

IN 2020 GHENT IS HONOURING ITS GREATEST FLEMISH MASTER

OMG!  
VAN  
EYCK  
WAS  
HERE.

Magazine

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DISCOVER &  
EXPERIENCE

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TASTE &  
FEAST

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PROGRAMME

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VAN EYCK  
IN GHENT

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2020

OMG!  
VAN  
EYCK  
WAS  
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Magazine



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# Ghent is celebrating its greatest Flemish master painter in 2020

During the entire year of 2020, Ghent will be hosting *OMG! Van Eyck was here*, paying homage to Jan Van Eyck, the Flemish Master Painter who is inextricably linked with the city owing to his world-famous masterpiece, the Ghent Altarpiece. A year filled with scintillating activities and events, showing how even after six centuries, the legacy of one of the world's most masterful artists still courses through the arteries of the city of Ghent and its residents.

## Ghent: the city of the Altarpiece

Ghent and its Altarpiece, a bond that cannot be broken. What the Mona Lisa is to Paris, the altarpiece is to our city. Ghent is the city where Van Eyck painted his world-famous masterpiece, and to which millions of visitors from all over the world have been flocking for centuries to admire the altarpiece. Small wonder: ever since the unveiling of the Ghent Altarpiece in 1432, not a single visitor has come away unmoved by Van Eyck's superlative mastery and unparalleled eye for detail. The master himself revolutionized European art history and left an indelible mark on Ghent as a pioneering city of culture.

With *OMG! Van Eyck was here*, Ghent is highlighting the unbreakable bond between the city and the grandmaster. Strap in for a tantalizing programme full of visual art, theatre, dancing, design, fashion, music, gastronomy, shopping and much more in the style of Van Eyck and his majestic masterpiece. A celebration for the ages for residents and visitors of Ghent alike, one that will shake the city to its core for an entire year.

## OMG! A COLOPHON.

**OMG! Van Eyck was here** is an initiative by the City of Ghent and all citizens of Ghent.

Project management:

Cultuur Gent

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[info@vaneyckwashere.be](mailto:info@vaneyckwashere.be)

### Organising partners:

Visit Gent, Visit Flanders, Ghent Museum of Fine Arts (MSK), St Bavo's Cathedral, Puur Gent, the cultural venues of Ghent and the many Ghentish organisers.



### Sponsors:

ATS Groep en Denys.



### Media partners:

Het Nieuwsblad, AVS and Radio 2.



images Ghent Altarpiece: Sint-Baafskathedraal Gent

© Lukasweb.be-Art in Flanders vzw,

photo Hugo Maertens, Dominique Provost, KIK-IRPA

V.U. Mieke Hullebroeck – General Director,  
Town Hall, Botermarkt 1, 9000 Ghent – february 2020



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# Spotlight on FLEMISH MASTERS

2018

Rubens



© Rubens House Antwerp

2019

Breughel



© KHM

2020

Van Eyck



© Jan van Eyck. Portrait of Giovanni (?) Arnolfini and his Wife. © The National Gallery, London.

B

etween the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Southern Netherlands were without question the central

hub for progressive art movements: the Flemish Primitives, the Renaissance, and the Baroque. For two hundred and fifty years, the region was home to some of the most renowned artists of Western Europe. Three artists in particular – Van Eyck, Bruegel, and Rubens – stood proud among their peers and claimed their place among the greatest masters of all time.

With the *Flemish Masters* project, Visit Flanders wishes to promote these three greats for three consecutive years; both among foreign amateurs of culture and among the Flemish themselves. Antwerp got the ball rolling in 2018 with *Antwerp Baroque. Rubens inspires*. Brussels is celebrating the *Bruegel year*. And Ghent is finishing things off in 2020 with *OMG! Van Eyck was here*.

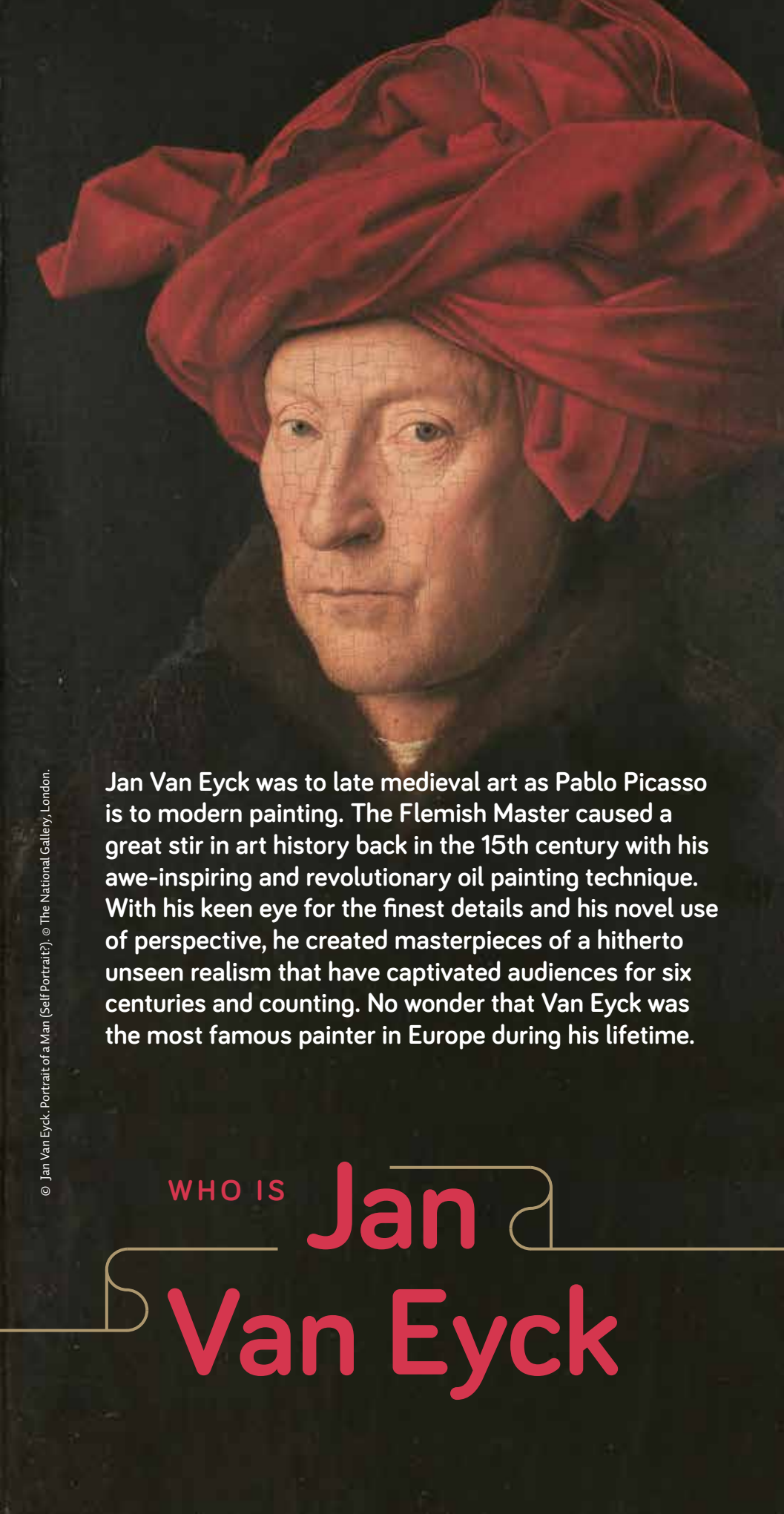
In the context of *Flemish Masters*, Visit Flanders invested in projects making a significant difference in the promotion of the three grandmasters. In the case of Ghent, this entailed support for the exhibition *Jan Van Eyck. An optical revolution* at the Museum of Fine Arts, and the construction of the new visitors' centre for the Ghent Altarpiece in St Bavo's Cathedral. These two pillars caused the City of Ghent to invest in a complete theme year devoted to Van Eyck and to highlight all that Ghent has to offer in our own way: a fascinating cultural cocktail, filled to the brim with a rich history, culture, and a trendy urban lifestyle with a maxed-out dosage of must-sees. *OMG! Van Eyck was here*: too much ground to cover in a single day, much like Ghent itself.

## JOHANNES DE EYCK FUT HIC

OMG! *Van Eyck was here* is a nod and a wink to the signature *Johannes de Eyck fuit hic* ('Jan Van Eyck was here') used almost as some kind of graffiti tag by the painter in 1434 to sign his 'Portrait of Giovanni Arnolfini and his wife'. With it, Van Eyck was one of the first artists of the pivotal moment between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to slip out of anonymity.

A bit of trivia: the painter himself can also be seen in this very work, in the convex mirror positioned behind the couple. A Renaissance selfie!

On the other hand, *OMG! Van Eyck was here* also highlights the strong imprint left by Van Eyck and the Ghent Altarpiece on the city of Ghent. Symbolizing the connection between the artist and the city, between mastery in the 15th century and today, between the Ghent of the past and of the present.

A detailed oil painting of Jan Van Eyck, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing a large, voluminous red turban or headpiece that covers his hair and ears. His face is pale with visible texture, and he has a serious expression, looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a dark, heavy garment with a high collar. The background is dark and indistinct.

Jan Van Eyck was to late medieval art as Pablo Picasso is to modern painting. The Flemish Master caused a great stir in art history back in the 15th century with his awe-inspiring and revolutionary oil painting technique. With his keen eye for the finest details and his novel use of perspective, he created masterpieces of a hitherto unseen realism that have captivated audiences for six centuries and counting. No wonder that Van Eyck was the most famous painter in Europe during his lifetime.

# WHO IS Jan Van Eyck

## COURT PAINTER, CONFIDANT, AND SECRET AGENT

Despite the legendary status Van Eyck enjoyed in his own lifetime, little is known with certainty about the painter. He is presumed to have been born around 1390 in the Limburg city of Maaseik, and to have died in Bruges on 14 July 1441. As a diplomat and court painter to the Burgundian duke Philip the Good, he travelled all across Flanders and spent time among others in affluent trading centres such as Ghent and Bruges, where he found buyers for his art in rich merchants and politicians, among others. Following the death of his brother Hubert, he completed the now world-renowned Ghent Altarpiece at the behest of Ghent alderman Joos Vijd and his wife Elisabeth Borluut. A crowning jewel for the new apse chapel Vijd had constructed in the St. John the Baptist's church (now St Bavo's Cathedral), bearing his name to this day.



