastal resorts this summer, the so-called **Very Irritating Police (VIP)**, has paid off, according to police in the Westkust zone, including Nieuwpoort, De Panne and Koksijde. The plan involved extra police patrols who concentrated on troublesome groups of youths. In the scheme's first month, 38 patrols and three VIP actions were carried out, with a drop in the numbers of petty crimes. Police chief Nico Paelinck admitted the poor weather in July also played a role.

The Brussels region has asked developers to submit plans for a project to **transform some of the city's prisons into housing**. The prisons of Vorst, Sint-Gillis and Berkendael will empty when a new prison is constructed in Haren in 2016, with space for 1,190 prisoners. The plans for the project could also include shops and childcare facilities. Alternatively, the buildings, which are the property of the federal government, could be sold to private developers.

More than 6,000 people have signed a petition against the **felling of 300 plane trees** as part of the

restructuring of the Havenlaan in Brussels near the Tour & Taxis complex. Work was due to start in the middle of August but has been postponed to early September. Meanwhile local residents and supporters have called on Brussels transport minister Brigitte Grouwels to review the plans for the avenue. Protesters last week took part in the annual Meyboom procession to make their views known.

A Schellebelle man who **paid two contract killers to murder his son** said he has "no regrets" his lawyer said last week. Prosper Van Der Borght and his daughter Berlinda are in custody, accused of paying two drug addicts €7,000 to shoot 37-year-old Eddy Van Der Borght, after he allegedly threatened them with violence and repeatedly extorted money from them. The two shooters are also in prison.

Motoring organisations VAB and Touring have asked that all members of the public **who teach others to drive** be subject to training themselves, after an accident last week in which a mother was killed when her son tried to overtake another vehicle and collided with an oncoming car. It was recently revealed that the success figures for learning drivers who take lessons from a friend or relative are virtually identical to those who went through driving school.

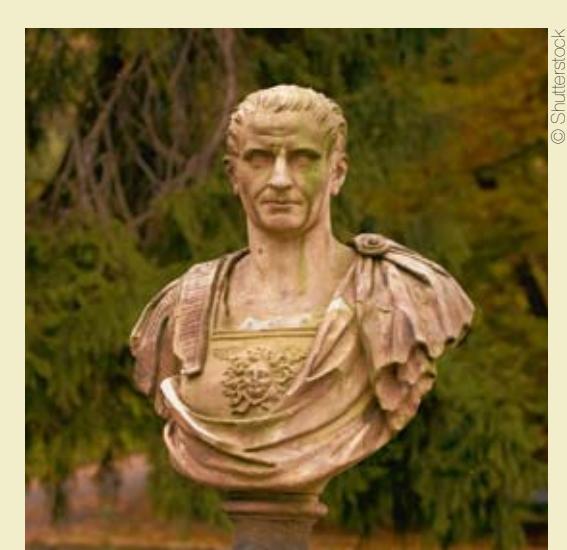
OFFSIDE

Veni, vidi, vendidi

In the Limburg city of Tongeren, according to a new publicity campaign, the customer is emperor (*de klant is keizer*). With that slogan, and a poster featuring a large image of Julius Caesar, the ancient Roman city has stumbled into trouble. Gaius Julius Caesar was never emperor of Rome. "The word *keizer* is derived from Caesar, and, from a political point of view, he did have roughly the same powers as the later emperors," explains Wim Broekaert, a historian from Ghent University. "But, strictly speaking, the man was never emperor. They ought to know that in Tongeren."

The reason being that Tongeren is the oldest city in what is now Belgium, established in about 15 BC as a base for legions operating in the Rhine area. The name derives from the Tungri, a local tribe first mentioned by Pliny the Elder but considered by Caesar himself, in his *Commentary on the Gallic Wars*, to be part of the Germani.

The city is proud of its Roman heritage, with streets named for both Caesar and Pliny, as well as a newly remodelled Gallo-Roman Museum. Mayor and former Flemish minister-president Patrick Dewael admitted Caesar had never held the title. "But the link with Tongeren isn't just



© Shutterstock

pulled out of the air. He did fight in battle here." The manager of the Julianus shopping centre (probably named for Julian the Apostate who ruled from 355 to 363 AD) thinks the posters "get the message across". However, she has a different complaint: "The real problem," she told *De Standaard*, "is the shopping bag they've added to the image."

FLANDERS TODAY

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"We'll defend our businesses our own way"

→ continued from page 1

Lauwers admits that they have a ways to go. "It's working, but we're not there yet," he says. "This is a persistent problem. We have to be just as persistent in fighting it. But let's be under no illusions: we're never going to solve the problem of drugs."

Some locals are dissatisfied with the results achieved so far. On Wednesday, 10 August, business owners and residents of Seefhoek decided to take on the criminals themselves.

The trouble began after a customer at the local baker's shop had her bicycle stolen. The thief was pursued by the baker and another man, who then encountered two known drug dealers fighting between themselves. Words were exchanged as the bicycle thief disappeared, and soon there were hundreds of people gathered, determined to take on the dealers and throw them out of the area. Police intervened, and it took hours, four arrests and two fines before calm could be restored. One man was taken to hospital with a stab wound.

"The big problem is that the police

do absolutely nothing," one local man told *De Standaard*. "When the fighting started, we called the police right away. The police station is 200 metres up the road. How could it take them 20 minutes to get here? If the police won't do anything, we'll defend our businesses our own way. With our fists, if necessary." A number of local businesses have now decided to set up an information network to cooperate with the police in tackling the problem. Unizo, which represents the self-employed has been stressing the problems of drunks, dealers and addicts for a year, a spokesman said. "The signal coming from the shopkeepers is clear: Enough is enough," he said.

Lauwers, meanwhile, expressed sympathy with the local people but warned against vigilante actions. "I understand their frustrations because a worthwhile area with a lot of potential is being taken over by drug dealers and junkies. But we live under the rule of law. People need to leave matters like this to the police." ♦



© Bob Mol

THE WEEK IN FIGURES



€3.1 million

won by a lucky player in last week's Lotto game, the highest sum to be paid out this year. The name of the winner is not known

32%

of young people goes into marriage not expecting it to last forever, according to a survey by the Flemish government and the Catholic University of Leuven. Three in four think living together before marriage is a good idea

18,382

sites in Belgium equipped with security cameras, mainly on private properties like shops and banks, according to the Privacy Commission

3,333,333rd

visitor to the Atomium since its re-opening was Georgy Samoylof from Russia, whose visit was marked by flowers, free tickets and champagne

€901

average cost of giving birth in Flanders, according to figures from the Christian Mutualty, an increase of 25% since 2005. The biggest increase came in the cost of a single room; despite the cost, most women choose this option

National register deletes 25,000 Flemings

More than 25,000 Flemish people last year ceased to exist officially, when they were scrapped from the national register. In all of Belgium, the number was over 60,000.

Each day some 150 Belgians have their details removed from the national register because no-one knows where they live or if they are even still alive. Thanks to better checking procedures, carried out by neighbourhood police officers, the numbers have risen sharply in recent years. In 2005, the number for Flanders was just under 16,000. Since 1978, a total of 600,000 people across Belgium – the equivalent of the population of Oslo, Glasgow or El Paso – have been removed from the population record.

The consequences can be more material than administrative: Loss of a recorded domicile means loss of the right to any benefits. And an identity card which is not kept up to date can bring a fine of up to €2,750. ♦

Accused fraudsters pay back victim

Two men accused of defrauding an elderly Brussels woman of €100,000 in an art scam have paid their alleged victim €67,500, while continuing to protest their innocence.

According to the prosecution, the two men showed up at the woman's home in Etterbeek trying to interest her in a collection of Asian artworks. It just so happened that around the same time, an art expert from Switzerland was giving advice to the public on the value of works at a nearby hotel. The woman visited, described the works and was assured by the expert they would be worth about €1 million on the open market.

The woman then contacted the sellers again and paid them a deposit of €100,000 to take delivery of the artworks. They never materialised, and the two sellers appeared to have vanished with the deposit. Police, however, were able to track them down, and discovered that the two sellers, a father and son, were working in league with the art expert, who has not been traced. The father and son were charged with fraud, which they deny. A trial has still to be scheduled. ♦

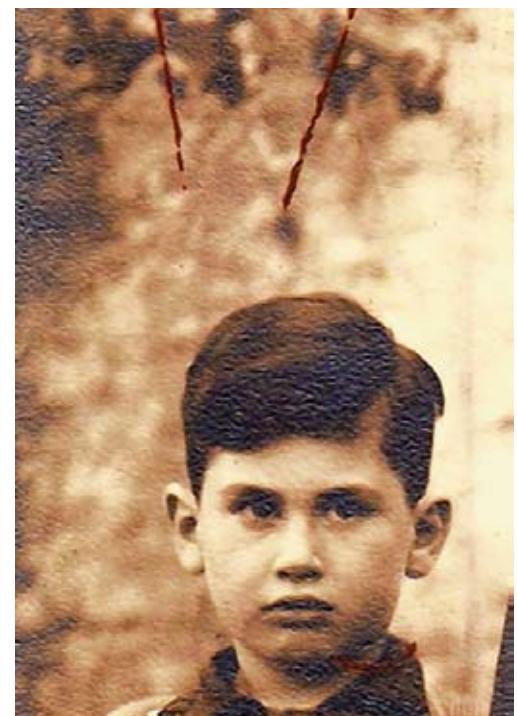
Photos bring back Holocaust memories

"This is me indeed, with more hair and less wrinkles. Not happy." With those words, Theodore Meicler, 73 and living in the Houston Texas, acknowledged being the boy shown in the photograph. He was eight at the time and lived with his parents and younger brother in the Brussels commune of Etterbeek.

When the Nazis arrived, Meicler was sent to live with a family in the country, but they soon began to worry about the consequences of harbouring a Jewish child, and he returned to Brussels. In December 1942 his father was taken away, never to return. His mother and the two boys went into hiding, each in a different place, and all survived – though they were only reunited in 1947.

Meicler later moved to Paris, then to Israel, and finally to Texas, where his mother and brother already lived. The photo is one of 1,100 posted on the website of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, which is seeking information on the children who survived the Holocaust.

The picture, he told *The Denver Post*, "brought me back to a time when I didn't know what was happening to me. I didn't know where I was going or who was going to feed me tomorrow. There are not very many pictures where I look happy. I haven't been happy for most of my life." ♦



© Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Bonobos 4, Chimpanzees 2

The results are in, and it's official: Bonobos are smarter than chimpanzees. This month has seen not only the release of a new *Planet of the Apes* movie but, more importantly, a contest for supremacy between the chimps of Antwerp Zoo and the bonobos of Planckendael animal park in Mechelen.

