

Throughout November:

11 - Armistice Day

1-15 - Antwerp : From Quinten Metsys to Peter Paul Rubens.

Masterpieces from the Royal Museum back in the Cathedral (working title). This prestigious exhibition, organized by the Cathedral of Our Lady and the KMSKA, evokes the cathedral interior from the 16th to the 18th centuries. It is a rare opportunity to admire in situ works from the celebrated Antwerp school of painting, from Metsys to Rubens. -

<http://www.dekathedraal.be/en/index.htm>



Now through 16 Feb 2010, Antwerp: Diamond museum: Stones don't have the power of speech, but they do tend to appeal to people's imagination, especially diamonds, which have been fuelling dreams for centuries! During this exhibition, which has a literary undertone, diamond objects have been cast as actors and are featured in a stage setting. It's up to the visitor to look, listen and interpret the role or - why not - create a whole new story!

1-30 - Brussels: LATE OPENINGS AT BRUSSELS MUSEUMS: An autumn tradition, the Late Openings at Brussels Museums lets visitors explore at least five museums every Thursday from 5 pm until 10 pm accompanied by a program of special activities, such as guided tours, stories and demonstrations. -

<http://www.museavanbrussel.be/en/home/index.php>



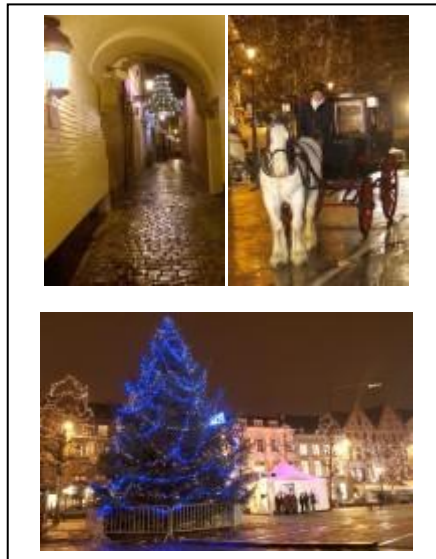
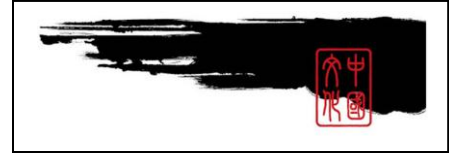
11 Oct 2009 to 17 Jan 2010 - Grand Hornu: The "**Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres**" was created in 1740 under the impulse of Madame de Pompadour and is one of the gems of French knowhow for decorative arts. The visitors of the Grand-Hornu are invited to discover this heritage by means of a large number of porcelain pieces, most of which contemporary. Closed Mondays

1-30- Brussels: COMIC STRIPS... 20 YEARS LATER

The Belgian Comic Strip Center celebrates its 20th anniversary and tells about the changes in European comic strips these last few years. It highlights the most remarkable creations of the past two decades. - <http://www.comicscenter.net/en/home>



1-30 – Brussels: EUROPALIA CHINA: Europalia is dedicating its 22nd festival to the culture of one of the most fascinating countries on our planet, China. For four months, Europalia is opening the borders to an authentic, unknown and contemporary China through a string of events that include exhibitions, concerts, dance, theatre, cinema, literary encounters, scientific conferences, etc. - <http://www.europalia.be/europalia/home/?lang=en>



26 Nov - 28 Nov 2009 – Brussels: SABLON BY NIGHT: Shops open their doors from 7pm to 11pm and participants can enjoy the lighting of beautiful holiday lights in this most beautiful district of the European capital.

<http://www.sablon-bruxelles.com/en/informations.html>

1-30 – Leuven: Rogier van der Weyden 1400|1464 – Master of Passions: The exhibition focuses on the oeuvre of Rogier van der Weyden who, along with Jan van Eyck, was the Southern Netherlands' most influential 15th-century panel painter.

<http://www.rogiervanderweyden.be/>

(through December 6)



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ambiorix.jpg>

1-30 – Tongeren: Ambiorix, King of the Eburones: This exhibition takes us on a journey to the roots of Celtic culture and the origin of the Eburones people. More than 400 quality items loaned to the exhibition by major museums paint a vivid portrait of life in the Celtic world.

<http://www.gallo-romeinsmuseum.be/>

Ambiorix was King of the Eburones, a Belgic tribe of north-eastern Gaul living between the Maas and Rhine rivers. In the winter of 54 BC, he joined an uprising against the occupying Roman forces and almost annihilated them as other Gaulish tribes joined the struggle. It was the heaviest defeat the Romans suffered in Gaul. In revenge, Julius Caesar murdered the entire Eburones people and destroyed their land, but never captured Ambiorix — adding to his legend status. His eventual fate is not known.

Nowadays, a 19th Century statue of him can be found in the town of Tongeren, a city Ambiorix is said to have established. (runs through December as well)

December 2009

Continuing

- the **Late Museum Openings in Brussels** - Dec 1 thru 18
- **Europalia**
- **Comic Strips 20 Years Later** – Dec 1 thru 6

All Month – Brussels: EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKET: Winter fun, an ice skating rink and much more await visitors in the warm and friendly atmosphere of downtown Brussels. A holiday shoppers' delight!

Dec 12 – Bastogne: **32nd Bastogne Historic Walk:** 65 years ago the greatest land battle of the American Army began, the Battle of the Bulge. The walk this year will be in the area south-southwest of Bastogne. The village of Sibret a major stronghold of the American defense could not be held. The Germans cut off the highway from Bastogne to the south completing the encirclement of the town.

Starting Dec 9 – Christmas in Antwerp: the annual Christmas market opens on the market square. An ice skating rink promises winter fun for all ages. Nativity scenes are on display in many churches and Christmas concerts abound.

- * Ice rinks: 9 Dec - 3 Jan, Grote Markt
- * Christmas market: 9 Dec- 27 Dec, Groenplaats
- * New Year's fireworks: 31 Dec, Scheldt quays



All Month - Liege: **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE IN LIEGE:** In the heart of the city of Liege 160 decorated wooden cottages form a magical Christmas Village. Since 1986 the French-speaking city of Liege has celebrated the festive season with a Christmas Village, filled with 160 decorated and illuminated wooden cottages offering food, drink, crafts and gifts. It is probably Belgium's biggest Christmas fair, attracting more than a million visitors, many of which come from abroad. Based on the German model of the Christmas Fair but with a suitable Gallic influence, the 'Village de Noel' claims a unique atmosphere, balancing Christmas sentiment with plenty of good cheer. There is ample amusement for children, including puppet shows. - <http://www.villagedenoel.be/EN/index.asp>



Until 31 Dec - Antwerp in Miniature: Telling the story of Antwerp in seven galleries that feature sound and light shows, Antwerp in Miniature recreates the city in different periods of its growth.

1-30 – Antwerp: **'Vive l'esprit'. The Galleries of Willem van Haecht:** In this exhibition Van Haecht's galleries are shown together for the first time, alongside work by Frans Francken, Jan Brueghel the Elder, David Tenier and Gonzales Coques.

For more cultural related links visit: <http://www.visitbelgium.com/index.php/cultural-belgium>