As a man of many talents, Jan Van Eyck was not only active as a painter. Legend has it that he was also regularly sent out as a spy on secret missions around Europe, at the instruction of the Burgundian court. After all, in the Middle Ages, loaning out an artist to a rival court to complete artistic assignments was the ideal cover for snooping around the competition's stronghold.

One of these foreign journeys saw Jan Van Eyck travel to Portugal as part of a Burgundian court delegation, where he painted two portraits of Isabella, later Philip the Good's third wife. The marriage



## What it meant to be a court painter

If you thought Jan Van Eyck merely spent his days painting the Ghent Altarpiece, think again. As a court painter, he received a wide range of assignments. From diplomatic trips and dynastic portraits to creating festive decors and designing coats of arms: he did it all. He even drew up a world map for Philip the Good. Van Eyck was sent on secret missions abroad where he was tasked with drawing up notes for the duke's future military campaigns. The painter returned with a 'mappemonde' displaying his excellent geometric and cartographic skills. A true Renaissance man, that Jan Van Eyck!

was only secured after Philip expressed his excitement over the looks of his bride to be in the portraits.

During his travels, Jan Van Eyck also developed a fascination with the exotic fauna and flora that crossed his path. An inexhaustible source of inspiration, as would later become apparent, as he painted his multitude of new discoveries with effortless detail in the Ghent Altarpiece.

### JAN VAN EYCK: AN INNOVATING COMET SHOOTING ACROSS THE ART HISTORY SKY

In addition to a painter and occasional spy, Van Eyck was also a true scientist. Not only did he perfect the oil painting technique, he also had an exceptional eye for detail and an excellent understanding of the theory of optics. As a true genius, he managed to capture reality in its finest detail, and his eyes operated as both microscopes and telescopes.

Van Eyck was among others the first painter in history to depict natural features such as the moon in a scientifically correct manner in his paintings.

Moreover, Van Eyck pioneered the use of atmospheric perspective, giving his works an unparalleled sense of depth. This raises the Flemish Master above the level of his contemporaries. Without any transitional form or comparable predecessor, Van Eyck suddenly shot across the art history sky in the fifteenth century as a perfect comet, unleashing a true optical revolution with his innovative work.

# The Ghent

**W**orld heritage, an artistic high-light, or even the most influential painting ever made: superlatives abound when talking about the Ghent Altarpiece. Since its unveiling 1432, the altarpiece has spellbound people for centuries, and is an absolute source of pride for Ghent and its residents. But what was the actual purpose of this mysterious retable? And why exactly is it located in Ghent?

The Ghent Altarpiece, or *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* in full, stems from a period when most believers were illiterate, and masses were held in Latin. Therefore, a visual representation of Biblical stories in the altarpiece were a very important tool for keeping churchgoers engaged in the religious experience. The more impressive the work, the greater the impact!

The assignment for the creation of the Ghent Altarpiece came from Ghent alderman Joos Vijd. He commissioned the altarpiece for his brand-new Vijd chapel in St. John the Baptist's church (which later became St Bavo's Cathedral) from Hubert Van Eyck. However, Hubert died in 1426 before he had even started work on the project, following which his brother Jan picked up the brush where Hubert had left off. Jan painted a magnificently detailed and conceptually complex polyptych with a whopping twelve panels.

### ONLY OPEN ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Did you know that, in the past, the Ghent Altarpiece was only folded open on Sundays and holidays? Only on these special occasions could one admire the frivolous colours hidden within. The contrast between the stark outer panels and the impressive inner panels symbolizes worldly reality making way for the abundant majesty of heaven.

Jan Van Eyck committed the Ghent Altarpiece to oak panels, overlaid with thin layers of a mixture of chalk and animal glue.



# Altarpiece, a pinnacle of divine artistry



© Lukasweb – KIK/IRPA

He applied the figures in countless layers of oil paint. The combination of precise miniature work and translucent paint creates an extra dimension, making it seem as if the paint is glowing from within.

The astounding finesse of the work of Jan Van Eyck was largely lost during the restoration efforts of Lancelot Blondeel and Jan van Scorel around 1550, whereby no less than 60% of the Ghent Altarpiece was painted over. This means that, until the recovery of the astounding original detail of Van Eyck during the current restoration phase, five centuries were spent gazing at the work of sixteenth-century painters!

## THE TRUE GHENT ALTARPIECE REVEALED

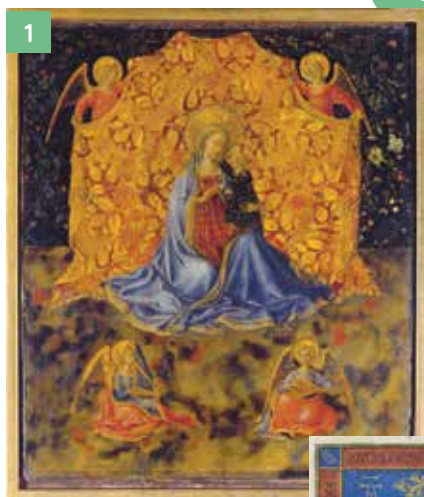
Since 2012, KIK (royal institute for cultural heritage) has been working on a thorough restoration of the Ghent Altarpiece at the workshop of the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent. The initial phase tackling the back panels was completed in late 2016.

During the second phase, the restoration team worked on the lower register of the altarpiece, which includes the imposing central panel with the Lamb. The experts peeled away the yellowed varnishes and old overlying layers of paint with the greatest care, allowing the

true virtuosity of Jan Van Eyck to once again see the light of day. The colours, details, folds and depth thus revealed are of a remarkable quality, once again demonstrating the exceptional level of workmanship.

Phase 2 of the renovation was completed in late 2019 and brought numerous new elements to light. After laying bare the original Lamb, which appeared to have a much more human face than in the overlying layers, the restorers also discovered a number of unknown buildings underneath the overlying layers of paint. We are eager to find out what the third phase of the restoration will uncover.

# THE largest VAN EYCK- EXHIBITION ever



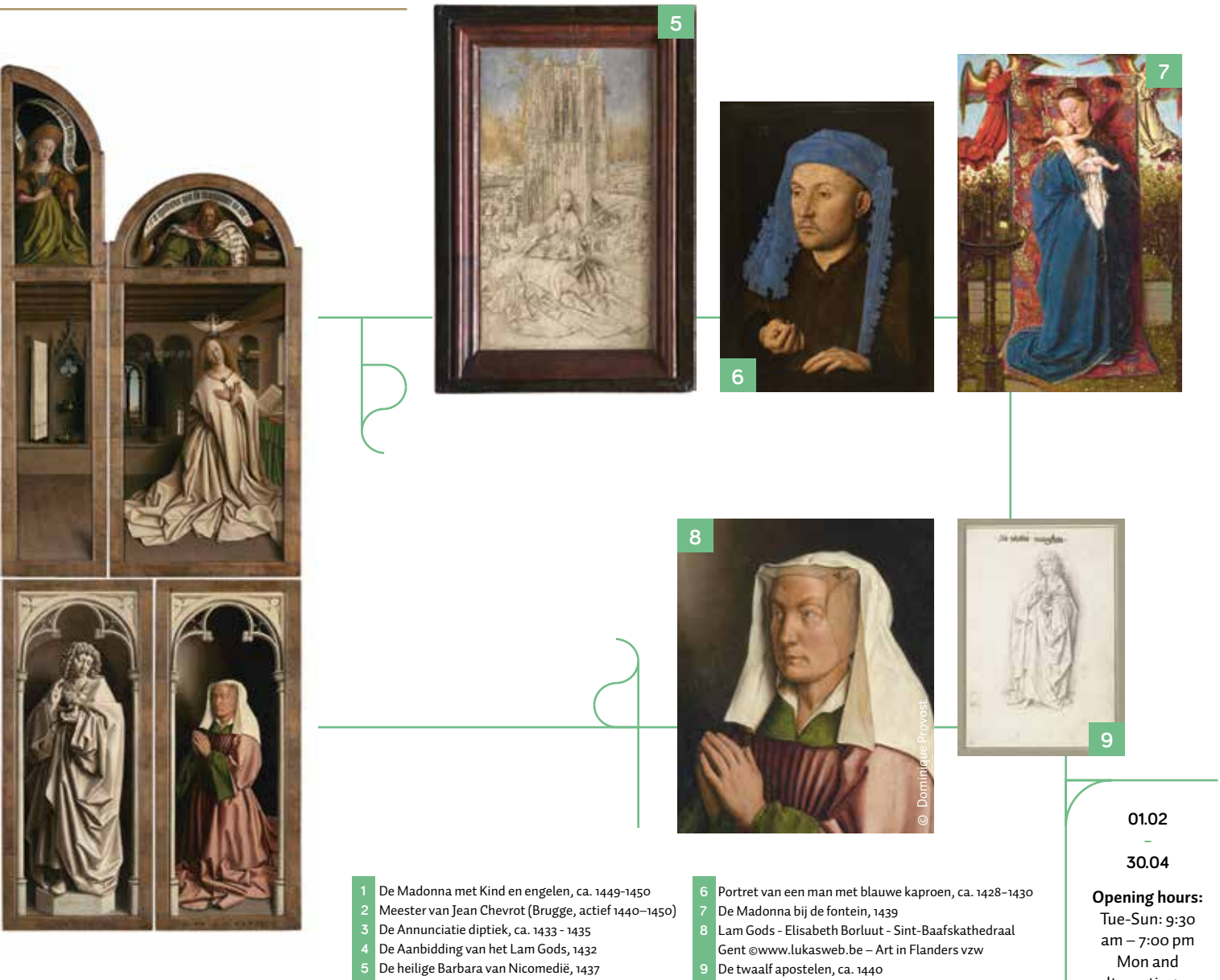
## VAN EYCK. AN OPTICAL REVOLUTION

Did you know that only some twenty works of Jan Van Eyck were preserved into modern times worldwide? At least half of them will find their way to Ghent for the Van Eyck exhibition from February to April 2020. Truly an exceptional event. An optical revolution at the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts (MSK).

At the heart of the exhibition are the eight restored back panels of the Ghent Altarpiece, the first and last time they will be on display outside of Ghent's St Bavo's Cathedral. In addition, other top pieces by the master's hand will be on display, including 'Madonna at the Fountain', and 'Portrait of a Man with a Blue Chaperon'. They are flanked by work from his atelier and copies of works now lost. Never

before have so many works by Jan van Eyck been on display at one location, making the exhibition the largest ever dedicated to the master!