The two kinds of ape, as closely related to each other as they are to us, were pitted against each other in six tests of ingenuity, dexterity and creativity. It was a convincing victory for the bonobos, led by team leader Djanoa (pictured), by four games to two.

There was also a scientific purpose. "Chimpanzees and bonobos can both solve puzzles, but Djanoa excels in determination and stamina," commented behaviour biologist Jeroen Stevens. "That fits in with our current research on personality in chimps and bonobos, in which we are measuring differences in personality within the species and between the species. In the next phase, we'll be



© KMDA

examining whether there is a genetic basis for personality differences, as research with humans would suggest."

The action was also an attempt to raise €9,999 from Facebook friends of the contest to go towards the €1 million target set by all European zoos for the Ape Conservation Fund to protect the animals in the wild, where they are often hunted for food. ♦

→ www.deslimsteapterwereld.be

3

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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- Giving information regarding price & terms for products
- Preparing price offers to customers
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- Organizing the planning and preparing necessary documents
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- Preparing statistics and forecast figures
- Following up open accounts and overdue payments

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Function Description:

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- Your main tasks consist of:
- Vouch invoices for payment. Verify pricing, quantity, taxability, and receipt, obtain approvals as necessary, assign general ledger account codes and cost centers. Take discounts according to company policy.
- Monitor and collect outstanding accounts receivables and report exceptions.
- Vouch employee expense reports for payment. Verify supporting receipts and approval, extend report, assign general ledger account codes and cost centers.
- Resolve problem invoices and expense reports in a timely fashion coordinating with vendors, buyers, employees, and supervisors.
- Accurately input vouched and approved invoices and expense reports into the Account Payable system.
- Cut manual and computer checks. Match with vouched invoices and obtain necessary signatures; file vouched invoices.
- Perform month-end closings and check run on a rotation basis
- Furthermore, you will gain responsibility within the controlling domain as well as extra growth opportunities based on your potential as finance professional.

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Beasts of burden

University scientists must submit proposals to ethics committee to get animals

continued from page 1

The number of animals used for that kind of testing has dropped by 75% between 2000 and 2009, and toxicity tests now represent less than 2% of all experiments using animals, in particular fish and larvae (see table 1). The rest of the animals used is split quite evenly between fundamental biology research, the development of drugs and quality control of medicines.

For instance, rabbits are used to produce certain antibodies to treat cancer or genetic conditions. Also, 349 cats were used last year – mostly as part of a research project on early castration, which aims to reduce the numbers of cats that end up in animal shelters (see table 2).

The bad news

But the decrease may also be an alarming sign that Belgian private research has suffered in recent years, in particular from the economic and financial crisis. Some companies have scaled down their research units or moved them to other countries – so the animals may well be used, but somewhere else.

According to the European Commission's latest Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, top EU companies have reduced their investment in R&D by 2.6% in 2009 compared to the year before, even though the pharma and biotech industries are better off than other research-intensive sectors.

Private research is not the only victim of the crisis. University research has also suffered from dwindling budgets, says Kris Thielemans, professor of immunology at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). His university has also seen a sharp decrease in the number of animals it used: more than 14% fewer animals in 2010 than in 2009.

Thielemans suspects that the main reason for this drop is a lack of money. "In Flanders, research funding is decreasing. Less funding means less research, and animal husbandry is a major expense."

Professor Peter Marynen, vice-rector for research policy at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), says: "We invest a lot in centralised, state-of-the-art animal facilities. Animals are not kept in individual labs so that we can ensure a high quality of treatment, housing and food."

Also, every scientist who plans to use animals must submit a detailed proposal to the university's ethics committee and justify why the animals must be used. If the plans are approved, the researcher cannot exceed the number of animals the committee has allowed.

At the VUB, Thielemans says that stricter regulations have changed the work of researchers. "Today before you design experiments with animals, you think twice, and that was not the case some 10 years ago. There is more awareness of the need to reduce and replace the use of animals." But he warns against excessive rules and paperwork that can slow down research. "We have to keep the balance right; sometimes I'm afraid we're overdoing it."

In Leuven, Marynen is more optimistic about the health of Flemish science. "There is an increase in life sciences research," he notes. "Whenever an animal experiment can be replaced by an *in vitro* experiment, this should be done. But in many cases, this is not possible, so I expect that [animal] numbers will not go down."♦

→ www.health.belgium.be

Rodents	569,831	81.32 %
Rabbits	66,625	9.51 %
Cold-blooded animals	36,045	5.14 %
Birds	22,262	3.18 %
Farm animals	4,462	0.64 %
Dogs	662	0.09 %
Cats	349	0.05 %
Primates	21	0.003 %
TOTAL	700,708	

Table 1:
Number of animals used for science experiments in Belgium in 2010

Research in biology	32.85 %
Research and development of human and veterinary medicines	30%
Quality control	30.83 %
Toxicity tests	1.93 %

Table 2:
Purposes of experiments using animals in Belgium in 2010



© Graeme Robertson/Eyeine

The public's response to animal use in the lab often depends on the animal: Monkeys, for instance, are now only used for very specific research

The three Rs • Animals in the lab

Last year, the EU adopted a Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, which must be enforced in all 27 EU countries by 2013. The law aims to limit the harm caused to animals by raising common protection standards, but national governments can adopt higher standards if they so wish. The basic principle is called the "Three Rs": replacement, reduction, refinement. This means favouring methods that don't use animals when possible; reducing the number of animals when they are used; and improving procedures to limit the animals' pain and distress.

"We always choose the species with the lowest possible level of consciousness," explains a spokesperson at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL). "If we can conduct the experiment on worms, we do not use vertebrates or mammals."

Belgian regulations are already mostly in line with the European law. Before being carried

out, any experiment using animals must be approved by an ethical committee. Also, any scientist or technician that handles animals in the lab must take a course accredited by the government.

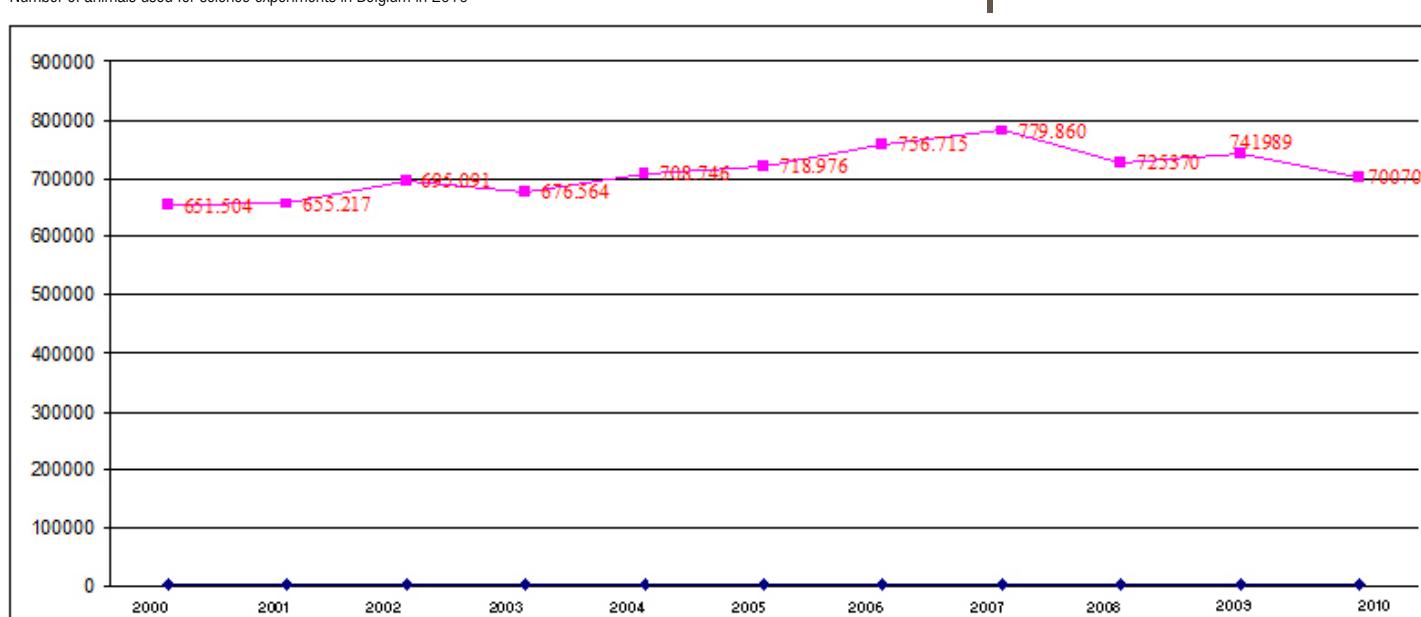
"The government and the EU are responsible for providing a legal framework, and we will only operate within that framework," says KUL professor Peter Marynen. "It's not up to the university to decide the boundaries, but of course researchers want to be involved in the discussion to determine them."

In 1991, the EU set up the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods in Ispra, Italy. The 2010 directive also requires EU member states to boost research into scientific approaches and methods that don't use animals. Belgium has already made plans for its own Centre of Alternative Methods and says it will be set up as soon as the government has freed the budget necessary to run it.

Professor Marynen notes that there is no such thing as a single alternative method. "It really depends on the scientific question you're asking – whether you want to find out if a substance is toxic or are doing a genetics study, for example. You can look for a variety of alternatives for different groups of experiments," he explains.

Michel Vandebosch, president of animal welfare association Gaia, claims that the law is not strict enough and that animal numbers can still go down. "There may be duplicate experiments and animals sacrificed uselessly," he says.

KUL's animal testing policy states: "A human life is fundamentally valuable, and though that is also true for the lives of animals, when faced with the choice, we opt for the human." At the Free University of Brussels (VUB), Professor Kris Thielemans agrees: "You cannot bring numbers to zero because testing drugs or proof of concepts in animals before going to patients is very important."



Number of animals used in scientific experiments in Belgium since 2000

In Flanders fields

Former soldier and London bobby presents the human face behind the bloody battlefields of West Flanders

SARAH CREW

For four long years from 1914 to 1918, a tiny corner of Flanders became the setting of the Great War. Half a million soldiers lost their lives, and the region was almost completely obliterated. Today, the area around Ypres has recovered its former prosperity and is much devoted to battlefield heritage, attracting thousands of tourists a year in the spirit of remembrance.

One of the many tour guides operating in the Westhoek is ebullient Irishman Willie Mohan,

a former British Army soldier and London police officer. After more than 30 years on the beat, he now leads groups in an imitable style that combines an encyclopaedic knowledge of the war with an irrepressible enthusiasm for military history and inspiring stories of heroism.

Personal stories of the soldiers and reminiscences pepper his talks. "My leadership style is to both educate and entertain," he tells me. "I could not do a trip in a coach playing a game of swivelling

necks, so I make sure you see the ground the men fought over and that you get a feel of the land."

