

News Relay
from the Consulate General of Belgium in New York
MARCH 2010

Message from the Consul General

Dear All :

Some sad news from the home front: the train accident outside Brussels was a tragic reminder that our own infrastructure, though often compared favorably to what we see in the US, has its own weaknesses. The subsequent finger-pointing also revealed an ongoing discussion about European safety norms.

In many fields and sectors, growing standardization within the EU is the only way forward. The process often still remains slower than we hope or wish. When it comes to public transport and mass transit systems, Belgium occupies a vital niche in Europe. It has one of the oldest and most dense rail networks and hence an enormous accumulation of experience and knowledge. Due to our geographical location, we are also the central intersection where various technologies meet and where different national standards have to coexist.

At a moment when the US is looking at Europe to modernize its rail systems, we were reminded that we have to constantly uphold and improve our own standards and performances.

In a way this tragic event is not unrelated to the other major topic of the past weeks: the financial crisis threatening various Mediterranean EU members, and its effect on the Euro.

We have started to take our common currency for granted. And indeed, what an improvement it was for our daily lives, and what a powerful symbol of Europe's supranational realities! The transition from the national currencies, now more than 10 years ago, was so smooth that we forgave the price hikes, and the fact that the lower figures made us all feel poorer anyhow. In Spain, the banks still remind you what you have in pesetas, and yes, it looks far more impressive. It took generations in France, as some of us will remember, to do away with the fabulous amounts in 'Ancien' Francs when the New Franc was introduced in the 1960s...

But those are just personal feelings. More pressing now is the question whether the Euro can maintain its strength and its place in the world if the common currency is not completed with common fiscal policies. This has become one of the urgent challenges of the new European leadership. No doubt national reflexes will still be strong.

And Belgium within the Euro zone? We heard some alarming voices, then some reassuring ones. We're all trying to make up our minds. We are not the most strict disciplinarians when it comes to deficit spending- but Belgium remains on the whole a remarkably rich society, with financial cushions and mattresses all over the place...

Plus, we are told, the fact that most of the public debt is held by our own population makes us less vulnerable to outside speculators. Let's hope that explanation holds water, even in rough seas.

At the same time, Belgium and the EU still live with unacceptably high pockets of poverty-affecting up to 17% of the population EU-wide!

A lingering financial crisis can make this only worse.

There is work to be done. For our politicians, financiers and businesspeople, back home. For us, expatriates, to keep markets open, to keep investors coming. To maintain confidence and an attractive national image.

Take care,

Herman Portocarero

A POSTSCRIPT ON HAITI

The Honorary Consulate of Belgium in Port-au-Prince is taking care of hundreds of homeless people at their premises. Among them are numerous orphans.

At least three babies have been born among the displaced persons at the consulate since the disaster.

Your consul general is a close friend of the Dresse family who runs the consulate. The Dresse family are also major employers in Port au Prince. They are working hard to make a swift transition from charity to the resumption of their activities, so their employees can also resume their jobs and take care of themselves and their families.

Pls. read a first hand account of daily life at the premises from Mrs. Lily Dresse (attached to the newsrelay). Your contributions to her and her family's work are highly appreciated. This is a direct channel through trustworthy and highly involved persons working at the very front line. Thank you in advance.

**March 1st
6:30pm**

Mondays at the Union - Union Francophone des Belges à l'Etranger

**B. Cafe East
240 East 75th
Str (between
2nd
& 3rd Ave)**

Since 1967, "UFBE" has been a non-profit organization that helps French-speaking Belgian expatriates solve their specific problems (fiscal and customs problems, problems with the administration, social problems etc.) To receive invitations to the monthly meetings, please register on the website <http://newyork.ufbe.be>

Well known among the Belgian community in New York, B. Café offers un great selection of Belgian beers and food specialties from Belgium

Mondays at the Union are open to all. Please do not hesitate to pass the message on and invite your friends and colleagues. Cash bar. No admission fee.