## JAN VAN EYCK AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

As painter to the Burgundian duke Philip the Good and working for the flamboyant court and wealthy residents of cities such as Ghent, Jan van Eyck far surpassed his contemporaries. With his unequalled technique, scientific knowledge, and unparalleled powers of observation, Van Eyck raised the art of oil painting to unseen levels, impacting the very course of Western

painting in the process. Never before had any painter represented reality in such a tangible manner, with portraits seemingly lacking only a pulse and landscapes that showcase the world in all its facets.

To highlight the impact of Jan Van Eyck's optical revolution, the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts is placing his works beside his most talented contemporaries, among others from the Florentine art scene. In total, the exhibition will

display over one hundred paintings, miniatures, sculptures, and drawings from the medieval period. They are brought to Ghent from leading collections the world over. Book your tickets now via [www.vaneyck2020.be](http://www.vaneyck2020.be) for the experience of a lifetime!

01.02

30.04

**Opening hours:**  
Tue-Sun: 9:30  
am – 7:00 pm  
Mon and  
alternating on  
Fri and Sat:  
9:30 am – 11:00 pm

**Ghent Museum of Fine Arts**  
[Vaneyck2020.be](http://Vaneyck2020.be)  
Tickets start at € 25  
with concessions available.





# A new home FOR the Lamb

8.10  
2020

St Bavo's Cathedral  
sint-baafskathedraal.be



St Bavo's Cathedral, the home of the Ghent Altarpiece, is receiving a brand-new visitors' centre where the restored panels of the altarpiece and various other authentic art treasures can be admired in all their glory. With the help of augmented reality, you will be able to travel deep into the past and live the turbulent history of the Ghent Altarpiece and the cathedral as if you were there yourself.

A 30-minute tour with a virtual narrator shows both the masterpiece and the impressive cathedral come to life in all their splendour. Discover the various construction phases of the cathedral, have a stroll around Van Eyck's workshop, find out everything there is to know about the iconography of the Ghent Altarpiece, and feast your eyes on the highlights of the altarpiece's eventful past.

## OMG!

A BRAND-NEW  
VISITORS'  
CENTRE!

OPENING ON  
8 OCTOBER

Lastly, the tour's finale takes the visitor to the ambulatory where the true Ghent Altarpiece with restored panels can be admired. The tour is available in 9 different languages. A special family tour is available to children and families.

## WHICH PANELS ARE ON DISPLAY AT WHAT LOCATIONS IN 2020?

At the end of 2019, the second stage of the restoration was completed at the Museum of Fine Arts Ghent. In January 2020, the five panels of the lower register of the altarpiece, including the 'Adoration of the Mystic Lamb', returned to St Bavo's Cathedral, where they can be viewed in all their glory together with the other interior panels. The exterior panels as well as the Adam and Eve panels, which had been displayed in St Bavo's Cathedral until then, were simultaneously moved to the Museum of Fine Arts Ghent, where they feature in the biggest Van Eyck exhibition ever. They will remain there until the exhibition closes on 30 April 2020.

In May, the exhibited panels will return to St Bavo's Cathedral and will be reunited with the rest of the altarpiece. Its first location will be the Villa chapel, but from 8 October 2020 onwards the Ghent Altarpiece will be on display at the Sacrament chapel. The altarpiece will be set up in its original context, allowing visitors to experience it as the patrons and the Van Eyck brothers had intended in the fifteenth century.

24.01

-  
September  
2020

St Bavo's Cathedral  
sint-baafskathedraal.be



## THE RETURN OF THE LAMB

In anticipation of the opening of the new visitors' centre, the restored central panel with the Lamb can be admired at St Bavo's Cathedral as from 24 January 2020. The return of the Lamb is linked to an exhibition with works by artists Kris Martin, Lies Caeyers, and Sophie Kuijken. The exhibition is held both inside and outside of the cathedral walls and is inspired by the 3 pillars of the Mystic Lamb: shape, technique, and content.



# THE GHENT ALTARPIECE Inspires

Just like the city itself, the Ghent Altarpiece evokes constant admiration as the eyes struggle to take it all in. The polyptych with its vibrant colours and sumptuous details forms an inexhaustible source of inspiration. From the musical instruments and buildings, the fauna and flora, to the jewels and robes: they combine to form the basis for a packed and multi-faceted programme.

See how the colours of the Ghent Altarpiece come to life in magical multimedia spectacles. Become enraptured at the scents of the flowers and plants at the Floralties. Or better yet: taste the ingredients of the Ghent Altarpiece at one of Ghent's many eateries. Feel

the rich brocade and oak in contemporary design. Listen to the angelic fifteenth-century music and modern rearrangements. Theatre, fashion, gastronomy, music, sports, and even shopping; all Van Eyck themed, all year long. In short: too much Ghent for a single day.

## EXPERIENCE

28.03

01.11

St Nicholas' Church  
Lightsonvaneyck.be



### LIGHTS ON VAN EYCK

In 2020, St Nicholas' Church is the ideal location for those who enjoy a unique blend of multimedia art, music and projection. A digital and musical reinterpretation of the Ghent Altarpiece composed by Mat Collishaw is sure to bring you pure wonderment for half an hour. Enter the church, behold a magical light show with projections on all walls and vaults, and engage in a digital arts experience. Regular live performances complete the picture.

This multimedia experience is accessible to a wide audience of all ages: families, tourists, groups, lovers of art, and techies. Those who have been looking forward to the next edition of the Light Festival are sure to enjoy an exceptionally innovative project in the heart of Ghent. 'A Digital Tribute to Van Eyck' is a collaboration between Mankind and CREATE. eu. Both were major crowd pleasers with their dancing robot arms and fire-breathing dragon during the previous Light Festival in 2018.

#### OPENING HOURS

Monday – Tuesday – Thursday

9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday – Sunday 9:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**TICKETS** € 11, with concessions available.



MARVELOUS  
SHOW!







© Bob Mees

EXPO

01.01

31.12

Multiple  
locations  
in Ghent**VAN EYCK: COSMOPOLITAN**

During 'Van Eyck: Cosmopolitan', twelve different artists with a migration background will enter into a dialogue with the Ghent Altarpiece as painted by the Van Eyck brothers. They will work on an artistic answer across different disciplines for several months. Apart from the personal diversity of the artists, there is also room for diversity in terms of artistic disciplines: music, word, dance, visual arts and other disciplines can be explored. The results of this voyage of artistic discovery will be displayed in a unique exhibition A project by ORBITzw, Novgorod, De Centrale and VOEM.



EXPO

2.03

10.05

De Krook  
stad.gent/  
bibliotheek**VAN EYCK @ DE KROOK**

Van Eyck's spirit wanders among the books. Various artists will take over the ground floor of the De Krook library in Spring 2020. From March up to May, the building will host a number of workshops where stories and portraits linked to Jan Van Eyck will come to life thanks to the visitors. You will get the chance to be not only a spectator, but also a patron, a participant and the canvas. In addition to being places of performance, the workshops are places of research and provide opportunities for young artists under the aegis of a renowned master artist.



EXPO

13.03

tot

06.09

Design Museum  
designmuseumgent.be**KLEUREYCK.****VAN EYCK'S COLOURS IN DESIGN**

The Ghent Altarpiece is famous for its special and intense colours, which were fully uncovered again during the recent restoration. Jan Van Eyck used oil paint as well as layers of transparent coloured glaze to achieve an innovative mix of shades, clarity and saturation. His inspiring technique and colour use form the point of departure of an exhibition on innovative and diverse use of colours, linking the present and the past.

At the exhibition *Kleureyck. Van Eyck's Colours in design* in the Design Museum you can take a stroll through the 7 principal colours and the spectrum of pigments used by Jan Van Eyck and his contemporaries. Projects by designers from a variety of design areas are displayed in different colour configurations. In addition, the historical salons of Hotel de Coninck are transformed into veritable experience rooms where contemporary well-known and lesser-known designers and artists exhibit their work along the themes of colour and the senses. An intense experience for the entire family!

**OPENING HOURS:**

Monday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday closed

Saturday, Sundays and holidays:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**TICKETS** € 10, with concessions available.

Jan van Eyck, 'Madonna with Canon van der Paele' – geometric patterns in composition and perspective



EXPO

21.03

31.12

Gent University Museum  
gum.gent

### VAN EYCK IN DEPTH. FRICTION AND HARMONY THROUGH THE EYES OF ARCHITECTS AND ARTISTS

In March 2020, a new science museum will open its doors around the corner of MSK Gent and S.M.A.K. The Ghent University Museum, in short GUM, will allow you to take a look into the mind of a scientist. The new museum opens straight away with a pop-up exhibition on perspective and geometry in the oeuvre of Jan Van Eyck. The focus of the exhibition will be on his famous masterpiece Virgin and Child with Canon van der Paele. Is it true that Van Eyck did not know the laws of perspective in art, as is generally assumed? Why then does his oeuvre feel so right? A scientist and a group of architecture students try to answer these questions. The temporary exhibition confronts their scientific analysis with the artistic analysis of four contemporary artists. Like Van Eyck, they are looking for their own perspective. This results in a different kind of knowledge. Is it knowledge that leads to harmony? Or rather friction? Welcome to Jan Van Eyck's studio!

## HERITAGE

01.05

01.11

Castle of Gerald the Devil  
glimps.bio

### VAN EYCK 2.0 – OMG! HUBERT IS HERE

A link between the 15th-century Ghent Altarpiece and biodesign may seem a bit far-fetched, but innovation studio GLIMPS manages to create a perfect link between old and new within the scope of the 'Van Eyck 2.0 – OMG! Hubert IS here' project. They connect almost 600 years of history by linking the work and innovations of the Van Eyck brothers to Ghent expertise in biotech and biodesign.

During the Van Eyck year, GLIMPS moves into the Castle of Gerald the Devil, which will temporarily open its doors under the name of 'Broei' in 2020 and serve as a place where youngsters can think and engage in activities. This iconic location will for example host inspiration sessions for professionals, workshops for youngsters and lectures for a broad audience. Refer to themes linked to the Ghent Altarpiece to zoom in on biodesign as the ideal link between old crafts and contemporary biotech. The project is concluded with a biodesign exhibition with work by national and international artists and scientists.