On 17 September, Mohan leads a day-long visit to West Flanders that incorporates some of the most significant memorials, such as the Tyne Cot cemetery in Passendale and the Menin Gate in Ypres, with an afternoon of downtime at the Poperinge Beer and Hop Festival. For Mohan, this does not smack of irreverence. "These trips are not meant to be morbid. This is about remembrance and fun. The lads took every chance to get a drink down their neck whilst over here. They would not want us traipsing around their battlefields and cemeteries getting all dark and brooding. No, if they are watching, as I think they are, they would want you to have a great time while never forgetting them and their sacrifice."

Four years in a day

The Saturday tour will start at Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world. It contains nearly 12,000 graves of soldiers from the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Built on the slopes on which the allied troops attacked Germans entrenched on the surrounding ridge, it is an atmospheric reminder of the incredible military feat that was Passchendaele.

"When you stand by the blockhouses, you can see the fantastic killing fields of fire that the Germans had. On a quiet evening, you can almost imagine the men struggling through a sea of mud up this gentle slope into a gale of machine and artillery fire. The courage of the men is almost palpable. As we know, courage is not being unafraid of

death, it is being very afraid and being able to conquer that visceral fear."

The accompanying museum is a moving testimony with its collection of letters home accompanied by photos of many of the men buried there. The names of all the buried are eerily announced from underground speakers as you enter.

It is followed by a tour of Talbot House, the sanctuary for soldiers known by its army signal code Toc H and named after the brilliant scholar Gilbert Talbot. The son of the Bishop of Winchester, Talbot was killed in 1915 in Hooge, just outside Ypres. Talbot House was a place where all ranks could come together and escape the horrors by reading, writing and singing. "In this house, the words 'abandon rank all ye who enter here' were emblazoned over the door," says Mohan.

The town of Poperinge was also a popular rest and relaxation spot for soldiers with its bevy of bars, cafes and concert halls. Surrounded by 200 hectares of hop fields it now hosts a prestigious three-yearly beer festival. After a couple of hours sampling the region's finest brews and local gastronomy, the tour resumes at Ypres with a visit to Saint George's Memorial Church and the In Flanders Fields Museum before concluding with the poignant last post ceremony at Menin Gate, the memorial dedicated to more than 55,000 men killed with no known grave.

"It is without doubt one of the most moving ceremonies I have witnessed," notes Mohan. "To this day, it does not lose its emotion. When the bugles sound that plaintive lament, one only has to close one's eyes, and the men are

marching under that gate up to the salient, as writer Philip Gibbs said: 'With their rifles slung and their pipes aglow on the road to the Menin Gate."

New interest in First World War

The renewed interest in the still-nightly ceremony represents the increased interest in the First World War, according to Mohan. He recalls a moment during the Falklands War when he arrived with fellow police officers on a day that British soldiers who died at Goose Green were being buried. "It was a baking hot day when 20 of us arrived, to be greeted by two civilians on bikes. One handed over his bike for his friend to hold and produced from a bag a bugle. He played the last post and was gone almost before the last notes had died away. We were the only people there."

That was 29 years ago, "but in the last 15 years, the Great War has taken off in the most phenomenal way," he says. "After speaking to numerous people from battlefield tours, the one constant is remembrance and a search for a bygone era." At the Menin Gate, "buglers are in full regalia, and large crowds from all over the world attend every night."

For Mohan, the Ypres Salient represents the ultimate sacrifice. "The British Empire forces were outside of Ypres for the best part of four blood-soaked years. The Germans looked down from three sides at them. It became in the end a matter of honour to hold their position during four shattering battles. The lineage and sacrifice of all these great men – for they were truly great. The least of them was a better man than me."

► www.wm-tours.com



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- **Poperinge Beer Festival**
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- **St George's Memorial Church, Ypres**
Built in 1927-1929 for grieving family and survivors
- **In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres**
Visit the famous First World War museum before it closes for renovations
- **The Last Post**
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Register by 7 September via email at editorial@flanderstoday.eu

You'll receive information about payment after you register



"The least of them was a better man than me": Willie Mohan (centre) brings the past to life

Government bans short selling

A false newspaper report causes bank's share price to plummet

ALAN HOPE

The Belgian stock market watchdog FSMA last week joined the governments of Italy, France and Spain in banning short selling of bank shares on the stock market. The action came after a mistaken newspaper article caused the share price of France's Société Générale to go into freefall. The ban affects shares in KBC, KBC Ancora, Ageas and Dexia.

Short selling takes place when the price of a share is falling. Speculators "borrow" shares in the company, which they then sell, in the hope that the price will continue to fall, allowing the speculator to buy them back at a profit and repay the "loan". The practice is thought to date back to 1609. The most famous example is when Hungarian-American financier George Soros sold more than £6 billion short in 1992, provoking a government crisis and forcing the pound to leave the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

The shares in Société Générale lost more than 20% of their value at one

point last week, after UK tabloid *The Mail on Sunday* published an article based on what it thought was a report in *Le Monde* saying the company was on the verge of bankruptcy as a result of the amount of Greek debt the bank, the second-largest in France, is carrying. In fact, the source was a work of fiction that has been running in the French paper as a series during the summer. Société Générale's does, however, hold a huge amount of Greek debt, and its position is indeed fragile.

The Mail on Sunday apologised for the mistake, but speculators had already begun short selling Société Générale shares, convinced their value would go down even further. The bank's shares dropped by 20%, to recover only 14% down, their lowest level for two-and-a-half years. Some short sellers will almost certainly have suffered losses.

France and Spain introduced their ban for 15 days, but the Belgian ban is indefinite. Other countries, including Germany, could follow.



- Meanwhile on the Brussels stock market, the decline in the price of shares in Dexia has had consequences for some of its major shareholders – the Brussels region and about half of the capital's municipal authorities. They are historically large shareholders in Dexia, formerly Gemeentekrediet, and increased their equity when they bailed the bank out

during the financial crisis of 2008. To do so, they borrowed money on which they are now paying higher interest, at the same time as the dividend on their Dexia shares dwindles away. According to Herman Matthijs, professor of public finance at the Brussels Free University (VUB), it could be 2025 or 2030 before the situation rights itself. ♦

More complaints about building sector

Belgium's conciliation committee for the construction industry last year dealt with 2,714 cases, about 20% more than in 2009, it announced last week in its annual report.

The committee was set up in 2002 by two industry organisations, the Construction Confederation and the Building Union, together with consumer representatives Test Aankoop and the Royal Federation of Architects Associations. The Flemish architect organisation NAV joined in 2005. The intention was to provide an option of conciliation in the case of customer complaints over the work of building contractors, without having to go to court.

Of the complaints received, 71 cases made it to the conciliation stage. Eight out of 10 of those cases were conducted in Dutch, while last the

number was seven. The vast majority of 86% were complaints regarding contractors, with only 14% resulting from complaints from contractors. Only 13% of cases involved the participation of a lawyer on behalf of one of the parties, suggesting that most parties bring their problems directly to the committee.

A spokesman for the committee stressed that the increase in the number of complaints was not a sign that builders are making more mistakes but that the public is more aware of the existence of the committee. Many complainants are referred to the committee by contractors themselves.

"Eight years of operation demonstrates the existence of an enormous demand and the need for information and



support during construction," said Geert Coene, committee chairman, in a foreword to the annual report. "The committee has become more and more a point of contact for the public seeking legal and practical assistance in the construction sector." ♦

→ www.bouwverzoening.be

Smokers face noise fines, too

Organisations representing small businesses have reacted angrily to the first fine imposed in connection with the new smoking ban in cafés, which came into force in July. In Antwerp last week, the owner of the Vismijn café was fined €250 for allowing smokers to go outside to smoke in the street. Local residents complained about the resulting noise.

The Neutral Syndicate for the Self-Employed (NSZ) called the fine "insane" and pointed out that café owners can appeal for quiet but cannot enforce it. The fine, the organisation said, is "completely inappropriate. The smoking ban is already causing the sector a great deal of pain, and now owners have to face nuisance fines".

Horeca Vlaanderen, which represents the food and drinks sector, said the ban had brought about a "change in culture" which would take some time to become established. They called for municipalities to adapt their local regulations to allow, for example, closed café terraces, which would help to limit noise.



The two organisations expect more complaints, and more fines. "Terraces are a fact of life in summertime," Horeca Vlaanderen said. "Just wait until winter; then the neighbours will really begin to complain."

In Koekelare, West Flanders, meanwhile, two cafés were given a warning and threatened with closure for the same complaint. ♦

Potato trial a success

A field trial of genetically modified (GM) potatoes in Wetteren, East Flanders, the scene earlier this year of a clash between police and environmental activists, has delivered results despite the damage caused in the protest, the Flemish Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO) announced.

The trial's goal was to confirm laboratory results that showed the GM potatoes were resistant to potato blight caused by the *Phytophthora infestans* organism, which caused famines in Europe in the 1840s, most famously in Ireland. Spores first develop on the leaves, then spread to the tubers when washed into the soil by rain. Infected potatoes left in the ground can spread the disease to the following year's crop and cause the destruction of entire crops. ♦

THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

Beverages • Bruggeman

Ghent-based distiller Bruggeman is to take over Hasselt jenever maker Smeets from its current owner, Konings of Zonhoven in Limburg. Bruggeman was established in 1884 and is now market leader in Belgium, with sales of €20 million last year. It currently sells jenever under the brands Peterman, Hertekamp and Fryns. No price was disclosed.

→ www.bruggeman.be

Post • bpost

The Belgian postal service will contact members of the public who took part in a recent marketing survey, on the orders of the Privacy Commission, who ruled that bpost had solicited private information from recipients without making it clear participation was voluntary. Many people, especially the elderly, assumed it was official and compulsory.

Produce • Brava

Fruit and vegetable marketers Brava of Zellik and Kampenhout in Flemish Brabant is merging with Greenpartners, another auction market in Sint-Katelijne-Waver. Both markets are specialised in the sale of bio produce. No jobs will be lost by the merger, management said. Brava is the world's biggest market for witloof, with sales last year of €73 million. Greenpartners specialises in tomatoes and last year turned over €43 million.

→ www.brava.be

Publishing • Roularta

Magazine publisher Roularta, based in Roeselare, West Flanders, is selling its medical publishing division. Roularta Medica publishes specialist magazines for doctors, dentists, pharmacists and medical specialists, with a circulation of 60,000, employing 20 people. The reason for the sale was given as falling advertising revenue.

Retail • Mano

The new Turnhout shoe store Mano has installed a vending machine at Antwerp nightclub Noxx to sell shoes to women who may be finding their feet need a change in the early morning hours. The machine sells flat-soled "ballerinas" in sizes 36 to 40 for €12 a pair. "The idea to put shoes in a vending machine came out of my own experience," said businesswoman Nora Bendelladj. "I've lost count of the times I had sore feet, especially when I went out dancing."