March 1st

2010 BNP Paribas Showdown for the Billie Jean King Cup with Kim Clijsters

Madison Square Garden

Tennis returns to Madison Square Garden on Monday, March 1st! See the Grand Slam Champions battle it out for the Billie Jean King Cup. One-set singles semifinals followed by a best-of-three-set final for \$1.2 million in prize money.

SERENA WILLIAMS — 2009 Australian & Wimbledon Champion, Defending Showdown Champion

SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA — 2009 French Open Champion

KIM CLIJSTERS — 2009 US Open Champion

VENUS WILLIAMS — Seven-time Singles Grand Slam Champion

For more information & tickets:

www.thegarden.com/events/bnp-paribas-billie-jean-king-2010.html

**March 2 –
June 13**

The Art of Illumination: The Limbourg brothers and the Belles Heures of Jean de France, duc de Berry

**Metropolitan
Museum of Art,
1000 Fifth Ave**

On view will be all the illuminated pages of the Belles Heures painted by the Limbourg brothers in 1405–1408/09 for Jean de France, Duc de Berry. Works of

art in other media acquired by the duke and other Valois princes in the opening decade of the 15th century will also be included.

The Belles Heures (1405–1408/9) of Jean de Berry, a treasure of The Cloisters collection, is one of the most celebrated and lavishly illustrated manuscripts in this country. Because it is currently unbound, it is possible to exhibit all of its illuminated pages as individual leaves, a unique opportunity never to be repeated. The exhibition will elucidate the manuscript, its artists—the young Franco-Netherlandish Limbourg Brothers—and its patron, Jean de France, duc de Berry. A select group of precious objects from the same early-fifteenth-century courtly milieu will place the manuscript in the context of the patronage of Jean de Berry and his royal family, the Valois.

For more information: www.metmuseum.org

March 3- 7 The Armory Show & Armory Arts Week

Every March, artists, galleries, collectors, critics and curators from all over the world make New York their destination during Armory Arts Week. The concept of a week of arts-related events grew organically, and was formalized with the support of the city in 2009. The Armory Show has taken this opportunity to launch its first ever series of public programming in celebration of the City's unparalleled artistic communities in a different neighborhood each night. Events include special receptions, open studios, art tours, museum discounts, performances, panels, artist discussions and parties.

This year The Armory Show features 280 galleries from 31 countries. Among others, you will find following galleries from Belgium at Pier 94: Baronian_Francey, Brussels; Hoet Bekaert gallery, Ghent; Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp and Belgian owned Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York

VIP Preview on Wednesday, March 3
Public Hours from Thurs March 4 to Sat March 6:
12pm - 8pm & Sun March 7: 12pm-7pm

VOLTA NY is the American incarnation of the successful young fair founded in Basel in 2005. VOLTA NY introduced a new format with exclusively solo projects, conceived to complement the exciting program of art available during The Armory Arts Week. **The Armory Show Executive Director, Belgian Katelijne de Backer**, stated, "The VOLTA fair is one of these gems that has emerged on the art fair circuit in recent years and that no one can ignore. As we are part of the same family now, it was only obvious that we invite them to New York."

The Armory Show - Piers 92 and 94, 12th Ave at 55th Str.

VOLTA NY, 7W 34th Str between 5th & 6th Ave

By putting the focus back on artists through exclusively featuring solo projects, VOLTA NY promotes a deep exploration of the work of its selected artists and galleries. One of the artists is **Belgian Nick Ervinck, represented by Koraalberg Gallery Antwerp (at booth V8)**. He researches the field of tension between virtual constructions and handmade sculptures. Computer prints, video and digital drawings lead to sculptural forms in painted plaster, polyester and wood. Ervinck uses them to create a surreal environment in which the play of volumes, proportions and colors reigns supreme.

Guest of Honor Preview: March 4 from 11 am - 12 pm (accessible by invitation from VOLTA or with The Armory Show VIP card), followed by VIP Preview from 12 pm - 2 pm

Public Hours: March 4 from 2pm - 8pm & March 5 - 7 from 11am-7pm

For more information & tickets:

www.thearmoryshow.com

www.armoryartsweek.com

www.ny.voltashow.com

www.nickervinck.com

March 4 -7 PULSE NEW YORK

*Pulse New York
330 West Street
(corner of West
Side Highway &
West Houston
Street)*

Acclaimed as one of the most internationally-diverse contemporary art fairs, PULSE New York will once again feature a dynamic mix of national and international exhibitors, including established and emerging galleries, as well as solo projects in the IMPULSE section of the Fair.