EXPO

24.04

12.07

Various locations in Ghent  
cultuur.gent

### FLEMISH MASTERS IN SITU

Ghent is home to the Ghent Altarpiece, but the city also boasts many other masterpieces. Heritage ambassadors welcome you to a number of churches in Ghent with magnificent art treasures that bear witness to a rich past. These impressive heritage sites offer visitors the possibility to become acquainted with special works of art, and thus gain a better understanding of the church and its significance in the city's history, every Friday and Saturday from 24 April until 12 July 2020. A unique opportunity to admire usually underexposed masterpieces at the location they were originally created for.

Friday – Saturday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## EXPO

Kask

14.05

07.06

Kunsthal

29.05

28.06

fromscratchto  
scratch.be

### FROM SCRATCH TO SCRATCH

KASK brings a double exhibition that focuses on master painter Van Eyck's heritage and its importance for contemporary forms of art. The exhibition is the result of a research project of students of the postgraduate Curatorial Studies programme at KASK. Different aspects such as time, identity and visibility are taken into account when inviting the artists. The project uses Van Eyck's oeuvre as a point of departure for studying and exhibiting contemporary art. The exhibition takes place alternately at two different locations, which may give rise to new perspectives.



EXPO

21.05  
—  
26.07St James' Church  
jacobusgent.be**HONORÉ D'O -  
THE TOWEL OF VAN EYCK**

Ghent installation and video artist Honoré d'O draws inspiration from the towel in the annunciation scene on one of the outer panels of the Ghent Altarpiece. Themes hidden in the detail of the towel include care, preparation, intimacy, silence, purity and cleanliness. Honoré d'O uses these themes to make a Van Eyck installation and immerse visitors in the story of the annunciation. His installation highlights the characteristics of church architecture to evoke these feelings with the visitor. Contemporary media such as photographs, sculptures and videos are in turn intended to focus attention. It will be a unique exhibition tailored to St James' Church. Classical concerts by various musicians and ensembles will liven up the installation and enhance it musically on a regular basis.



EXPO

22.05  
—  
30.05Macharius district  
Voem.be**LAMB OF GOD / هلالا فورخ**

Within the scope of 'Lamb of God / هلالا فورخ', ten classical calligraphers and modern calligraphy and street art artists make interpretations of the Ghent Altarpiece. The project is curated by DemaOne, a calligraphy artist who is part of the legendary CNN crew. Their work is displayed in an exhibition in the form of an art trail that runs through the Macharius district. It will be a multidisciplinary exhibition with a mix of classical calligraphy, calligraffiti, installations, street performances and the creation of a large mural, with the Ghent Altarpiece as the central focus!

EXPO

June  
—  
December  
2020Castle of the Counts, Belfry, St Bavo's  
Abbey and St Peter's Abbey  
Historischehuizen.stad.gent**THE NOBILIARY CONSPIRACY**

On 19 May 1425, Philip the Good, Count of Flanders and Duke of Burgundy, appoints Jan Van Eyck as painter and valet de chambre (chamberlain). Philip has a flamboyant personality on the international stage and Jan Van Eyck becomes one of his confidants. The painter also appears to have a diplomatic role to play.

The impressive Castle of the Counts, the imposing Belfry, the enchanting St Bavo's Abbey and the powerful St Peter's Abbey form a quartet of medieval historical buildings where you will find yourself in a medieval version of the popular TV series "House of Cards". You will be swept along by amorous intrigues, political jousts and strategic pitfalls and find out how Philip manages to significantly increase his power thanks to the efforts of diplomats like Joos Vijd.

EXPO

June  
—  
September  
2020Church of the Great  
Beguinage in Sint-Amandsberg**STAINED GLASS WINDOWS  
IN VAN EYCK'S OEUVRE**

Stained glass windows can frequently be seen in the background of the works by Jan Van Eyck. Aletta Rambault, an art historian specialised in stained glass windows, examined all paintings by the Flemish master painter and made the link with preserved stained glass windows or fragments from Ghent and Flanders. During an exhibition in the church of the Great Beguinage of Sint-Amandsberg, she shared her findings with the audience and invited visitors to compare the 19th-century windows in the church with the 15th-century stained glass windows in Van Eyck's oeuvre. A unique approach to the oeuvre of one of the most virtuoso artists in the world.





## FEAST

24.06

In and around Sint-Baafsplein square  
vaneeyckwashere.be



## MIDSUMMER NIGHT

Saint John's Day, or Midsummer Night, has been celebrated on 24 June for centuries, and was an exuberant event in the days of Jan Van Eyck as well. Just as Saint John's Day heralds the seasonal transition, Midsummer Night marks for us the second half of the themed year.

This will be a true open-air folk festival centred around, as tradition will have it, tasty food, fire, music, and nature. Because 26 June is when we celebrate the homecoming of the Ghent Altarpiece at St Bavo's Cathedral, we have no qualms about having a festive midweek celebration. Expect no less than a vibrant festival with dancing, médiéval street food to salivate over, folkloristic shows, spectacular tableaux vivants, and troubadours. Because there is no party like a Medieval Burgundian party!

## EXPERIENCE

Autumn  
2020

In and around Sint-Baafsplein square  
ghostnight.be

## GHOST X VAN EYCK

During Ghost x Van Eyck, the area around St Bavo's cathedral will be the scene of an ultimate contemporary tribute to Jan Van Eyck. No less than 25 artists, collectives and musicians will be challenged to make a unique interpretation of one of the works of art by the Flemish master painter. Several medieval locations like the Castle of Gerald the Devil, the terrace of NTGent and the Belfry will be transformed into mini stages where the public at large can enjoy short but powerful performances. In the wake of the host, the audience will be guided from one stage to the other. The programme will include a surprising variety of genres and forms of art created by talented national and international artists.



## EXPO

12.12

03.01

Castle of the Counts  
historischehuizen.stadgent

## WINTER WONDER CASTLE

The Winter Wonder Castle ensures a festive conclusion of the Van Eyck year. During the Winter Festivities, the Castle of the Counts is immersed in a magical, Burgundian atmosphere with stunning party tables and fabulous decorations. Master painter Jan Van Eyck is a star at the court of Philip the Good. The latter likes nothing more than dazzling his guests and enchanting them with luxury and exquisite technical gadgets. As Count of Flanders and Duke of Burgundy, he surrounds himself with the best artists. Jan Van Eyck has just returned from a diplomatic mission in Portugal, where he made the portrait of the count's future wife. Based on that portrait, Philips has decided to marry for a third time. The wedding will take place in Bruges in January, but in the run-up to the big day the count wants to hold Christmas festivities in all important public buildings in the county. The Castle of the Counts is the perfect location for these festivities in Ghent. The fortress receives an extreme makeover from master painter Van Eyck himself. Allow yourself to be enchanted by the count's love of spectacle and imagine yourself as a contemporary of the Flemish Primitives.



# Music

When Jan van Eyck was born at the end of the 14th century, a musical rebirth was taking place. Owing to the exceptional musical talents from local cathedral schools, the 'Flemish polyphony' was born in the Low Countries. Franco-Flemish singers and composers from the early 15th century helped open up new worlds by combining clear musical lines into ecstatic interwoven vocal tapestries. They mixed French rhythms, Italian melodies, and English sound volumes into music that sounded so magnificent that it defined the musical landscape deep into the 16th century. Euphony was key: melodies were stacked into brilliant harmonies and inspired interlocking vocals; words and notes were arranged in increasingly expressive ways. Abroad, these tonal wizards were known as 'lotremontani' (from across the mountains) or as 'fiamminghi' (Flemings). The wanderlust of the Franco-Flemish composers was real: one or more composers from the Low Countries worked at nearly every court in Europe. Dufay, Ockeghem, Obrecht of Ghent, and Isaac spread out as prophets of the new style of composing towards France, Italy, and Austria. Josquin des Prez was the first superstar of this style of polyphony. Even today, the rich polyphony, ingenious counterpoints, and specific world of sound generated by their music garners worldwide admiration.

## CONCERT

17.06  
-  
19.06

**Handelsbeurs**  
handelsbeurs.be

### AMENRA & GUESTS - IN DEN TROON VERHEVEN

*Bidt voor mi... Du liets mi tleven*

Performances by internationally renowned post-metal band Amenra are unique events with a strong ritualistic aspect. During *OMG! Van Eyck was here*, the band will be performing a new creation with a cinematic backdrop, based on the song of Egidius. This medieval lamentation from a poet to his deceased friend deals with the darker side of life. It typifies the fascinating period during which Van Eyck was active as a pivotal point between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Premiere on 27 June 2020



© Martin Chiang

## CONCERT

09.05 20 pm  
10.05 11 am

**St James' Church**  
consouling.be/  
VanEyck2020



### VAN EYCK ORGAN IN CONCERT

In the spring of 2020, Ghent record label Consouling Sounds is organizing *Van Eyck organ in Concert*. Classical musician Catalina Vicens brings a unique live performance with historical instruments together with contemporary experimental musicians Colin H. Van Eeckhout and Jozef Van Wissem. One of these historical instruments is a portable organ reconstructed based on the organ depicted on one of the panels of the Ghent Altarpiece. Get your senses involved and experience Van Eyck's masterpiece brought to life!

TICKETS € 25



## COMPETITION

June 2019  
-  
June 2020

with the competition taking  
place in January 2021  
international-music-  
promotion.be

### THE INTERNATIONAL CLARINET COMPETITION

The fifth edition of The International Clarinet Competition is entirely themed around *OMG! Van Eyck was here*. Specifically for this edition, two Ghentish composers Dirk Brossé and Johan Duijck created a work inspired by the Ghent Altarpiece which is to be performed by the finalists and semi-finalists in January 2021. Moreover, Flemish cinematographer Jacques Servaes will film a documentary during the competition whereby both composers and performers are confronted with the mythical altarpiece.



© Kaupo Kikkas

## CONCERT

22.09  
2020

**St Bavo's Cathedral**  
gentfestival.be  
collegiumvocale.com

## THE CITY OF GHENT COMMISSIONS A COMPOSITION FROM ARVO PÄRT

At the occasion of *OMG! Van Eyck was here*, the City of Ghent is commissioning a composition from renowned Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. A composer of both instrumental and vocal music, Pärt's religiously inspired work garners international renown and fame. In 1976 he created a unique musical language called 'tintinnabuli', reaching a wide and varied audience, and defining his work to this day. Meanwhile, Pärt's compositions are among the most widely performed today. Pärt was commissioned by the City of Ghent to write 'Agnus Dei, the adoration of the Lamb'. This brief work for choir and organ is fully inspired by the famous masterpiece by Jan Van Eyck. Arvo Pärt entrusted his creation to Collegium Vocale Gent, the world-famous vocal ensemble led by director Philippe Herreweghe that is celebrating its fiftieth birthday this year. The location for this event is Ghent's St Bavo's Cathedral, where the new composition will be premiered in September of 2020 during Flanders Festival Ghent, with the composer himself attending. An extraordinary concert you cannot afford to miss!