→ www.schoenenwinkelmano.be

Transport • Cambio

Car-sharing initiative Cambio, a joint venture by the public transport authorities, the Flemish job training agency VDAB and Taxistop, is most successful among young people. About 48% of users are between the ages of 26 and 39 and another 4% between 19 and 25, Flemish mobility minister Hilde Crevits revealed last week.

→ www.cambio.be



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putting people first

The salsa obsession

Those who've tried the Cuban dance in Flanders have never looked back

COURTNEY DAVIS

Unlike the other dances we've covered in our monthly series this summer – swing, African and Bollywood – salsa really needs to be experienced in a club or cocktail bar, as opposed to a studio. This dance is made for socialising. With swinging hips and rolling shoulders, the sensual and fun-loving dance pairs well with a rum mojito and a late night out. While lessons for Salsa abound in nearly every town across Flanders, the venues dedicated to this Cuban-born dance are really where to go. The moment you enter a salsa bar – be it Casa Baila in Antwerp or Troya in Ghent – you are taking on a whole evening's entertainment.

"When people come here, it's like a holiday," says Nathalie Stevelinck, referring to Gent's oldest salsa bar Club Central. "They forget all their problems of the week and come for the entertainment. There are no worries here. Everyone is in a good mood. Everyone says hello; they all get to know each other very quickly because it's so social."

Stevelinck, 27, only discovered salsa a few months ago but is hooked. "I was immediately taken into the group. Everyone asks you to dance, and no one minds if you don't know how," she says enthusiastically. "If you're alone watching the dancers, someone will ask you to dance. You're not allowed to say no; you just dance and don't worry about mistakes. Really, it's a very 'go with the flow' attitude."

She now spends every Friday and Saturday night here. "I'm addicted!" she laughs. "If I go to a different club and come back here the next night, it feels like coming home." Stevelinck has convinced many friends to join her at Club Central, too. "Why not; there is no stress here. You're on vacation." The owner of the club, located on the

Hoogpoort smack in the middle of Ghent's city centre, would be inclined to agree. Behzad Kevar's love of Salsa is directly related to the socialisation aspect. "When you learn salsa, you learn a dancing friendship. You can enter any salsa club and find friends."

And possibly more than friends? Isn't salsa notoriously sexy? "It is a partner dance; there is a lot of emotion there, as well as touch," admits Kevar, 46. "It brings you into contact with people. With disco, with rock and roll, you dance alone, beyond eye contact. It's not nearly as passionate as salsa. This isn't a singles club, but if you learn this dance, you won't be alone on the dance floor."

Love the music, love the dance

Looking at the couples steaming up the place, and it's hard to disagree. Couples are sashaying and spinning, endlessly turning, connected by touch at all times. Holding each other's hands or hips, they exude an accessible rhythm. Like all experienced dancers, they make it look effortless. Stevelinck took lessons but Kevar never did. It depends on your comfort level.

"If you like the music, you will like the dance," says Kevar simply. "If you come to the club and feel the music, then you'll know it is for you. And then it becomes your life."

Salsa has spread across Latin America and is fast becoming a nightlife staple in Flanders. But it isn't one single style. From classic Cuban salsa to bachata, there are a number of versions to learn. New York style Salsa tends to be danced to only the most traditional and older songs while LA salsa is currently the most popular. Featuring more flamboyant accents like whipping your hair, it is danced to more modern



music that features more instruments. The Cuban style is the most traditional and is centered around the clave – two wooden sticks hit together provide the main component of a salsa song. A very improvisational dance, new styles are constantly evolving as are the names of the steps involved.

Kevar shrugs this aside. "A teacher might call a move a certain name, while another teacher will call it something else. It doesn't matter – as long as you learn the move, you don't need to know the name of it. Just dance."♦

→ www.clubcentral.be

Getting started

A good place to learn salsa is with the **Salsa Revelation Dance Group**. Founded by 21-year-old Arwi Escalera, it's based in Antwerp and next month begins lessons three nights a week, plus one night a week in Ghent.

→ www.salsarevelation.be

Sabor Tropical, a group of self-proclaimed "salsa fanatics", has a website dedicated to all things salsa, ranging from classes and workshops to festivals and party nights across Flanders and Brussels.

→ www.sabortropical.be

STREEKPRODUCT SERIES

ALAN HOPE

West Flemish lukken

It might seem odd to describe a product as regional when in fact it's available in just about every corner shop in the country, not to mention online. But West Flemish *lukken* are genuinely regional products, with a long history and antecedents that go back even deeper into the past.

You and I probably know them better as Jules Destrooper wafers, their instantly recognisable blue-and-white box a common feature on supermarket shelves. Jules Destrooper the company make half a dozen different kinds of biscuits, but this is the one people mean, and this is the one on which the whole company is based.

Destrooper was a colonial trader, and he started the company in Lo-Reninge in 1886, selling *amandelbrood*, or almond thins, flavoured with the spices he'd become familiar with in his travels, which he delivered to hotels in De Panne for guests.

The product was successful, but his real success came when he picked up a recipe that was universal across West Flanders, turning it into a luxury item. "Butter waffles were typically made in West Flanders as a gift at New Year," explains Jo Van Caeneghem of Vlam, the Flemish agricultural agency that runs the accreditation system for *streekproducten*, or regional products.

"That's where the name *lukken* comes from: to wish someone good luck." Housewives then used the simplest ingredients: wheat flour, sugar, butter, eggs, salt and bicarbonate of sodium as a raising agent. The same ingredients feature on the box in front of me: nothing added, and nothing taken away. The factory is still in Lo, but now the ingredients are listed in four languages. The waffles, or "butter crisps", have been awarded a royal warrant. And the trade is now international and online. *Lukken* are at the same time plain and

luxurious. They are 18% butter, which gives them their crispness when you bite, and ensures they melt away to nothing in the mouth. I haven't tried it, but I imagine it must be pretty difficult for a home-baker to achieve that consistency.

Earlier this year, King Albert, one of the company's most prestigious customers, presided over the opening of a new visitor centre at the factory to mark the company's 125th anniversary. Visitors can watch a demonstration of how products are made.

There are plenty of recipes involving the various products at the company's website (www.destrooper.com) as well as a rather good one involving regional coffee and beer on the Vlam website. There's also a competition running this year to win a brand new €250,000 apartment in Nieuwpoort, which, as we reported two weeks ago, is the most expensive town in Flanders in which to live. Well, it is a luxury product, after all.

→ www.streekproduct.be



© VLAM

Through the looking glass

Ostend hosts an exhibition dedicated to one of Flanders' very first filmmakers

BJORN GABRIELS

A few years ago, a Flemish short film thought to be lost forever was found. Henri Storck made *Voor je mooie ogen* (For Your Beautiful Eyes) in 1929, and you can see it now at the exhibition *Henri Storck en het surrealisme* (Henri Storck and Surrealism) at the Ensor House in Ostend.

Mostly known for his socially engaged documentaries and his informative biopics of artists like Rubens or Paul Delvaux, Henri Storck (1907-1999) also shot an intriguing share of experimental shorts. These early films laid the foundation for a long and fertile career in the cinema.

Co-founder of the Royal Belgian Film Archive, Storck is largely considered the godfather of Belgian film culture. He came of age in interbellum Ostend, a coastal city brimming with artists, writers and art benefactors (now, as then). Through his bourgeois family, the young Storck became acquainted with many of them. The doors to the salons of Constant Permeke, Léon Spilliaert and James Ensor were always open to him.

During these inspiring meetings and social calls, Storck befriended the French painter Félix Labisse, who resided in Ostend and worked under Ensor. Labisse became the brother Storck never had.

The pair would embark on various journeys together. Like Labisse, Storck was enthralled by surrealist art and literature. He read the manifesto of André Breton, the combatant gatekeeper of Surrealism. His library – part of which is on show here – also contained works by noted French writers such as Louis Aragon, Paul Eluard and Max Jacob.

When Storck founded the Club du Cinéma in

Ostend in 1928, Labisse became the assistant secretary. The club would show daring work by international filmmakers like Sergei Eisenstein, Man Ray, René Clair and Luis Buñuel, often triggering controversy in the seaside town.

Another frequent on-screen guest was Felix the Cat, highly imaginative cartoons. Storck also screened American director Robert Flaherty's groundbreaking documentaries, which had a huge impact on his own career.

The screenings were attended by the same circle of friends who discussed art in the morning and drank tea in the afternoon. Because of Storck, the vibrant days of European avant-garde cinema were very much alive in Ostend.

An eye for surrealism

Labisse and Storck decided to make a film together, inspired by the aesthetics of surrealism. Labisse wrote a script about a young man who finds a glass eye and is obsessed by this object of seeing and being seen. Eventually, the man wants to distance himself from the eye, but he can't get rid of it – neither in a shop packed with fake eyes nor in the postal office.

Voor je mooie ogen uses experimental techniques and images of masks and glances to reflect upon the act of looking, thus taking up similar themes in the work of surrealists Buñuel and Salvador Dalí around the same time.

Henri Storck en het surrealisme wants to reassemble the friendships and artistic endeavours of Storck, Ensor and Labisse, an excellent enterprise. Much of the archival snippets are intriguing – a design by Labisse for Storck's 1931 film *Strandidylle* (Idyll on the Beach), a picture of Ensor peeking through Storck's camera, a leaflet showing Storck and



Henri Storck snaps a picture of James Ensor taking a peek through Storck's camera

Labisse as extras in the 1933 French classic *Zéro de conduite* – but the material suffers from an overcrowded, stagnant presentation.

The exhibition lacks a coherent story, but regrettably not in the same way early surrealist films were chastised for their so-called absence of meaning. The overall set-up at Ensor House could do well with a dose of disarranged imagination that surrealist art so often feasts upon.

Such a rich cultural history and intriguing body of work as Storck's deserves a livelier exposé. Wouldn't it have been a treat to see bits of the documentaries Storck made on his lifelong friend Labisse, or the experimental films by local contemporaries (and friends) such as Charles

Dekeukeleire, whose work was also part of the Club du Cinéma programme? The foundations are there, now all we need is a curator.

The legacy of Storck still lives on in other ways, most notably through the Brussels-based Henri Storck Fund and its annual documentary prize, awarded during the film festival *Filmer à Tout Prix* in November.♦

Henri Storck and Surrealism

Until 7 November
Ensor House
Vlaanderenstraat 27, Ostend

→ www.muzee.be

Mirror image • Special digital printing technique makes artwork more affordable

MARC MAES

“Bringing art back into people's homes instead of being stocked away in the vaults or warehouses of collectors” is the stated aim of ArtRevisited, a Dutch company specialised in high quality art reproductions. Helping to popularise works of art now is the “giclée”.