Conner Contemporary Art, a fine art gallery in Washington, DC represents Belgian artist Koen Vanmechelen and will present his work at the Fair.

On Thursday, March 4th at 2pm, Koen will sign catalogs and discuss the ongoing "The Cosmopolitan Chicken Project," his upcoming honorary Doctorate in art and science from the University of Hasselt, Belgium and the importance of energy, communication and life. The event will take place at the Pulse Art Fair, Conner Contemporary booth (B-7). **If you would like to attend, the Director of the Gallery, Leigh Conner, is offering a complimentary fair pass to all Belgian Community members who contact her: mlc@connercontemporary.com**

For more information:

[www.connercontemporary.com/artists/koen-](http://www.connercontemporary.com/artists/koen-vanmechelen)

[vanmechelen](http://www.connercontemporary.com/artists/koen-vanmechelen)

www.pulse-art.com/newyork

**Until April
28**

**Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the
Guggenheim Museum**

**Solomon R.
Guggenheim
Museum, 1071
Fifth Avenue**

For the building's 50th Anniversary, the Guggenheim Museum invited more than two hundred artists, architects, and designers to imagine their dream interventions in the museum's rotunda for the exhibition "Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim Museum", on view until April 28.

The Belgian Artists and Architects in the show are Julien De Smedt Architects (JDS), Kendell Geers, Studio Job, Studio Arne Quinze, and Kris Martin.



**Auction Preview and Reception on Thursday, March 4,
7–9pm:**

Enjoy a private exhibition preview and cocktail reception, and be the first to bid in the online auction launching in conjunction with this event and continuing through March 18. At 9 pm please remain as our VIP guests for a psychedelic site-specific music performance in the museum rotunda.

Tickets

\$150 for Current YCC Members, \$175 for an Individual ticket, \$200 for an Artist ticket (admission to preview and enables an artist to attend), \$600 for YCC membership and an Individual ticket.

A portion of the ticket price will be tax-deductible.

For additional information please e-mail

ycc@guggenheim.org or call (212) 360-4313.

Visit the exhibition's detailed website:

www.guggenheim.org/void

March 4- 7 Jean 'Toots' Thielemans with Kenny Werner, Oscar Castro-Neves and Airto

**Blue Note, 131
West 3rd Street
New York NY
10012**

Don't miss the chance to see a rare appearance by harmonica master Toots Thielemans at the Blue Note: two shows at 8pm and 10:30pm each night! Everyone has heard Toots, if not live or on record, then on the soundtrack of such movies as *Midnight Cowboy*, or playing the Sesame Street Theme, or whistling on that famous Old Spice commercial. At his 80th Birthday week in 2002 at the Blue Note in New York, Billy Joel and Stevie Wonder stopped by to sit in, not surprising, since Toots is revered by musical giants both young and old. And in 2009, Toots was named American Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts!

The Saturday 8pm performance will be in attendance of the Consul General, Amb. Herman Portocarero.

For more information and tickets: www.BlueNote.net

**Until
March 6**

Belgian artist Serge Strosberg is exhibiting at the DFN Gallery in "Looks Good on Paper"

**DFN Gallery,
Park Avenue and
74, E 79th Str**

Serge Strosberg was born in 1966 in Antwerp. After spending his childhood in Belgium and the US, he trained in Paris at the École Supérieure des Arts Graphiques (Académie Julian) and developed his skills in human morphology at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts. Sarah Mc Fadden, editor for *Art in America*, describes his work as a 21st century "*Comedie Humaine*".

He lives and works in New York and Paris.