## CONCERT

Première  
12.11

**Handelsbeurs**  
handelsbeurs.be

## DAVE DOUGLAS: SECULAR PSALMS

Dave Douglas is an internationally renowned trumpet player and composer. He is one of the leading American jazz musicians of his time and has a special relationship with Ghent and the Ghent Altarpiece. Dave Douglas is composing a new work with the Ghent Altarpiece as central focus, as well as music by the Flemish polyphonist Guillaume Dufay. In an international ensemble of six artists, he combines old and new music into a contemporary story.

A co-production of Jazz Brugge/Concertgebouw Brugge and Jazztopad Festival (Poland) with the cooperation of November Music (Netherlands).



## CONCERT

03.10  
2020

**Bijlokesite**  
gentfestival.be



## LISTEN TO THE LAMB!

Flanders Festival Ghent brings the Mystic Lamb to live as never before. Join twelve top composers on a musical journey, each inspired by one of the twelve panels of the world-famous altarpiece. A broad variety of music genres and formations contribute to a fascinating and compelling concept. From classical music and jazz to electronics and world music, performed by both intimate ensembles and large orchestras: something for everyone! The twelve brand-new pieces all combining to form a single work will be presented at the various locations of the Bijloke site.

A fantastic project by Handelsbeurs, Arts centre Vooruit, Victoria Deluxe, Bijloke Music Centre, Democrazy, Gent Jazz, Flemish Opera, LOD musical theatre, Cirq, De Centrale and Flanders Festival Ghent.

## CONCERT

18.12  
&  
19.12  
—  
8:00 pm

**Concert hall of Bijloke  
Music Centre**  
graindelavoix.be  
debijloke.be



## VAN EYCK DIAGRAMS A CHANTEFABLE

Doppelgänger, unspeakable love, inaudible sound: these are the words enigmatic art historian Gerard Van den Acker used to summarise his visionary research about Jan Van Eyck. Björn Schmelzer and Graindelavoix delve into the mysterious life and work of their loyal friend Van den Acker, whose early death abruptly ended a promising and sensational Van Eyck investigation.

"Van Eyck Diagrams" is a musical and theatrical séance as well as an honorary tribute to a frenetic genius, but also a re-enactment of his unfinished life's work. In the presence of the audience, Van den Acker's impenetrable Van Eyck archive is unlocked: his endless series of plans and sketches, the obsessive comments on the smallest and most vague details and Van Eyck's iconoclastic view of the beginnings and ends of art. The nocturnal conversations and the many silent but no less musical hours in the study of this unique art historian are relived until the disastrous end: Van den Acker's desperate visit to Hubert van Eyck's grave in Ghent. Van den Acker claimed it is possible to recreate Van Eyck's universe not in words, but in a parallel, musical world.



# ... kids, sports, theatre and flora



© Michel Devijver

## THEATRE

11,12,14  
15,25,26  
March

NTGent Schouwburg  
ntgent.be

## THEATRICAL PRODUCTION 'LAM GODS' (GHENT ALTARPIECE) BY MILO RAU

In 2018 and 2019, the Ghent city theatre is hosting internationally acclaimed theatrical performance 'Lam Gods' by leading director Milo Rau. In honour of the Van Eyck year, the play is reprised in March 2020. Rau reconstructs the world-famous altarpiece by the Van Eyck brothers on stage. Just as Hubert and Jan Van Eyck did in the fifteenth century, the play connects the mundane with the spiritual. The Van Eycks not only immortalized their patrons and the upper class, but also their neighbour and the average Joe. This blend of mysticism and the mundane is also reflected in the theatrical production.



© Emilie Bonjé

## KIDS

26.03

31.12

The World of Kina  
dewereldvankina.stad.gent

## CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION 'DAG JAN -JAN VAN EYCK'S SMALL EMPIRE'

The exhibition 'Dag Jan' (in English: Hello Jan) enables children and their parents to fully immerse themselves in Jan Van Eyck's universe. Little Jan discovers that he is a direct descendant of the world-famous painter with the same name and goes on a voyage of discovery to find out who that distant relative actually was. Visitors unravel the mystery behind the Flemish painter through the eyes of curious little Jan. Display cases and cabinets, animations, interesting tidbits of information and an interactive trail immerse children in Van Eyck's small empire in a playful and educational way.



## SPORTS

29.03

gentmarathon.com

## JAN VAN EYCK MARATHON

Sports lovers can look forward to the Van Eyck marathon in Ghent. The route has been completely redesigned and participants will now run through the artistic and historical centre for the first time in the city's marathon history: a truly unique experience. Embrace Jan Van Eyck's motto 'Als ich can' and give your all just like the Flemish master painter! All participants will receive a unique Van Eyck medal at the finish line. Possible distances: marathon, half a marathon, 10 km, 5km and kids run.



© Michel Burez

## KIDS

As of  
April  
2020

Museum of Fine Arts  
muskgent.be  
4hoog.be

## PRESCHOOL THEATRE SHOW 'HET LAM VAN JAN'

At last, the painting is ready. Jan has worked for a long time. Days, weeks, months, years! He has painted the smallest details and has done his utmost to find the right colour. He has worked accurately, meticulously, minutely and with concentration. Today, his painting is finally ready to be revealed to the public. But when he arrives at the exhibition room, it turns out that the painting is GONE. IT HAS DISAPPEARED!

Theatre maker Audrey Deroo captures Jan Van Eyck's large world in an intimate, imaginative performance for young children.

# FLORALIEN GENT

FLORA

01.05

10.05

Floralienhal,  
ICC and het Kuipke  
gentsefloralien.be

## GHENT FLORALIES

In 2020, the Ghent Florales festival with its theme 'My paradise, a worldly garden' is all about quiet, calm, and the heavenly flowers and horticultural plants depicted in the Ghent Altarpiece. Floral masters will create an interpretation of the altarpiece, connecting art, Ghentish heritage, and mastery. Horticulturalists will in turn draw inspiration directly from the Ghent Altarpiece for their own creations. This promises to be a magnificent spectacle of scents and colours, giving the visitor the sense that they were dropped in the middle of Van Eyck's paradise garden.

OMG!  
COME  
AND  
SEE.



KIDS

Julij  
2020

Kunstensalon De Graaf  
kunstensalondeggraaf.be

## "WA IS DA MET DA LAM?": A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

In the musical performance "Wa is da met da Lam?", singer Celine Debacquer, flutist Liesbeth Peelman and pianist Elisabeth De Loore take you to the fascinating world of Ghent's greatest painter Jan Van Eyck. They join forces with illustrator Gerda Dendooven, who breathes new life into the paintings by Van Eyck by means of live illustrations.

One moment you are in Van Eyck's painting studio, the next you enter the unique world of classical music. Composer Ruben De Gheselle adds sound to the images, and Merel de Vilder Robier writes the text. Performances will be organised both for schools and for families.

Bookings possible as from September 2020

EXPO

28.10

10.11

Fifty different locations in Ghent  
vooruit.be

## KAMERKIND (ROOMCHILD)

S.M.A.K., Vooruit, KOPERGIETERY, CAMPO, Opera Ballet Vlaanderen and NTGent have joined forces for a new large-scale artistic city project: "KamerKind".

A visual, theatrical and musical walking trail takes you past more than 50 children's rooms - from residential caravans to historical mansions - spread over all areas of the city. You get to hear authentic stories of young residents as well as new contemporary stories of dozens of artists. In addition, you discover new work by visual artists, musicians, theatre makers, choreographers and videographers. They draw inspiration from the children's drawings in each room, which are all related to the oeuvre of master painter Jan Van Eyck.

Prepare for a diverse programme: a women's choir performing in a children's bed, a nursery virtually converted with visual work by Van Eyck, young children delivering self-written monologues, musical experiments redefining the concept of chamber orchestra etc. 'KamerKind' displays a diversity of surprising, artistic discoveries based on contemporary stories. Three generations of visitors and participants are thus connected in a unique way.



© Firmin De Maitre

KIDS

As from  
25.06

TAPTOE's Erf  
taptoeserf.be  
Shows for schools as  
from September 2020

## PUPPET THEATRE SHOW 'THE MYSTERY REVEALED'

Puppet theatre company TAPTOE's Erf presents their new show 'The mystery revealed' as from June 2020. This family-oriented performance focuses on the creation of the Ghent Altarpiece. Spectators take a seat around an empty triptych with white panels. Projections, shadows and figures colour the panels and gradually bring the Van Eyck brothers' masterpiece to life. Within the scope of this production, TAPTOE's Erf joins forces with the renowned Italian shadow theatre company 'Gioco Vita'.



## FIFTEENTH- CENTURY GHENT

# Metropolis OF THE Low Countries



**T**oday, Ghent is often lauded as being Europe's best-kept secret. However, anyone who delves into its illustrious past immediately notices that the city was not always a hidden gem. After all, in the fifteenth century Ghent was – after Paris – the second largest city north of the Alps. A vibrant crossroads of commerce and industry, and thus also a breeding ground for a progressive urban culture. With a mind of its own, no less. Due to its considerable power and wealth, several rulers throughout the Middle Ages experienced first-hand how fiercely the proud citizens of Ghent defended their privileges and freedoms.

Ghent mainly owed its medieval growth and prosperity to the production of woollen cloth. This luxurious fabric made from English sheep's wool was produced and processed by specialized artisans such as the weavers, fullers, and shearers. The grain trade likewise







brought untold riches to Ghent. Indeed, due to its strategic location along the Lys and Scheldt rivers, the city controlled the import of grain to the rest of Flanders. In the former port along Graslei and Korenlei, which only free Ghent skippers could enter and leave by boat, the grain was unloaded and stored in storehouses along the water's edge, before being allowed to travel onwards with the remainder of the unsold grain. Due to this constant supply of grain, Ghent could not only influence the market price, but also secure a relatively cheap supply of grain to the citizens of Ghent in order to avoid times of famine and crisis.