The word “giclée” was coined some 15 years ago by American artist Jack Duganne to describe high resolution prints of works of art. The process rapidly became popular with American artists who embraced the giclée to produce and sell copies of their works. They could also add other details or strokes of paint to the giclée, creating essentially a new unique painting and boosting its value.

An exhibition in Berendrecht, north of Antwerp, puts giclées of the work of Flemish artist Eric De Vree on display this month.

The giclée is a high quality reproduction of an original painting and is based on 64 digital shots of the work. A computer programme then compiles these into one file. The camera and software were developed by Swiss company Sinar AG in collaboration with NASA. “The crucial element in the process is the camera,” explains Wim Ellens, managing director of ArtRevisited, who introduced the giclée in the Netherlands eight years ago. “Image correction is also essential because there's quite some difference in perception between the camera's view and what the human eye sees, especially with oil paintings using several semi-transparent layers. But the result is astonishing: With aquarelle and flat oil paintings, we can print nearly 100% identical reproductions.”

The giclée is printed using fade resistant inks with natural pigments, guaranteeing a colour-fast

reproduction. “Our main concern is the critical eye of the artist, looking over our shoulder,” continues Ellens. “They are very sensitive to colour patterns and details.”

In its quest to make art more accessible, ArtRevisited produces calendars, art books and greeting cards, as well as giclées for about 70 artists, including Flemish artist Eric De Vree. They also produce TV documentaries on fine art. Each giclée is produced in a limited edition and comes with a certificate signed by the artist. “The giclée process makes art affordable,” says Ellens. “Prices vary from €100 to €500, including a nice frame.”

Another bonus is that the high quality image files are digitally archived for a wide range of applications and references.

With the exhibition of Eric De Vree's giclées, ArtRevisited is eyeing the Flemish market: De Vree is a contemporary painter continuing a traditional art based on realism. “The careful composition and eye for detail, the realistic approach to depth and claire-obscur represent a revival of the essential criteria for old works of art,” the well-known retired Antwerp curator Hans Nieuwdorp has said about De Vree's work.

“It's always good to have your original paintings reproduced,” comments De Vree. “The giclée colours are extremely close to the ones I used, which makes the process very interesting.”

A selection of 10 giclées is part of the annual *Dubbeltalent* (Double Talent) exhibition, this year combining the work of De Vree and his father, Albert De Vree, in two locations in Berendrecht – home of the De Vree family.♦



Giclées of the work of Flemish artist Eric De Vree are on show in Berendrecht

Dubbeltalent: Albert and Eric De Vree

Until 31 October
WZC Monnikenhof
Viswater Library
Berendrecht (Antwerp province)

→ www.tinyurl.com/dubbeltalent

The sound of Brussels in 22 tracks

An ingenious new website introduces the capital through its musical choices

KATRIEN LINDEMANS

Ever wondered what a city sounds like? Not the roaring traffic, sirens and roadworks, but all the different music genres that co-exist. 22tracks.com originated in Amsterdam a couple of years ago and defines the city sound in 22 genres. Brussels joined this music platform as well – on 22 June at 22.22.

Every city has its own music industry and popular genres, and thus its very own sound. On 22 October 2009, Vincent Reinders and Gilles De Smit launched 22tracks.com, a website with 22 music genres typical for their Dutch capital. Every genre lists 22 tracks – about an hour and a half of music – all picked by carefully chosen curators: local musicians, journalists, bloggers in the know. The idea was to map the city sound so that visitors to the website could listen to the local music scene in a few mouse clicks.

When DJ and music aficionado Koen Galle heard of the project, he wanted something similar for Brussels. "I got in touch with Vincent and Gilles, but they thought it was too soon for the project to expand."

But Galle (*pictured*) didn't give up. A few months ago, he knocked on their door again and got the green light. "In the meantime I moved from Opwijk [Flemish Brabant] to Brussels, which was a big breakthrough," Galle says. "I evolved from DJing at my local youth club to joining FM Brussel, where I also choose all the Belgian music they play." This brought Galle, 28, in touch with larger audiences, and he began performing at Brussels Aperos, among other venues. He met "so many inspiring

people, which helped a lot choosing the 22 curators for the Brussels version of 22tracks.com."

Local curators

Among the curators you'll find Studio Brussel's drum & bass expert DJ Murdoch; responsible for the 22 classic tracks is Flagey's artistic director Tarquin Billiet. Every week, they add about five new tracks to their genres, adding up to 22 new songs per month. "The curators joined the project as volunteers," explains Galle. "They do it for the love of music and because they want to share what's new in their music worlds."

Besides curating the Belpop and House genre, Galle is also responsible for the legal and administrative part of the site. "You can listen to the tracks but not download them," he says. "If you want the music, the site directs you to the iTunes store." Galle makes sure all links are working, manages Facebook and Twitter, deals with technical issues and works to attract advertisers.

London is getting ready to join the project later this year as 22tracks third city. "We'd like to introduce the concept in 22 cities worldwide," Galle reveals. "But with only two cities on the website, you can already see the striking difference between them. Hiphop lovers, for instance, are served with mainly English rap on the Amsterdam platform, whereas the language in the Brussels' hip-hop scene is French, and the curators on the site are Moroccan DJs. Amsterdam also has a booming dancehall scene, a genre that's not as popular over here in Brussels."

In Amsterdam, 22tracks.com sees



between 40,000 and 50,000 visitors a day listening to about 300,000 tracks. The project has won a few prizes and is nominated for a prestigious city cultural award. There are no exact numbers for Brussels yet, but first reactions look promising. Galle is already thinking

about the project's first anniversary: "We're planning a big party in June next year. 22tracks.com lovers will soon be able to get their hands on our T-shirts as well. We'll have them designed by local Brussels artists and plan to sell them for €22." www.22tracks.be



What's on 22tracks Brussels right now? (a truncated list)

- Pop:** Kasabian / Days Are Forgotten
- Belpop:** Dez Mona / Soldiers
- Classical:** Philip Glas / The Poet Acts
- Disco:** Cosmic Boogie / Fast and Loose
- Jazz:** Duke Ellington / The Flaming Sword
- Afroheat:** Biosis Now / Independent Bahamas

Get moving • Discover Brussels' museum district in a roving exhibition

BJORN GABRIELS

Hidden in the belly of Brussels' Kunstberg neighbourhood rumble six film and video installations by as many artists. Six European organisations commissioned a new work by a video artist from their own country, and all countries are hosting the works.

This month *Moving Stories* arrived in Brussels, the capital of its coordinator Contour Mechelen, the organisation behind the Biennale of Moving Image (the fifth instalment of which starts later this month).

Moving Stories focuses on "new or innovative narrative strategies". For the majority of the artists, this innovation in storytelling is propelled by some form of multitude. In "The Character", Berlin-based artist Candice Breitz shows how young Indian pupils perceive child characters in Bollywood films. Their thoughts and reactions are collaged together based on the verbal content. They discuss the nature of happy endings and the possibility of being encouraged by heartbreaking stories.

In other installations, the notion of quantity in storytelling is more formally inspired. Polish artist Paweł Janicki's "Oceanus" gives visitors of the film museum Cinematek the opportunity to compose their own stories through an interactive touch screen. In a subterranean space of the Coudenberg palace, meanwhile Italian duo MASBEDO uses three screens of different sizes to work in depth. They show a silent film of a man striking piano keys and imagery of a piano being shot at with an unseen gun. Blow after blow, the shattering of the ivories, the strings and the wooden case produces an unsettling score as the instrument is finally destroyed.

Unknown, hidden dangers are also at stake in Austrian artist Rainer Gamsjäger's "Cluster" (showing an ominous smoke column within

the SQUARE meeting centre) and in the no man's land of Romanian artist Mihai Grecu's "Under the Centipede Sun" at Bozar. The source of the aggression is absent from the picture, yet its influence is sensible, almost tactile, especially through the droning sounds that accompany Grecu's desolate battlefield.

Pride of place has been given Flemish filmmaker Nicolas Provost, whose work is located in Brussels' Central Station. He's called the film "Moving Stories", and it has been selected to screen at the Venice Film Festival later this year (as is his feature film debut *The Invader*). Commuters at the station rush by stock footage of airplanes floating through the still air. Images that are normally used as fillers now form the main components of Provost's serene narration. It is a brief moment of tranquillity in an otherwise hectic environment.

"The exhibition shows the value of our heritage by contrasting it with new visual art forms," says Geneviève Planchard of the organisation Kunstberg, which promotes the newly revived museum district in the centre of the city. *Moving Stories* has been staged to attract attention to the area, though some of the installations could have done with better visibility for passers-by. Still, worth a small detour, before you take off once again. ♦

Moving Stories

Until 11 September
Across Kunstberg area of Brussels

→ www.moving-stories.eu



Nicolas Provost's "Moving Stories" can be seen in Brussels' Central Station before heading to the Venice Film Festival at the end of the month



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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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Horse racing and high style WAREGEM KOERSE

DIANA GOODWIN

High society, haberdashery and horses have long had a special relationship, meeting up in the world's premiere equestrian events. The Royal Ascot, the Kentucky Derby...and the Waregem Koerse, held every year in the West Flanders town. This year marks the 164th occurrence of this grand equestrian event in Waregem, "the city of the horse," whose motto is *stad in galop* (city in gallop). Traditionally held on the Tuesday following the last Sunday in August, the Koerse consists of eight separate contests, the highlight being the "ING Great Steeplechase of Flanders" with a prize purse of €100,000.

The Waregem Koerse is one of 10 races that comprise the Crystal Cup, inaugurated last year to reward the most successful stable in cross-country steeple chasing. A steeple chase is a type of race involving varied terrain and obstacles that the horse must jump. The other contests take place throughout the year in France, the UK, Ireland, Italy and the Czech Republic.

Since the mid-19th century, the Waregem steeplechase has been famous for "the jump over the Gaverbeek," a formidable obstacle

for horse and rider alike. In recent years, animal-rights group Gaia has expressed concern about dangers posed to the horses. Last year, a horse named Prairie Spirit had to be euthanized and its rider hospitalised after a fall.

Of course, you'll find much more in Waregem this month than an equestrian event. The very first races, held in 1847, were organized during the annual *kermis* (fair), and this tradition continues.

The Koersefeesten, then, begins on 25 August with free *oliebollen* for revellers. Other events include concerts, comedy, activities for children and an annual market in the centre of town on the day before the race. After the race itself, fireworks light up the night sky.

As with other famous equestrian meets, Waregem Koerse is a highlight of the Flemish social calendar. It's a chance to see and be seen, and what better way to get noticed than by wearing a fantastic *chapeau*? On the day of the races, women show off headwear that is by turns fashionable, creative, whimsical, colourful and elegant. For the past 10 years, Flemish industrialist and horse enthusiast Willy Naessens has sponsored a contest for the best hat of the

day, with valuable prizes for the winner, pushing the women of the Waregem Koerse to ever greater creativity. (It's thought that the tradition of wearing hats at top races originated with the Royal Ascot, since it was mandatory to cover one's head in the presence of royalty.)