For more information:
www.sergestrosberg.com
www.dfngallery.com

**March 5,
6:30pm –
8:30pm**

The Artisanal Premium Cheese Center Presents "The Diverse, Superb and Unique Beers of Belgium"

**483 Tenth
Avenue (corner
of 36th and 37th
Streets**

Belgium has been increasingly recognized for the sheer variety of distinct beer styles it has to offer of the highest quality and proud tradition. Participate in a journey with Artisanal's Candela M. Prol certified beer instructor in tasting Gueuze, Lambic, Red, Abbey and Ales paired with a fine selection of our cheeses from the Belo-lux countries and beyond.

Tickets: 85USD per person & 65USD for groups (6+)
Beers provided by Latis Beer Imports

For more information: www.artisanalcheese.com
Call (212) 871-3141/3144 for reservations

**March 5,
8pm**

Belgian Meetup Prietpraat invites you to its next Belgian Happy Hour at Markt

**Restaurant
Markt, 676 6th
Ave, New York
10010**

NYPrietPraat meets every first Friday of the Month in Belgian Restaurant "Markt". Everybody is welcome to socialize and expand their Flemish/Belgian network in New York. Register on the website for updates on their events. The Group celebrated its 103rd member this month!

For more information: www.nyprietpraat.com

**March 4 –
April 11**

Edith Dekyndt at Parker's Box "Unidentified Living Objects..."

**PARKER'S BOX .
193 Grand
Street, Brooklyn**

Parker's Box is pleased to present Unidentified Living Objects, an exhibition curated by Helianthe Bourdeaux-Maurin and featuring monumental works by international artists Pierre Ardouvin (France), Edith Dekyndt (Belgium) and Gereon Lepper (Germany).

Edith Dekyndt, a Belgian artist represented by Parker's Box who has recently gained considerable international acclaim as witnessed for example by MoMA's recent acquisitions, explores the idea of living objects in this exhibition in both her installation and recent drawings.

Opening Reception: Friday, March 5, 6-11pm

Gallery Hours: Thur-Sun 1pm-7pm & Open until 9pm on March 12 and April 9 as part of the Williamsburg Gallery Association's 2nd Friday Events

For more information: www.parkerbox.com and www.edithdekyndt.be

FIAF Cinéma Tuesdays presents The Whimsical World of Belgian Cinema

*Florence Gould Hall
55 East 59th Str.*

FIAF is proud to present a selection of films that showcase some of the richness and diversity of Belgian cinema. Regardless of genre, these films all share a twisted, surreal, and deadpan humor that is uniquely "l'humour belge". Curated by Marie Losier

Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 59th St & Lex, N, R to 59th & 5th E to 53rd St & 5th

*March 2
12:30pm-4
pm &
7:30pm*

A Town Called Panic (*Panique au village*)

Stéphane Aubier & Vincent Patar, 2009. Animation
Voices by Stéphane Aubier, Jeanne Balibar

*March 9
12:30pm-4
pm &
7:30pm*

Largo Winch - New York Premiere

Jérôme Salle, 2008

With Tomer Sisley, Kristin Scott Thomas

A successful Belgian comic book, Largo Winch brings its tales of international espionage to the screen. Sisley stars as the unjustly jailed son of a murdered billionaire who must crawl out of prison to prevent those who attacked his family from stealing a fortune.

*March 16
12:30pm-4
pm &
7:30pm*

Il court... il court le monde

Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne, 1987.

With Jean-Paul Dermont, John Dobrynine

The Dardenne brothers' first foray into fiction after years of documentary projects was this short about a television director who suffers a car crash, interrupting his work on a special about...speed.

*March 16
12:30pm-4
pm &
7:30pm*

Man Bites Dog (*C'est arrivé près de chez vous*)

Rémy Belvaux and André Bonzel, 1992. B&W. 95 min.

With Benoît Poelvoorde, Nelly Pappaert, Jacqueline Poelvoorde-Pappaert

Three filmmakers track the daily activities of Ben, a lover of poetry and philosophy, who is also a serial killer. Winner of Cannes' International Critics' Prize, this film is an unsettling portrait of the media and its relationship to the subjects it covers and remains frighteningly relevant today.

Note: This film contains NC-17 rated material

*March 23
at 4pm*

I'm Hungry, I'm Cold (*J'ai faim, j'ai froid*)

Chantal Akerman, 1984. B&W. 12 min.