In the Middle Ages, Ghentish artisans united as powerful guilds. The political and economic impact of these professional associations can still be seen in the many majestic guildhalls that adorn the city centre. Guild leaders were important members of the urban elite, providing a mighty counterbalance to the aristocratic

authority of the Burgundian dukes, under whose rule Ghent found itself at the time. However, the Burgundian court had a strong presence in the city: duke Philip the Good himself resided in the princely estate known as Hof Ten Walle since 1411. Two years prior, the Ghentish Castle of the Counts had become the seat of the Council of Flanders, the royal court where crimes such as lèse-majesté, revolt, and counterfeiting were dealt with. As a result, the city was teeming with Burgundian magistrates, who mainly settled in the area of today's Onderstraat. Majestic structures such as Hof van Ryhove still remind us of this period.

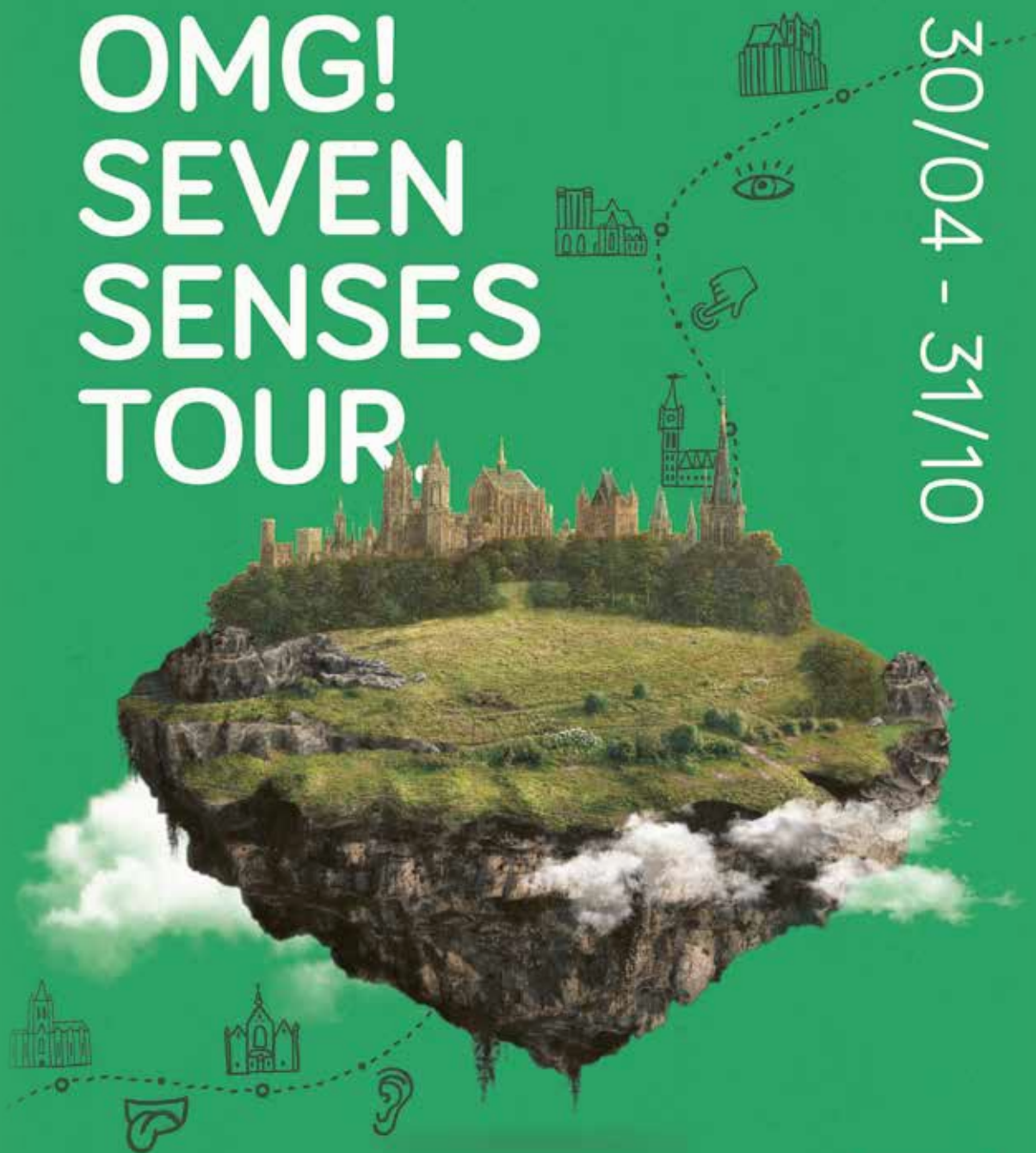
This blend of the finer tastes of the Burgundian court and the presence of large capital from trade and industry provided the ideal breeding ground for the development of art and culture in the city. It was in this melting pot of power structures and cultural influences that Jan Van Eyck painted his spectacular

Ghent Altarpiece, commissioned by Ghentish alderman Joos Vijd and his wife Elisabeth Borluut.

The streets of Ghent with their many medieval buildings remind us to this day of the fascinating and illustrious past of the city. Small wonder that Ghent was graced with so many nicknames in reference to its glorious history: medieval Manhattan, the historical heart of Flanders, City of the ages... Look around and you can still vividly imagine what Jan Van Eyck must have seen on 6 May 1432 after the unveiling of his Ghent Altarpiece when he left St. John the Baptist's church (later St Bavo's Cathedral) for a stroll around town. Visit Ghent in 2020, and experience the atmosphere of the fifteenth century!

# OMG! SEVEN SENSES TOUR.

30/04 - 31/10



**GENT inside out  
& upside down**

**vaneyckwashere.be**  
#omgvaneyckwashere #visitgent

**OMG!  
VAN  
EYCK  
WAS  
HERE.**

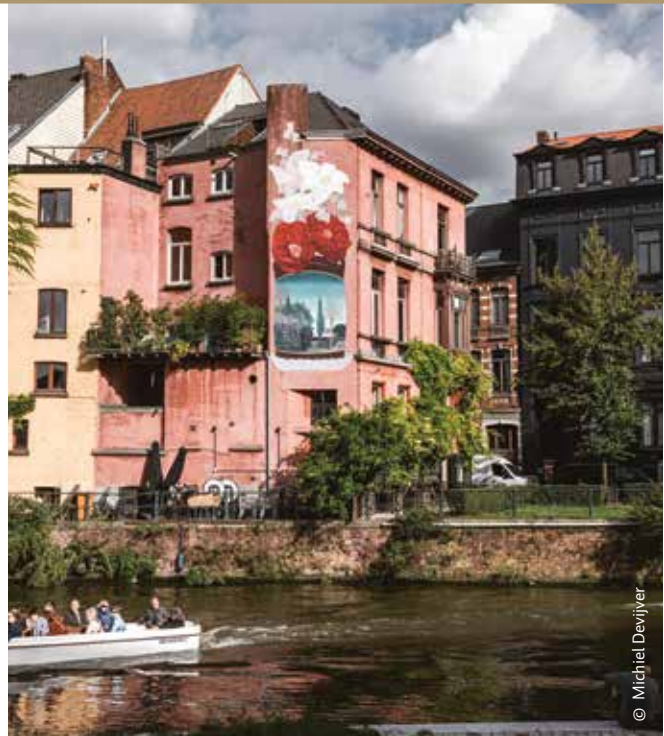




Not your average city walking tour taking you along the same tired old route, but a true feast for the senses: this is the 7 Senses Tour. Discover Ghent through the eyes of Jan Van Eyck, and use all your senses to the fullest. Smell, touch, taste, hearing, sight, enhancing your sixth sense and movement: all seven are covered on the tour!

# OMG! SEVEN SENSES TOUR

A genial host or hostess will take you around in Ghent and introduce you to the city's wonderful heritage. They will show you historical gems such as Kruideniershuis, Vrijesschippershuis and the Castle of Gerard the Devil. Then navigate Ghent's inland waterways and experience a display of digital projections in the tunnel under François Laurentplein square. During the 7 Senses Tour, sensory experiences and monumental buildings are interspersed with stunning works of street art. Big names like Hyuro, Pastel, Strook and Isaac Cordal give their creativity free rein in the city and treat us to impressive murals.



© Michiel Devijver



© Bas Bogaerts

**30.04**

**31.10**

Start at the  
Van Eyck-shop  
Sint-Baafsplein 2A  
Opening hours:  
Thursday:  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Friday:  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Saturday:  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

vaneyckwathere.be  
Tickets: € 14, with  
concessions available.

During the walk, the guide also takes us to a number of passionate local artisans. Enter the shop, workplace or workshop of a contemporary master craftsman and get a unique look behind the scenes of one of the many professionals in the city. Feeling hungry? Your taste buds are pampered as well! Taste artisan and locally produced delicacies prepared with typically medieval ingredients at the different stops. Anyone seeking to explore Ghent in a radically different way cannot afford to miss this tour.





In 2020, Ghent is demonstrating that Van Eyck is still making his mark on the city. Indeed, the Ghent Altarpiece is more than merely a piece of world heritage. It is a living icon that continues to fascinate and inspire. Van Eyck's heritage courses through the city, and generation after generation he continues to inspire new masters who will proudly take their place in the limelight in 2020.

## PASSED DOWN FROM master TO student

More than seventy Ghentish creators have agreed to create a product or design inspired by the Ghent Altarpiece. Each and every one of them a passionate artisan who, just like Jan Van Eyck in the fifteenth century, are keeping artisanal mastery alive with the utmost care, knowledge, and patience. The Van Eyck creators practice a broad range of crafts, leading to a great diversity of unique products: jewellery, hats, floral arrangements, beer, rugs, shawls, handbags, ceramics, glassware... The variety on offer is tremendous.

Their exclusive products will be offered for sale in the council cellar underneath the Belfry as of February 2020. The shop is run in conjunction with Stadswinkel and Historische Huizen

Gent. In addition to a unique concept store, the council cellar is also slated to become the meeting point for the year themed OMG! Van Eyck was here. This location will be the starting point for a number of activities, and visitors can find the information they need here.

To increase the visibility of the artisans and the different crafts they practise within the city, illustrator Thijs Desmet designed over thirty different guild shields. These shields refer to the medieval guilds, a kind of local organisations of people who practise the same profession and share knowledge and experience. The colourful shields will be displayed in various forms in the city centre: stickers, flags, banners, ... Ghent will have a medieval look throughout the year!