Whatever your preference, be it fast horses, fancy hats or fireworks, there's something for everyone at the Waregem Koerse.♦

MORE FEESTEN THIS WEEK

Kuipfeesten → *de Kuip, Minderhout*

Broekkantkermis → *Broekstraat, Arendonk*

Pleintjesfeesten → *Kooigemplaats, Kooigem*



GET YOUR
TICKETS NOW!

Klara Festival

1-16 September

Across Brussels

The celebrated Brussels section of the months-long, region-wide Festival of Flanders doesn't start for a couple of weeks yet, but it's a good time to plan your agenda as the more popular performances can sell out. Pay special attention to the European Gala Concert *The Fire of Prometheus*, featuring Modest Mussorgsky's original *Night On Bald Mountain* and Liszt's *Prometheus*, performed by the London Philharmonic led by its charismatic conductor Vladimir Jurowski (pictured).



© Klara Festival



Antwerp

De Roma

Turnhoutsebaan 327; 03.292.97.40

www.deroma.be

AUG 25 20.30 Bos, Voet & Cresens



Brussels

The Music Village

Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45

www.themusicvillage.com

Until AUG 27 21.00 Brussels Village Festival, jazz & Latino concerts



Antwerp

Amuz

Kammenstraat 81, www.amuz.be

AUG 20-28 Laus Polyphoniae: Antwerp's edition of the Festival of Flanders, devoted this year to Portugal, with the Huelgas Ensemble, Jordi Savall and his Capella Reial de Catalunya, fado singers and special concerts for children

Brussels

Royal Music Conservatory

Regentschapstraat 30

www.midis-minimes.be

Until AUG 31 Midis-Minimes: Lunchtime concerts covering a wide range of repertoires, from world music to Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and contemporary

Leuven

Saint Peter's Church

Grote Markt

www.zomer-van-sint-pieter.be

Until AUG 26 Zomer van Sint-Pieter: Lunch-time concerts, a sister event to the Midis-Minimes festival in Brussels



Antwerp

Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)

Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60

www.muhka.be

Until AUG 21 Ten Oosten van 4°24' (East of 4°24'), group show of artists from the Caucasus, India, China, Iraq, Egypt and more

Until SEP 18 Collection XVIII: If you shoot a bullet in a vacuum, will it keep travelling forever?, selected works and films by British artist Emily Wardill

Koningin Fabiolazaal

Jezusstraat 28; 03.203.42.04

www.provant.be

Until JAN 8 2012 The Moderns, top pieces from the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, including works by Emile Claus, James Ensor and Marc Chagall

Mekanik Strip Gallery

St.-Jacobsmarkt 73

www.art-trek.be

Until SEP 17 Art Trek 8, eighth edition of the annual group show organised by and for young international graphic artists

Middelheim Museum

Middelheimlaan 6; 03.828.13.50

www.middelheimmuseum.be

Until SEP 25 Erwin Wurm: Wear Me Out, open-air display of performative and living sculptures by the Austrian artist

Museum aan de Stroom (MAS)

Hanzestedenplaats 1; 03.338.44.34

www.mas.be

Until DEC 31 Masterpieces in the MAS: Five Centuries of Images in Antwerp, the first temporary exhibition in the new museum shows how Antwerp and Flanders significantly influenced 16th- and 17th-century Western European imagery

Photo Museum

Waalse Kaai 47; 03.242.93.00

www.fotomuseum.be

Until SEP 25 Insight, photos by Elke Andreas Boon, Elinor Carucci, Alexandra Cool and Jacques Sonck

Plantin-Moretus Museum

Vrijdagmarkt 22; 03.221.14.50

www.museumplantinmoretus.be

Until AUG 28 Inzichten en Vergezichten (Insights and Panoramic Views), designs by Anne-Mie Van Kerckhoven, designer of the light panels for the new MAS Museum

Blankenberge

Belle Epoque Centrum

Elisabethstraat 24; 050.42.87.41

www.belle.epoque.blankenberge.be

Until SEP 16 Hasseltse keramiek, Art Nouveau drip glaze pottery

Bruges

Bruggemuseum-Gruuthuse

Dijver 17; 050.44.87.43

www.uitgoedebron.info

Until OCT 16 Uit goede bron (Reliable Sources), the history of Bruges and how it grew to be one of the richest Mediaeval merchant cities

Site Oud Sint-Jan

Mariastraat 38; 050.47.61.00

www.expo-brugge.be

Agenda

Permanent From Pablo Picasso to Joan Miró, permanent exhibition of more than 100 works by Picasso, plus works by Henri Matisse, Marc Chagall, Joan Miró, more

Brussels

Atomium
Atomium Square; 02.475.47.72
www.atomium.be

Until DEC 9 Belgium & Immigration: Understand Better So We Can Better Understand One Another, interactive exhibition on migration to Belgium

Autrique House

Haachtsesteenweg 266; 02.215.66.00
www.autrique.be

Until DEC 31 Victor Horta: A Lost World, works highlighting decisive moments in the career of the architect born in Ghent 150 years ago

Belgian Comic Strip Centre

Zandstraat 20; 02.219.19.80
www.stripmuseum.be

Until OCT 2 The Publiart Adventure, comic strips in advertising
Until JAN 15 2012 Bob De Moor & De Zee (Bob De Moor & The Sea), ocean-inspired strips by the Antwerp artist and Hergé colleague

Biblioteca Wittockiana

Bemelstraat 23; 02.770.53.33
www.wittockiana.org
Until OCT 1 Le Fonds Michel Wittock: de la passion au don (The Gift of Passion), collection of remarkable bookbindings from the Renaissance to the present day

Bozar

Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
Until SEP 4 51N4E: Double or Nothing, sketches by the Brussels architecture firm
Until SEP 11 Jeff Wall: The Crooked Path, works by the Canadian photographer together with prose responding to the work
Until SEP 11 Young Belgian Painters Award 2011, works by the 10 finalists in the prestigious art competition
Until SEP 18 The Power of Fantasy: Modern and Contemporary Art from Poland, works by more than 30 contemporary Polish artists in celebration of Poland's presidency of the EU
Until SEP 25 Beyond the Document, works by 14 contemporary Belgian photographers

Brussels Expo

Bieléplein 1; 070.25.20.20
www.kingtutbrussels.be
Until NOV 6 Tutankhamun: His Tomb and His Treasures, reconstruction of the Ancient Egyptian king's tomb, with over 1,000 replicas of funerary objects, including amulets, coffers, chairs, weapons, musical instruments and more

CIVA

Kluisstraat 55; 02.642.24.71
www.civa.be
Until SEP 25 Transforming Landscapes, the work of Norwegian architectural firm Reiulf Ramstad
Until OCT 2 Brussel, een sterk staaltje van engineering (Brussels, Engineering Prowess), the world of engineers in the Brussels region

Charliermuseum

Kunstlaan 16; 02.218.53.82
www.charliermuseum.be
Until SEP 30 A Hard Existence, paintings of farmers, fishermen, servants and other manual labourers by late 19th- and early 20th-century artists

City Hall

Grote Markt; 02.279.64.24
www.brupass.be
Until SEP 25 Barok onthuld (Baroque Unveiled), a new way of looking at sculpture in Brussels and Belgium

Costume and Lace Museum

Violettestraat 12; 02.213.44.50
Until SEP 25 Midsummer Night's Dreams, textile works by Diane Didier
Until DEC 31 Hand-made clothing and accessories from before the invention of the sewing machine, including patterns, hats by Brussels milliners, men's waistcoats and women's corsets

De Elektriciteitscentrale

Sint Katelijneplein 44; 02.279.64.45
www.deelektriciteitscentrale.be
Until AUG 21 Jane Alexander: Security - Surveys (from the Cape of Good Hope), sculptures, installations, photographs and videos by the South African artist

Fondation pour l'Architecture

Kluisstraat 55; 02.642.24.80
www.fondationpourlarchitecture.be
Until AUG 28 Anne Heringer: Building Differently, plans, sketches and photographs by the German architect

House of the Dukes of Brabant

Grote Markt 19
www.this-is-belgium.be
Until AUG 30 This is Belgium: A Signature of Excellence, chronological interactive journey through Belgium's history and heritage by way of the country's best brands

Interactive Media Art Laboratory

Koelmijnkaai 30; 02.410.30.93
www.imal.org
Until AUG 19 Danse, Pouacre & Cavachute, installations by Véronika Usova

Jewish Museum of Belgium

Minimstraat 21; 02.512.19.63
www.mjdb-jmb.org
Until AUG 28 After Images, multidisciplinary show by contemporary American artists

Marc Sleen Museum

Zandstraat 33; 02.219.19.80
www.marc-sleen.be
Until SEP 25 Nero, Yuri Gagarin and Other Astronauts, space travel in comic strips

Museum van Elsene

Jean Van Volsemstraat 71; 02.515.64.22
www.museumvanelsene.be
Until SEP 4 Explosion: Graffiti art in Brussels, 25 years of urban art including works by both pioneers and contemporary artists

Royal Museum of the Armed Forces

Jubelpark 3; 02.737.78.33
www.legermuseum.be
Until SEP 4 1945-2002: Belgian soldiers in Germany, rare photographs documenting 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries
Until OCT 16 War&Game(s), photographs by Virginie Cornet and toys from the period of the First World War

Royal Museum of Fine Arts

Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11
www.fine-arts-museum.be
Until SEP 4 Art and Finance in Europe: 18th-Century Masterworks in a New Light, 20 major works by Francesco Guardi, Benjamí Wolff, Léonard Defrance, more

Sint-Gorikshallen

Sint-Goriksplein 23; 02.502.44.24
www.sintgorikshallen.be
Until AUG 29 1,000 voetschrapers (1,000 Foot Scrapers), photos of old boot scrapers still outside some Brussels doors, by Christophe H with texts by Laurence Rosier

Villa Empain

Franklin Rooseveltlaan 67; 02.627.52.30
www.villaempain.com
Until SEP 25 Of Women's Modesty and Anger, rituals, wigs, clothing, make-up and more constraints that determined the life of women for centuries

Ghent

Design Museum

Jan Breydelstraat 5; 09.267.99.99
www.designmuseumgent.be
Until OCT 16 Esprit Porcelaine, contemporary porcelain from Limoges
Until OCT 16 Die Essenz der Dinge: Design and the Art of Reduction
Until OCT 16 Johanna Dahm: Rings, ring designs by the Swiss artist

Dr Guislain Museum

Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95
www.museumdrguislain.be
Until SEP 4 In the Margin: Belgian Documentary Photography, work that documents the deviant, the extraordinary, the unnoticed, the 'other'