With Maria de Medeiros

Two young runaways head toward Paris from Brussels only to realize that the excitement of a journey can quickly sour into frustration. Originally part of the omnibus film *Paris Seen By...20 Years After*, which also included work by Philippe Garrel, this wry short now comfortably stands on its own.
Note: No English subtitles

Followed by: **Ma Vie en Rose**

Alain Berliner, 1997

With Michèle Laroque, Jean-Philippe Écoffey, Hélène Vincent, Georges Du Fresne

Ludovic is a seven-year-old boy who longs to be a girl. As parents, teachers, and friends react to his changing behavior, Ludovic remains resolute. His simple (yet complicating) wish stands at the center of this film that won a Best Foreign Film Golden Globe.

March 23
12:30pm &
7:30pm

Toto the Hero (Toto le Héros)

Jaco van Dormael, 1991

With Michel Bouquet, Jo De Backer, Thomas Godet, Gisela Uhlen

A success at Cannes and the Césars, *Toto the Hero* is a mystical tale, told through flashbacks and flash forwards, of a man who believes his life is not his own. Seemingly switched at birth, Thomas endured tragedy and poverty while neighbor Alfred grew up carefree. Vibrant and enthralling.

March 30
12:30pm
& 4pm

Louise-Michel U.S. Premiere

Benoît Delépine and Gustave Kervern, 2008

With Yolande Moreau, Bouli Lanners, Michel Pinchon, Benoît Poelvoorde, Albert Dupontel

A group of factory workers show up for their shift one morning and discover their jobs have been outsourced. They pool their severance pay and do the reasonable thing—hire a hit man to kill their former boss.

March 30
at 7pm

When the Sea Rises (Quand la mer monte...)

Yolande Moreau and Gilles Porte, 2004.

With Yolande Moreau, Wim Willaert, Olivier Gourmet

Leading Belgian actress and film director Yolande Moreau comes to FIAF to present *When the Sea Rises*. Winner of two Césars for this film and one for *Seraphine*, Moreau will participate in a Q&A session after the screening.

Irene is a quiet loner, comfortable only on stage. A parade float operator is a kindred spirit and becomes a lover, accompanying her on tour. But her husband and child waiting at home overshadow her newfound happiness. This film proves veteran actress Moreau to also be a gifted filmmaker.

Special thanks to Annette Choynecki, Belgian Tourist Office, Wallonie-Bruxelles International, Emmanuelle Lambert, Yolande Moreau, Funny Balloons, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Consulate General of Belgium in New York. With support from Rouge Tomato.

For more information: www.fiaf.org or Tel (212) 355 6160. FIAF Members Free (\$2 advance tickets), Non-Members \$10 & Students w/ID \$7

**Until
March 13**

EFA Project Space announces Companion

**EFA Project
Space
323 West 39th
Str, 2nd Fl.**

an exhibition of artworks contextualized with the source that influenced their creation. Companion culls cultural projects that draw inspiration from history, culture, and science. Projects by: Belgian artist Tom Bogaert, Cui Fei, J. Blachly & Lytle Shaw, Pablo Helguera, Sarah Oppenheimer with Edward Stanley, Karina Skvirsky, Yuken Teruya, Saya Woolfalk with Rachel Lears, plus special screening of *Bathing Babies in Three Cultures* (1951) by Margaret Mead & Gregory Bateson.

Curated by Marisa Jahn for REV-, Curatorial Fellow at The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts

Tom Bogaert's installation centrally features a photograph he took while working as a human rights worker in Burundi, Africa. A picturesque photograph of an illuminated window taken from inside a dark room belies a story of horror: as the artist came to learn, the room was a former site where hundreds of Tutsi women and children were burned to their death in 1993. The window functions not only as an architectural division between death and those who lived but as an emblem of Bogaert's role as a mediator and witness.