OMG!  
SO  
COOL.



ELS ROBBERECHTS

MIEKE  
VERWAETERMEULEN



YUZU



WOLVIS

### VAN EYCK-SHOP & MEETINGPOINT (RAADSKELDER)

The Seven Senses Tour starts at the Van Eyck-shop & Meetingpoint in the Council Cellar. The Council Cellar is located directly underneath the Belfry and forms the basement for the Cloth Hall. During the Middle Ages, the Cloth Hall was the central location in Ghent where cloth (heavy woven woollen fabric) was collected and inspected by the lords of the hall before being allowed for sale. As from February 2020, the council cellar will become the meeting point for OMG! Van Eyck was here, and will house the shop where you can buy exclusive Van Eyck products made by artisans of Ghent.

Council cellar  
underneath the Belfry  
Sint-Baafsplein 2A

01.02 – 31.12

Openings hours:  
Monday - Sunday:  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Buy a unique Van Eyck  
product and take a bit of  
the Ghent Altarpiece home



# Spike AND Suzy

SET OFF IN  
SEARCH OF  
THE LOST  
VAN EYCK

Apart from the unique products of the Van Eyck artisans, the brand-new Spike and Suzy comic will also be available for sale in the shop underneath the Belfry. As a matter of fact, Jan Van Eyck stars not only in the thematic year OMG! Van Eyck was here, but also in the new adventure of the two comic heroes. In 'De Verloren Van Eyck', Spike and Suzy go back in time to when the famous painter lived.

S

pikes and Suzy celebrate their 75th anniversary in 2020. What better way for Studio Vandersteen to celebrate this than by paying homage to another

Flemish master? In 'De Verloren Van Eyck', Spike and Suzy travel back in time to fifteenth-century Ghent. Spike is a huge fan of Jan Van Eyck and more in particular of his qualities as a secret agent. When Philip the Good orders the painter to make a portrait of his future bride, Isabella of Portugal, Spike cannot resist travelling along as a stowaway. He hopes this will help him to become the assistant of his idol, but to his surprise Suzy had exactly the same idea. Both try to gain the favour of the famous painter, but the latter prefers to keep the honour to himself. During their travels, a number of mysterious opponents try to sabotage their plans. Apparently someone wants to put a stop to the wedding between Philip and Isabelle.



The new comic will be available in stores as from Wednesday 12 February 2020. A special edition of 'De Verloren Van Eyck' will be available for sale at several locations, including the Ghent museum shops and the Van Eyck pop-up shop, which will open its doors in the council cellar in February 2020.



FROM CAR PARK  
TO GREEN OASIS

## the courtyard of the Castle of Gerard the Devil FRUITGAARD XL

T

he square next to St Bavo's cathedral has served many different purposes over the years. This little corner used to be built up with

houses, but they were demolished in the early 20th century and had to make way for a decorative flowerbed. Part of the flowerbed was asphalted in the 1970s and turned into a car park. This car park has disappeared as well. The historical square will get a complete facelift in 2020 under the watchful eye of Jan and Hubert Van Eyck.

By May 2020, Maaseik square will be transformed into a veritable fruit orchard with apple trees, pear trees, a fig tree, and a cherry tree. Even the more exotic almond and mulberry trees join the flowery meadow full of plants that are also featured in the Ghent Altarpiece.

A whopping 1,400 square metres of asphalt is being removed to enlarge the patch of green that is over a hundred years old. The square is transformed into one giant green carpet. This in combination with picnic benches, built-in trampolines, seating areas and wooden sheep turn the little area between St Bavo's Cathedral and the Geeraard the Devil castle into a green and child-friendly oasis. A slice of heaven in the heart of Ghent!

If you can't wait to have a picnic among the fruit trees, play leapfrog or enjoy yourself on the mini-trampolines, you can already go for a virtual walk in the park at [www.stad.gent/buitengenieten](http://www.stad.gent/buitengenieten).

## Monument IN HONOUR OF THE VAN EYCK BROTHERS

J

an and Hubert Van Eyck have been dutifully watching over Maaseikplein since 1913. Not in the flesh of course,

but their statue was installed on the occasion of the 1913 World Expo, which took place in Ghent. The magnificent monument pays homage to the famous brothers who gave the city a wonderful masterpiece of art five centuries earlier.

The monument has become a popular attraction and is well known

to residents and tourists alike. The artists who created the statue and the history behind it are not. On the occasion of the Van Eyck year, art history and archaeology graduate Anthony Demey fills that gap with a richly illustrated monograph. The book 'Hoe Geo Verbanck de gebroeders Van Eyck eerde' (How Geo Verbanck paid homage to the Van Eyck brothers) will be available in the Van Eyck shop as from June 2020.



# Feast

## LIKE A

### 15th-century Burgundian



© Lisa Valcke – Foodstyling: Mieke Goffin & Suzan Teirlinck

T

he luscious landscapes in the Ghent Altarpiece depict no fewer than 75 edible plants, herbs, and fruits.

An inexhaustible source of inspiration to work with in the kitchen! Moreover, the High Medieval period is an utterly fascinating period in terms of gastronomy. Indeed, no-one outdid the Burgundians in their lavish banquets and sumptuous dinners. No wonder that to this day we use the term ‘Burgundian’ to describe the rich Flemish cuisine.

Historian Annelies Van Wittenberghe (Ghent University)

and food archaeologist Jeroen Van Vaerenbergh are taking a dive into the historical sources on food on behalf of OMG! Van Eyck was here. What dishes did the Burgundians enjoy most? How was food prepared and stored? And did people in the Middle Ages eat with knife and fork? They share this knowledge with Flemish foodie Olly Ceulenaere, chef at Ghentish restaurant Publiek. Inspired by the fifteenth-century culinary heritage, he sets out in search of contemporary recipes using historical ingredients. Palatable to all, but with a historical edge. And above all: made with

high-quality, regional products from local growers or makers.

With the knowledge of Jeroen and Annelies in mind, Olly managed to follow in the footsteps of the 15th-century local residents and analyse not only their eating habits but also their taste patterns. “The more information I perused, the more I realised that the medieval eating culture is in fact very similar to our present-day eating culture”, says Ceulenaere. “Nose to tail eating was already an everyday phenomenon at that time. As was the use of sustainable preparation techniques (salting and fermentation),



food products harvested in the wild and regional and seasonal products. I also discovered that food often had a symbolic function, which is why Jeroen, Annelies and I have decided to focus on seasonal products that still play an important role today. This way we want to make sure that this culinary heritage is preserved and passed on to the next generations."

We will publish a food magazine in early 2020 so as to share the wealth of information

Jeroen, Annelies and Olly have managed to collect. It will be a beautiful keepsake issue with twelve chapters linked to the twelve months. Each chapter consists of two seasonal recipes and various sections with plenty of tidbits of historical culinary information. For an entire year, catering establishments, fries stands, bakers as well as passionate home chefs will be stimulated with cooking tips, dishes, workshops and tastings of well-known and less well-known medieval dishes

and products. A number of local and artisan food makers even were inspired to create a new delicacy based on typical medieval ingredients. In addition to Van Eyck cheese, white pudding and dry sausage, you will also be able to enjoy chocolates, ice cream and bread. 2020 will be a great culinary year!



Keep an eye on our website  
[www.vaneyckwashere.be](http://www.vaneyckwashere.be)  
 and our Facebook page for monthly  
 recipes and tidbits of culinary  
 information!



# Van Eyck

## FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYWHERE

Our philosophy is that the thematic year OMG! Van Eyck was here should be for everyone and everywhere. Tourists, local residents, visitors, schools, youngsters, children or elderly people: it will be a celebration for everyone, both in the city centre and on the outskirts of the city.

### VAN EYCK IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: FROM, FOR AND BY LOCAL RESIDENTS

We take Jan Van Eyck not only to the city centre, but also to the local neighbourhoods. Cultuur Gent offers support to neighbourhood organisations and initiators who want to bring the Flemish master painter and his magnificent Ghent Altarpiece to life in their own environment. Everywhere in the city, ideas are popping up on how to create a link between the neighbourhood and the polyptych. To do justice to all these spontaneous initiatives, Cultuur Gent attempts to keep an overview and to think along with the initiator wherever

possible. By making unexpected connections and bringing initiators into contact with each other, we want to help turn good ideas into fully-fledged projects.

To bring OMG! Van Eyck was here to residents and to the streets, organizers can browse through an online database of experts, artists, speakers, musicians, game inventors and entertainers who bring something about Jan Van Eyck or the Mystic Lamb from February 2020 onwards. So be sure to keep an eye on our website [cultuur.gent](http://cultuur.gent).

### VAN EYCK IN LEDEBERG AND DRONGEN

It has been discovered that the Ghent Altarpiece made a stop on the church square in Ledegem in 1920, when the work of art was returned to Ghent after the war within the scope of war reparations. 2020, exactly one hundred years later, presents a unique opportunity to celebrate this with numerous events. From May until October, the people living in Ledeborg will celebrate their Van Eyck year in words, music and images.

Drongen will in turn focus on the link between Ghent and the world, and schedules a lecture about the position of Ghent in the world in the 15th century for 20 September. To make the link with Ghent today, the people of Drongen will organise a Damast Duo performance as early as on 20 March. Damast Duo is an ensemble that combines Eastern and Western sounds into a sparkling new local musical story with a violin and an accordion. The search for the flora of the Mystic Lamb in the Assels nature reserve is also part of the programme.





## LEERREYCK

During OMG! Van Eyck was here, we like to focus on diversity and participation of the broad public, paying particular attention to underprivileged groups and educational support. It goes without saying that we do not lose sight of children and youngsters and attempt to reach them through education in various ways. We provide a range of educational and participatory activities for each age group. A selection of these activities is listed below:

### A TRAVELLING ACTIVITY

Vormingplus Gent-Eeklo is developing a guided game for groups in consultation with Cultuur Gent and Gent Quizt. Assignments and knowledge questions take your team closer to the panels of the Ghent Altarpiece. Together you explore topics like music, optics, flora, textile and East-West, so that each group can interpret this originally religious masterpiece of art in its own way. Vormingplus Gent-Eeklo will take this game to the four corners of Ghent and play it with various groups. Cultuur Gent will introduce this game in the schools. Do you want to have the game? Please contact Vormingplus at +32 (0)9 224 22 65 or [info.gent.eeklo@vormingplus.be](mailto:info.gent.eeklo@vormingplus.be).