Kunsthal Sint-Pietersabdij

Sint-Pietersplein 9; 09.243.97.30
www.gent.be/spa
Until SEP 18 Ground: Palestine 2000-2010, photographs by Brussels photographer Bruno Stevens

Museum of Contemporary Art (SMAK)

Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03
www.smak.be
Until SEP 11 Carlos Rodríguez-Méndez: Agua Caliente (Hot Water), a giant minimalist sculpture by the Spanish artist
Until SEP 18 Jorge Macchi: Music Stands Still, paintings, sculpture, installations and video by the Argentinian artist

Hasselt

Het Stadsmus

Guido Gezelstraat 2; 011.23.98.90
www.hasselt.be
Until AUG 28 Hasselt aan Zee: Een eeuw marineschilderkunst (Hasselt at Sea: A Century of Marine Paintings), works by 20th-century artists inspired by the sea

Kolonel Dusartplein

0478.47.88.02
Until AUG 21 Expo Savanne, life-like installations of East African landscapes, including wild animals and local people by Belgian sculptor/taxidermist Dirk Claesen
Until AUG 21 Kris Verdonck: EXHIBITION #1, installations and videos by the Flemish theatremaker and artist

Z33

Zuivelmarkt 33; 011.29.59.60
www.z33.be

Until AUG 21 Kris Verdonck: EXHIBITION #1, installations and videos by the Flemish theatremaker and artist

Jabbeke

Provinciaal Museum Constant Permeke

Gistelsteenweg 341; 059.50.81.18
www.muzee.be/nl/permeke

Until NOV 6 Roger Raveel meets Constant Permeke, a selection of works by Roger Raveel from the Mu.ZEE collection in a dialogue with Constant Permeke's oeuvre

Kortrijk

Kortrijk centre

Grote Markt 45; 056.27.74.40
www.kortrijk.be/tentoonstellingen

Until AUG 28 Paradise Lost Paradise, contemporary art parcours throughout the city centre

Leuven

Museum M

Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28; 016.27.29.29
www.mleuven.be

Until AUG 28 De Honderd, the 100 best photos taken by locals from Leuven

Until SEP 4 A Romantic View: The Rademakers Collection, 19th-century Dutch and Belgian paintings of the Romantic period from Jef Rademakers' collection

Until SEP 11 Gert Robijns, installations by the contemporary Flemish artist

Until SEP 25 Pieter-Jozef Verhaghen: In het spoor van Rubens (In the Wake of Rubens), paintings by the 18th-century Flemish artist

DON'T MISS

Dhondt-Dhaenens Picnic

21 August, from 11.00

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle

It's looking like the weekend might actually be warm and dry. Should that be the case on Saturday, don't hesitate to pack up the family and the contents of the fridge and head to the grassy garden of this nice museum in Deurle, part of Sint-Martens-Latem in East Flanders. Besides a lot of locals, you'll find a barbecue, live music and entertainment for kids. On 3 September, there is another garden party at the museum, which specialises in Flemish art, though that one is an evening fundraiser.



Lier

Stedelijk Museum Wuyts-Van Campen

Florent Van Cauwenberghstraat 14

www.bruegeland.be

Until 2017 Bruegeland, paintings by Pieter Bruegel and artists influenced by him (on loan from the permanent collection of Antwerp's Museum of Fine Arts)

Machelen-Zulte

Het Roger Raveelmuseum

Gildestraat 2-8; 09.381.60.00

www.rogerraveelmuseum.be

Until OCT 30 Albisola, ceramic works by various artists inspired by the Italian town

Ypres

In Flanders Fields Museum

Grote Markt 34; 057.239.220

www.inflandersfields.be

Until NOV 13 Tribute to Donors, a wide selection of donated works, including paintings, drawings and photographs



Festivals & Special Events

Antwerp

Bollekesfeest: Fifth edition of the De Koninck beer festival featuring a regional products market, children's entertainment, waiters' tandem race, guided tours, concerts and more

AUG 18-21 at Gedempte Zuiderdokken www.bollekesfeest.be

Cinema Urbana: Summer of Antwerp's hangar-covered cinema on the Scheldt, complete with a bar, piles of sand and movies about surviving the city

Until AUG 28 22.00 at Plantinkaai www.zva.be

Open Air #5: Outdoor cultural festival with concerts and performances by national and international artists

AUG 27 19.00 at Air Antwerpen, Oosterweelsteenweg 3 www.airantwerpen.be

Taste of Antwerp 2011: Fifth edition of the culinary festival featuring more than 25 restaurants, top chefs, caterers and gourmet specialty stores

AUG 18-21 at Gedempte Zuiderdokken, Vlaamse Kaai 1 www.tasteofantwerp.com

Zomer van Antwerpen: Annual summer festival including circus, theatre, film,

Bruxellons!: Performing arts festival with theatre, dance, comedy and cabaret
Until SEP 4 at Kasteel Karreveld, Jean de la Hoeselaan 3
02.762.95.02, www.bruxellons.net

Camera Belgica: Thursday evening entertainment including guided museum visits and outdoor film screenings
Until AUG 25 20.00 at Belvue Museum, Paleizenplein 7
www.belvue.be

Cathedral Concerts: Organ concerts on Tuesday evenings
Until AUG 30 20.00 at St Michael and Gudula's Cathedral, Sinter-Goedeleplein
www.cathedralestmichel.be

Diep in het Bos (Deep in the Forest): Performing arts festival for children featuring outdoor plays and guided nature walks
AUG 24-28 at Laarbeekbos, Bosstraat 10 (Ganshoren)
www.diepinhetbos.be

Ecran Total: Summer-long film festival with classics, recent releases and never-released films
Until SEP 13 at Cinema Arenberg
www.arenberg.be

Filmotek: Annual garden screenings of shorts film, video art and works from Atelier 340's archives
Until SEP 9 22.00 at Atelier 340 Museum, Rivierendreef 340
www.atelier340muzeum.be

K-Nal (F)estival: First-ever K-Nal summer festival with music, photography and culinary adventures
Until AUG 27 Thurs-Sat at K-NAL, Havenlaan 1
0474.04.00.00, www.k-nal.be

Mini-Europe by Night: Sound and light show with fireworks and music 'Emotions in Europe'
Until AUG 20 Sat, 22.30 at Mini-Europe, Brupark, at the foot of the Atomium
www.minieuropa.com

Open-Air Cinema: Free outdoor film screenings
Until AUG 31 Wed 22.00 at Wolubilis, Paul-Henri Spaaklaan 1
www.wolubilis.be

PleinOPENair: Open-air cinema festival staged by Cinema Nova, featuring free screenings, walks, concerts, guided tours, and more
Until AUG 27 across Brussels
www.nova-cinema.org

Poland's EU Presidency: Poland takes the six-month helm of the European Union Council for the first time, featuring a major programme of cultural events
Until DEC 31 across Belgium
<http://culturepolonaise.eu>

Royal Palace Visits: Annual opening to the public of the 18th-century Royal Palace
Until SEP 11 at Brederodestraat 16
www.monarchie.be

Zuid Fun Fair: 130th edition of the annual fun fair with rides and games
Until AUG 21 from Hallepoort to the end of Zuidlaan
02.279.25.31, www.kermis-feest.be

Geraardsbergen
Family Open-Air Cinema: A children's film every Wednesday evening (in Dutch), followed by one that's a bit more grown up on the grounds of the beautiful Abdij Park
Until AUG 17 at Abdijstraat 1
www.openluchtcinema.be

Ghent

Dok Beach: Beach on a harbour canal with free entertainment, picnic lunches and kids' activities
Until AUG 31 daily at Koopvaardijlaan 13
www.dokgent.be

Parkkaffee: Circus, tarot readings, campfires and other fun activities for the whole family
Until AUG 31 at Groenenstaakstraat 37 (Mariakerke)
www.parkkaffee.be

Viewmaster: Friday night movies at sunset, staged on the banks of the canal that runs from the harbour to the city, with bar, food and DJ ahead of all screenings. Coming attractions are *Woman in the Dunes* and *The Sheik*
Until AUG 26 at Koopvaardijlaan
www.viewmaster011.be

Knokke-Heist

Cartoon Festival: 50th anniversary of the festival featuring more than 300 cartoons from all over the world
Until SEP 18 at the Casino beach pavilion
www.cartoonfestival.be

Mechelen

Jimmy's Drive-In Movies: An old-fashioned drive-in at the water sport park. Arrive in an old-timer car (25 years or older) to get in for free. Coming up are *Pirates of the Caribbean 4*, *Final Destination 5* and *Scream 4*
Until AUG 27 at Sportpark De Nekker
www.utopolis.be/events/98

Sint-Niklaas

Flemish Organ Days: Discover the instrument through concerts, demonstrations, workshops, plus an

exhibition and competition
AUG 18-20 at churches across the city
www.orgelinvlaanderen.be

Watou

Art Festival Watou: Third annual international art parcours, winding through the city's old buildings and countryside
Until SEP 11 at venues across Watou (West Flanders)
www.watou2011.be

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

Palm Parkies: Free outdoor concerts at parks, sponsored by Palm beer
Until AUG 31 in 15 cities across Flanders
www.parkies.net

Antwerp

Camping Louisa: Free open-air concerts and street theatre every Wednesday
Until AUG 24 19.30 at Sorgvliedt Park, Marneblaan 3, Hoboken 03.292.65.30, www.casalouisa.be

Brussels

Boterhammen in het Park: Free outdoor lunchtime festival of Flemish and Dutch rock and pop, including Axl Peleman, Eva De Roovere, Johan Verminnen, Hans Mortelmans, more
AUG 22-26 12.00 at Warande Park 02.548.24.24 or www.abconcerts.be

Brussels Summer Festival: Diverse programme including Jamie Cullum, Caravan Creek, Tailors of Panama, Harvey Quinn, more. Plus film screenings, open-door museum events, street theatre, sound and light show
Until AUG 21 in venues across the city
www.bsf.be

City Parade: Massive party with DJs and dancing
AUG 27 at Heizel (under the Atomium)
www.cityparade.be

Feeërieën 2011: Free outdoor festival with national and international rock, pop and experimental, including Murder, Timber Timbre, Awesome Tapes From Africa, Birds That Change Colour, more
AUG 22-26 19.00 at Warande Park
www.abconcerts.be

Eeklo

Helden in het Park: Free outdoor world music festival
Until AUG 18 at Heldenpark
www.n9.be

Kiewit (Limburg)

Pukkelpop: Belgium's biggest al-rock festival, featuring Foo Fighters, Thirty Seconds to Mars, Skunk Anansie, Eminem, Deftones, The Offspring, dEUS, Das Pop, more
AUG 18-20 at festival site Kiewit, Kempische Steenweg
www.pukkelpop.be

Koolskamp (West Flanders)