Gallery Hours: Wed-Sat 12-6 pm

For more information:

www.tombogaert.org

www.rev-it.org/projects/companion.htm

**5 – 11
March**

New York International Children Film Festival 2010

**IFC Center
323 6th Ave at
West Third Str**

The Secret of Kells

Directed by Tomm Moore

France/Belgium/Ireland

The new animated masterpiece from the producers of *Kirikou and the Sorceress* and *The Triplets of Belleville*, blends fantasy and mythology to create a richly detailed and striking visual landscape, folding traditionally Celtic influences into a riot of color and detail that dazzle the eyes. Hailed by international critics as one of the most beautiful films of the year and winner of the audience award at the prestigious *Anney Animation Festival*, *THE SECRET OF KELLS* has also been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Film.

Click [here](#) for the Article in Knack

For more information: www.gkids.com and www.theseecretokells.com

**March 9 -
27**

**"Perspective" at the New Century Artists Gallery with
Pascal Vrebos**

*New Century
Artists, Inc.
530 West 25th
Str, Suite 406*

Host of « Controverse » and « l'Invité » on RTL Television, Journalist on the radio Bel RTL soir, writer and political playwright, professor at the Brussels Conservatory, the Academy of Fine Arts and the Cooremans Institute, Belgian Pascal Vrebos is multi-talented. 2 years ago, while strolling along the coast, he had the idea to create sculptures made out of garbage, found on the floor – the so called "déchettisme". We can discover his work for the first time in New York. The **Opening Reception will take place on March 13, from 3-6pm**

Gallery Hours: Tue-Sat 11am-6pm

For more information: www.newcenturyartists.org

**March 10,
7pm**

Best Translated Book Award at Idlewild Books

*Idlewild Books,
12 W. 19th Street
(near 5th Ave)*

Idlewild is an independent bookstore specializing in travel and world literature, organized by country. It is a meeting place for travelers and lovers of international literature, with a variety of book launch parties, readings, and a monthly book club. Idlewild Books was founded in 2008 by David Del Vecchio, a former United Nations press officer.

On March 10, join Idlewild Books for a party to announce the winner of the ten-book shortlist for the 2010 Best Translated Book Award. In the meantime, all ten books on the shortlist are 20% off - in the store or on the website.

On the list, you will find "Wonder", by Hugo Claus (Belgium) - The Faulkner of Flanders spins a haunting tale about the Nazi occupation of Belgium.

For more information: www.idlewildbooks.com

**Until
March 14**

**The Envoy Gallery present Johan Tahon - new
ceramic sculptures**

*Envoy
enterprises
131 Chrystie Str.
Ground floor
(between
Delancey and
Broome Str)*

"The sculptures of Belgian artist Johan Tahon (1965) are fanciful in shape and usually recognizable as incomplete human forms. The unnatural bulging and fragility of the material bestow his creations of plaster and ceramic with a notable sense of vulnerability. "

Gallery hours: Tues – Sun from 12pm - 6pm

For more information:

www.johantahon.be

www.envoyenterprises.com

March 12-18

Rendez-vous with French Cinema 2010 at IFC

*IFC Center
323 6th Ave at
West Third Str.*

The 15th edition of the hit festival, showcasing the best in contemporary French film, co-presented by Unifrance and the Film Society of Lincoln Center included in their program:

Rapt, written and directed by Belgian Lucas Belvaux France/Belgium, 2009

Screening on March 14, 1:30pm

A millionaire businessman and playboy (Yvan Attal) is kidnapped and held for ransom in this fact-based, edge-of-your-seat nail-biter. But is his abduction a crime, or a case of just deserts?

For more information & tickets:

www.ifccenter.com/films/rapt

**March 18,
12pm -
4:30pm**

The Weight of Photography: a symposium

*The Center for
the Humanities
of CUNY
365 Fifth Ave
Martin E. Segal
Theatre*



THE **WEIGHT OF PHOTOGRAPHY** A Theoretical
Basis for Photographic Humanity *An Essay book*
For Inter-disciplinary Historical Progressive
Research on Photography and Lensed-Based Arts
Edited by Johan Swinnen & Luc Deneulin

ASP

Has photography become weightless? In the midst of an increasingly global and digital culture, can we still talk about photography as a distinct entity? Should museum departments, exhibitions, schools and academic classes continue to be devoted to photography alone? Join us for a half-day symposium featuring presentations by scholars such as **Willem Elias, Johan Swinnen, Luc Deneulin, and Tamara Berghmans of the Free University of Brussels**, alongside curators, such as Chris Phillips, from International Center for Photography as well as scholars from the US, this symposium offers a distinctively international perspective on photography's identity just as it has become particularly uncertain. Moderated by Geoffrey Batchen, Professor of Art History, The Graduate Center, CUNY.