### LESSON OF THE CENTURY

For years, the Lesson of the Century has focused on the third grade of upper-secondary education, in the past covering various themes such as democracy, education, the Second World War, migration, and fake news. On this day, youngsters will receive lessons from experts from the worlds of academia, politics, journalism, and art. Within the framework of OMG! Van Eyck was here, the focus of these open lessons is on the 15th century and the Dukes of Burgundy.

### KUNSTKEET

Art schools De KunstBrug and Academy of Visual Arts Ghent are joining forces to work around Jan Van Eyck and the Ghent Altarpiece across the entire city along with their teachers and students. A travelling container will visit various locations in Ghent. Local residents

can see the students of the academy at work, each in their own disciplines. All activities taking place in this container will have their own refreshing and creative link to the Flemish master and his work.

### ON EYCK AND FLOWERS

Natuurpunt is preparing a walking tour in the natural areas around Ghent. Along with the rambles, they set out along the meadows that flank the Lys and Scheldt rivers in search of plants that can be found depicted on the Ghent Altarpiece. Along the way, pictures of the famous retable are used to compare and discuss the plant life. Along the way you learn all about the source of the wood used for the Ghent Altarpiece panels.

### VAN EYCK SENIOR IS HERE!

The Elderly Care Department's project reinforces the ambitions of the City of Ghent as an age-friendly city. Approximately 100 senior citizens will display their work in Cultuurkapel Sint-Vincent throughout the month of August. It will be a highly varied, lively and fresh mix of paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, calligraphy, ceramics, textiles etc. The performing arts will be presented during the weekend. Visitors are welcome from Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.

### OP EIGEN HOUT

Painter, prepare your brushes and accept the challenge. Make your own version of the missing Just Judges panel on wood and with the correct dimensions. In the style of the master

painter himself or an entirely abstract version. With a collage, ink or assembly. As long as you paint, anything is possible! Registrations for 'Op eigen hout' start on 15 March. Once you have received your panel, you can get started. Is your work of art finished? Put a picture of it online at [www.beeld.be](http://www.beeld.be). A just jury will select the best panels. This selection will be on display as part of an impressive exhibition underneath the Ghent City Hall in November. For more information please visit [kunstwerkt.be](http://kunstwerkt.be).

### STORYLINE

Storyline is a worldwide network that enables teachers to directly find and use various stories, and share them with colleagues all over the world. Vzw Taste is developing a storyline about Jan Van Eyck and the Ghent Altarpiece in cooperation with Onderwijscentrum Gent and Cultuur Gent. Within this context, they make use of the storyline approach, an educational method where stories serve as a basis for learning. The students are involved in a series of events that are derived from their own reality, and the main characters are either the students themselves or people in their environment. The events give rise to all kinds of learning activities. Active, fun and sustainable education guaranteed!

### THE BIG VAN EYCK QUIZ

The Ghent Altarpiece by the Van Eyck brothers contains a wealth of information; it is almost a painted encyclopedia. The quizmasters of 'Gent Quizt' were inspired by the polyptych to put together not one but two general knowledge quizzes: local preliminary rounds in the various Ghent neighbourhoods are followed by a big final quiz to determine who is the smartest team in the city. You definitely do not need to be an art expert to participate! The quiz will consist of simple and above all playful rounds on all sorts of themes (history, culture, sports and entertainment) loosely linked to Ghent's most famous work of art.

# OVERZICHT PROGRAMMA

	JANUARI					FEBRUARI			
WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VAN EYCK KOSMOPOLIET – 01/01 > 31/12									
DE TERUGKEER VAN HET LAM - SB – 24/01 > september									
VAN EYCK. EEN OPTISCHE REVOLUTIE - MSK 01/02 > 30/04						VAN EYCK.			
THEATERPRODUCTIE 'LAM GODS', MILO RAU – 11,12,14,15,25,26/3									
VAN EYCK @ DE KROOK 2/03 > 10/05									
KLEUREYCK. VAN EYCK'S KLEUREN IN DESIGN – 13/03 > 06/09									
VAN EYCK IN DE DIEPTE. – 21/03 > 31/12									
LIGHTS ON VAN EYCK – 28/03 > 01/11									
'DAG JAN - HET KLEINE RIJK VAN JAN VAN EYCK - 26/03 > 31/12									
JAN VAN EYCK - MARATHON – 29/03									
VOORSTELLING 'HET LAM VAN JAN' - 17, 18, 19,26/04									
VLAAMSE MEESTERS IN SITU – 24/04 > 12/07									
OMG! SEVEN SENSES TOUR 24/04 > 12/07									
VAN EYCK 2.0 OMG! HUBERT IS HERE – 01/05 > 01/11									
GENTSE FLORALIËN - 01/05 > 10/05									
VAN EYCK ORGEL IN CONCERT – 09/05 > 10/05									
FROM SCRATCH TO SCRATCH 14/05 > 07/06 & 29/05 > 28/06									
HONORÉ D'O. DE HANDDOEK VAN VAN EYCK – 21/05-26/07									
LAMB OF GOD – 22/05 > 30/05									
THE INTERNATIONAL CLARINET COMPETITION – juni									
HET GRAFELEYCKE COMLOT – juni-december									
GLASRAMEN IN HET OEUVRE VAN JAN VAN EYCK – juni-sept									
AMENRA & GUEST IN DEN TROON VERHEVEN – 19/6 > 22/06									
MIDZOMERNACHTFEEST – 24/06									
FIGURENTHEATERSTUK 'HET MYSTERIE ONTHULD' – vanaf 25/06									
WA IS DA MET DA LAM?' EEN MUZIKALE VOORSTELLING – juli									
GHOST X VAN EYCK – najaar									
ARVO PÄRT – 22/09									
LISTEN TO THE LAMB! – 03/10									
LAM GODS BEZOEKERSCENTRUM – opening 8 okt									
KAMERKIND – 28/10 > 10/11									
DAVE DOUGLAS: SECULAR PSALMS – 12/11									
WINTERWONDERKASTEEL – 12/12 > 03/01									
VAN EYCK DIAGRAM. EEN CHANTEFABLE – 18,19/12									

## MEER INFO?

### VAN EYCK SHOP & MEETINGPOINT

Sint-Baafsplein 2A, 9000, Gent  
(Raadskelder Belfort)

10u – 18u 7/7  
vanaf 1 feb – 31/12

Bel naar de  
**VAN EYCK LIJN**  
**09 210 10 32**

Surf naar onze website  
**VANEYCKWASHERE.BE**





[illegible]

JULI					AUGUSTUS				SEPTEMBER					OKTOBER		
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
VAN EYCK KOSMOPOLIET 01/01-31/12																
DE TERUGKEER VAN HET LAM - SB 24/01- september																
KLEUREYCK. VAN EYCK'S KLEUREN IN DESIGN – 13/03 > 06/09																
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GLASRAMEN IN HET OEUVRE VAN JAN VAN EYCK – juni-sept																
WA IS DA MET DA LAM?																
GHOST X VAN EYCK – najaar																



NOVEMBER					DECEMBER				WEEK
44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	
									VAN EYCK KOSMOPOLIET – 01/01 > 31/12
									DE TERUGKEER VAN HET LAM - SB – 24/01 > september
									VAN EYCK. EEN OPTISCHE REVOLUTIE - MSK 01/02 > 30/04
									THEATERPRODUCTIE 'LAM GODS', MILO RAU – 11,12,14,15,25,26/3
									VAN EYCK @ DE KROOK 2/03 > 10/05
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									WINTERWONDERKASTEEL – 12/12 > 03/01
									VAN EYCK DIAGRAMS. EEN CHANTEFABLE – 18,19/12





## TOURING IN GHENT

Ghent is a city for the people, a place where you are quick to feel at home. The top attractions are within walking distance of each other, and there is never a lack of atmosphere and comfiness. Discover Ghent at your own pace, your own way.



### On foot

Visiting the city on foot is a distinct possibility. Ghent boasts the largest pedestrian-friendly area in Europe. Stroll in and out of the streets at your leisure, and experience Ghent at a walking pace.



### By bicycle

Discovering Ghent by bicycle is certainly recommended: Ghent loves bicyclists and bicyclists love Ghent. You do not have your own bicycle? Rent one at the train stations and in the city centre.



### By public transportation

Buses and trams take you to your destination from early in the morning until late at night. Visit the Lijn store at Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station and on Woodrow Wilson square for tickets. Tram lines 1, 2 and 4 take you from one side of Ghent to the other, straight across the city centre.



### By boat

Waterways run all the way across Ghent. Various boating companies can take you on an unforgettable boat trip. The 'hop on hop off' water tram allows you to view the city from this unique perspective. From 1 April until 1 November, six stops on the water are open on the weekends across town. [visitgent.be/varen](http://visitgent.be/varen)



### By taxi

Taxi stands are available across the city. A ride from Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station to Korenmarkt costs at least 12 Euros.



### With a guide

Would you rather not go it alone? Book a guide! Join an organized walk or go on a trip with your private guide. [visitgent.be/gids](http://visitgent.be/gids)



### Low-emission zone in Ghent as from 2020

The Ghent city centre, the area within the R40 ring road, is turned into a low-emission zone (LEZ) on 1 January 2020 in order to improve the air quality. It is no longer allowed to enter the zone with the most polluting cars. Avoid being fined and always check your vehicle before coming to Ghent. For more information please visit [lez2020.gent](http://lez2020.gent) or contact us at [lez@stad.gent](mailto:lez@stad.gent) or +32 9 210 10 30.



### Van Eyck hotline

Any questions, suggestions or remarks with regard to OMG! Van Eyck was here? Then call the one and only Van Eyck hotline. You can reach us from Monday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the number 09 210 10 32.

Did you know that the last two digits of the telephone number refer to 6 May 1432? This was the day when Philip the Good's son was baptised in St John's Church (currently St Bavo's Cathedral) and the Ghent Altarpiece was shown to the public for the very first time.

Disclaimer:  
during the layout of  
this magazine,  
information  
concerning  
accessibility was not  
available for every  
event at the time. For  
the latest up-to-date  
information, please  
check our website  
[vaneyckwashere.be](http://vaneyckwashere.be) or  
call the Van Eyck line  
+32 9 210 10 32.

# OMG! ARE YOU IN GHENT IN 2020?



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