Madou Festival: Outdoor festival featuring Soul Vision, Radio Bambu Soundsystem and more, plus djembe workshops, children's entertainment, breakfast and BBQ
AUG 19-20 at Heirweg 32
www.deschaduw.net

Leuven (Flemish Brabant)

Cha Cha Festival: Open-air African culture festival featuring music by Ballet Langi, Ithran, Dizzy Mandjeku & Odemba Ok Jazz All stars, plus gastronomy, fashion, literature, dance, art and storytelling
AUG 20 16.00-23.00 at Zevensprong, Vital Decosterstraat 67
www.banaleuven.be

Colora Festival: World music festival, plus a series of free café concerts
AUG 19-21 at De Zevensprong, Vital Decosterstraat 67, and cafés across the city
www.colora.org

Piknik Musik: Concerts by Ben & Nolle, Briz, Raoul Lambert, more, plus sushi, vegetarian and Indian food
AUG 21 13.00-21.00 at Van Waeyenberghpark, Edouard Remyvest
www.piknikmusik.be

Mechelen (Antwerp)

Maanrock: Free outdoor rock festival with Fixkes, The Van Jets, Mintzkov, Das Pop, Arid, Clouseau, more
AUG 20-21 in the city centre
www.maanrock.be

Oostkamp (West Flanders)

Gipsy's in het park: Concerts by Nomad Swing, Thierry Robin Trio, Mec Yek and Orchestre International du Vexet, plus film screenings and children's activities
AUG 27 17.00-00.00 at Beukenpark, Kapellestraat 19
www.gipsysinhetpark.be

Tessenderlo (Limburg)

Moulin Rock Festival: Tenth anniversary of the rock festival featuring young bands and musicians, including Les Truttes, Exit April, CPEX, The Opposites, more
SEP 9-10 at Festivalterriën Moulin Rock, Molenstraat
www.moulinrock.be

FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT

DAAN BAUWENS

Boterhammen in het Park & Feeërieën

22-26 August

Warande Park, Brussels

Going back to work is a drag after a summer full of festivals, freedom and fun. To make the suffering of thousands of weary commuters just a little more bearable, Brussels concert hall Ancienne Belgique and the Flemish Community bring you Boterhammen in het Park (Sandwiches in the Park). Boterhammen is a free series of concerts in the heart of Brussels. Flemish and Dutch-speaking artists perform in the beautifully restored kiosk in the centre of Warande Park between the Royal Palace and the Parliament. Given that the concerts take place during lunchtime, they are the perfect excuse to silently wander away from work and plunge back into the festival atmosphere. This year's edition includes Flemish pop and rock bands like Yevgeni, Buurman (*pictured*) and Berlaen. The festival ends in style with nostalgic songs sung by the famous Flemish singer-songwriter Johan Verminnen and cosy jazz in the Antwerp dialect sung by the enchanting Hans Mortelmans. That is not all: to add to the already very friendly atmosphere,



kids enjoy performances and sing-songs, and every visitor is offered a free sandwich. Really. Those who just cannot say goodbye to summer yet can come back to the park after work. In the same week, a second festival takes place at the exact same location in the evenings: Feeërieën (no exact translation, but it has something

to do with fairies). Warande Park is magically lit for the occasion, and an excellent collection of international bands show their intimate side. Just a glimpse at the menu: Murder from Denmark, Vladislav Delay Quartet from Finland, Brooklyn's Awesome Tapes from Africa and Think Timbre from Canada. But without any doubt, Flanders' very own Birds That Change Colour is the most interesting band at the Feeërieën festival. The band, performing on the 24th, very intense music best described as psychedelic folk. Fascinating and musically revolutionary. Do not miss them.

→ www.abconcerts.be

bite

ROBYN BOYLE

Taste of Antwerp

Why go to just one restaurant this weekend when you can sample about 30? For four days during Taste of Antwerp, the city's Vlaamse Kaai and Waalse Kaai are transformed into a culinary village where top chefs, caterers and specialty shops invite visitors to mosey from one delicacy to the next. This fifth edition of Belgium's biggest open-air culinary event features rows of stands set up to entice visitors with samples from local food experts.

You pay for each dish with tokens, priced at €1 each. To give you an idea of what's on offer and how much they cost, I've put together an sample stroll through Taste of Antwerp. All restaurants mentioned are participating, and their menu items are confirmed. But these are just the tip of the iceberg; see the website for the full list.

First, stop for a thirst-quencher at the *Bolleke* stand on site. *Bolleke* is local dialect for De Konink beer, and Taste of Antwerp shares the spotlight this weekend with the annual *Bollekesfeest* beer festival.

Take your beer with you as you go in search of the perfect starter. The Cuisine Serge stand beckons. Chef Serge Lhoest is a caterer and seafood specialist, so I make

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my appetisers oysters (2 tokens) and tuna Carpaccio (4).

Moving right along, Grand Café Patrasche grabs my attention with its gastronomic beer and food pairings. I plump for their homemade cheese croquette with Fleur d'Ardenne ham and Liefmans Goudenband beer (8 tokens).

At this point I'm in the mood for something more substantial. So I make my way to the Petrus stand where beef specialist and personal chef Petrus Eggers is serving up a steak known as The Massacre, with smoked *witloof*, beef marrow, thyme, shallots and a truffle sauce (15 tokens). Or try a plate combining three different Petrus steak creations (19 tokens).

Patisserie Manus is a regular at Taste of Antwerp and commands one of the biggest stands; you can't miss it. Let pastry chef Herman Janssens spoil you for choice, be it Profiteroles (*soesjes*) with *creme anglaise*, coffee crumble, vanilla marshmallow and chocolate powder engulfed in warm chocolate sauce (8 tokens) or Tiramisu made with coffee *panna cotta*, crushed *speculoos*, mascarpone mousse, milk foam and a tiramisu macaroon (also 8).

New this year, for real foodies, Taste of



© Ward Ramaekers, Claudio Engelen

Antwerp also features a central platform where star chefs prepare multi-course menus before your eyes at specially reserved tables (register online for this three-hour royal treatment: Premium or Platinum arrangement, €99 or €124 respectively). Leading restaurant guide GaultMillau bagged five Antwerp chefs for this event: Viki Geunes of 't Zilte (located on the ninth floor of the new MAS Museum), Johan Segers of 't Fornuis, Olivier de Vinck of Kommilfoo, Jo Bussels of Radis Noir and Roger van Damme of Het Gebara.

And, as anybody who's ever been to a

summer festival in Belgium can attest, there's more to Taste of Antwerp than just eating and drinking. A festive atmosphere is guaranteed with music by top DJs and cooking demonstrations by TV celebrities such as Lesley-Ann Poppe, Johan Engelen and Piet Huyssentruyt.

→ www.tasteofantwerp.com

► Waalse Kaai and Vlaamse Kaai

🕒 Thurs 18 AUG 18.00-00.00, Fri 19 AUG 16.00-00.00, Sat 20 AUG: 13.00-00.00 and Sun 21 AUG 10.00-23.00

★ Thirty Antwerp restaurants in one place

TALKING DUTCH

Same difference

Frank Vandekerckhove from Las Vegas asks: "Are there any words in our Dutch or Flemish language that are also used in other languages such as French, English or Spanish?"

Well, Frank, I'm glad you asked, because there are plenty – though not all are equally praiseworthy. *Apartheid*, for example, may very well be the most famous word of the Dutch language. It comes from *apart*, separate, and the suffix *-heid*, comparable to the English *-hood* or *-ness*.

The second most famous, then, could just as well be *polder*, "an area of low land reclaimed from a body of water," according to my Penguin dictionary, "esp in the Netherlands." To keep those areas water-free, *dijken* had to be erected, or dykes.

Good old Wikipedia has a "List of English words of Dutch origin" and mentions an American language professor who estimated that 1% of all English words are of Dutch origin.

How about drugs? The word is said to come from the Dutch *droog*, dry, since early medicines mostly consisted of dried herbs. It is a word that has charmed the languages of the world, including French, *drogues*, and Spanish, *drogas*.

Ever been called a geek? Not to despair. It doesn't mean that you're a nerd but just a bit *gek*, strange. Or a Yankee? Don't even bother. It's from a composition of two of the most common names in Dutch, Jan and Kees, Jan-Kees. Or how about decoy? One of my favourites. Supposedly, it comes from *de kooi*, the cage, something to lure somebody in to. Some even claim that the two most powerful and proliferate words in the English language are Dutch. OK is said to come from Old



Kinderhook, otherwise known as the eighth US president Martin Van Buren, the first who didn't have English as his mother tongue – he spoke Dutch. *Kinderhook*, New York, is where he was born; *kinderhoek* means children's corner.

The other word, which I'll leave to you, dear reader, to decipher, comes from the Dutch word *fokken*, to breed.

The list goes on and on and is highly entertaining for the slightly *gek*. The people from the low countries planted seeds of their language everywhere they went – and they went places. There are even a couple of hundred Japanese words of Dutch origin still in use, from when the Dutch were the only Westerners allowed to trade with the Japanese. *Madoroso*, for example, comes from *matroos*, sailor. Or *Doitsu* means *Duits*, German. Yet, it's the Portuguese who inspired the internationally best-known Japanese word: *arigato*, thank you, comes from *obrigado*.

Questions? Yes, please: philip.ebels@ackroyd.be

PHILIP EBELS

THE LAST WORD . . .

Fruits of success

"The important thing is [to have] motivated people who really want to learn to pluck. I'd rather have a slow plucker than a bad plucker."

Fruit grower Joeri Reniers was overwhelmed by applications at a jobs fair in Limburg as harvest approaches

With fans like these...

"I have a son of 17 and a daughter of 18. I've now forbidden them to listen to your music and thrown your CDs in the rubbish."

Hate mail received by singer Daan after words of criticism directed at Bart De Wever

Stranger than fiction

"We've got enough material for a new movie, a thriller. The reality is even more surreal than the film."

Resident of Schellebelle, scene of the recent western *Schellebelle 1919*, and crime-scene of a murder for which eight people have now been arrested

Try, try again

"I once scored 31 out of 40, but in those days you had to score 32."

Marc Martain of Zillebeke, West Flanders, has failed his driving theory test 65 times in seven years

NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY #194

Feature

Belgium's Child Focus, a centre for missing and exploited children, was founded 13 years ago in the wake of the Marc Dutroux murders. We talk to its new director about what they do and directions for the future

Focus

Coming up to Eid ul-Fitr, the three-day festival that marks the end of Ramadan, our reporter talks to Muslims in Antwerp about the social and political aspects of the holy month

Arts

Not that Bruges needed the extra tourists, but it got them when the movie *In Bruges* hit international cinemas. We talk to British industry consultant Sue Hayes about movies and tourism in advance of her appearance at the Ostend Film Festival next month