For more information:

<http://centerforthehumanitiesgc.org/conferences>

March 18-21

The AIPAD Photography Show

Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Ave

One of the most important international photography events, The AIPAD Photography Show New York, with more than 70 of the world's leading fine art photography galleries will present a wide range of museum-quality work including contemporary, modern and 19th century photographs, as well as photo-based art, video and new media, at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City.

Eric Franck Fine Art Gallery based in London and Belgian owned will be among the exhibitors. Prof. Dr. Swinnen will do book signings of "The Weight of Photography" during the Show, in the Stephen Bulger Gallery.

For more information:

www.aipad.com/photoshow/new-york/

Until April 5

Between Spaces

P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center 22-25 Jackson Ave at the intersection of 46th Ave Long Island City, NY 11101

Organized by Belgian Tim Goossens and Kate McNamara, P.S.1 Curatorial Assistants

For the second time in P.S.1 history, the junior curatorial staff will produce and organize a large-scale group exhibition. *Between Spaces* will include film, installation, photography, and sculpture that address themes of nostalgia, a preoccupation with materiality, and the creation of illusionistic and psychological shifts in space. Playing the role of alchemist, each artist in *Between Spaces* will recast familiar materials and objects such as wood, paint, mirrors, moving blankets, Plexi-glass, Venetian blinds, and metal grating to make the ordinary strange.

Artists: David Altmejd, Martin Soto Climent, Alex Da Corte, Robert de Saint Phalle, Cheryl Donegan, Zak Kitnick, Sam Moyer, Heather Rowe, Melanie Schiff, Marc Swanson, and Penelope Umbrico

For more information:

<http://ps1.org/exhibitions/view/304>

Until June 6

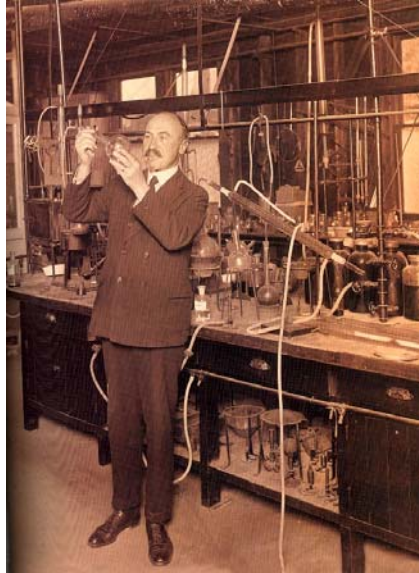
Bakelite in Yonkers: Pioneering the Age of Plastics

Hudson River Museum 511 Warburton Ave, Yonkers

Every day we come into contact with synthetic materials so familiar to us that life without them would be hard to imagine. Bakelite in Yonkers is a dynamic exhibition of more than 300 objects that show the development of Bakelite, one of the world's first plastics and vital to an array of twentieth century consumer products — ash trays, toilet seats, door handles, blocks, bracelets, clocks, dinnerware, flashlights, toasters, kitchen mixers, castanets, and

toy cars — to name a few!

Inventor Leo Baekeland, from Belgium, invented Bakelite at Snug Rock, his home in Yonkers between 1905 and 1907. Pioneering and brilliant, he quickly realized the scientific and commercial value of his discovery. First an inexpensive alternative to precious materials such as ivory billiard balls, this exhibition traces how Bakelite soon reached the height of popularity as a key material in Art Deco objects, and was a favorite material of designers from Norman Bel Geddes and Raymond Loewy to Philippe Starck.



Leo H. Baekeland in his home-based Yonkers laboratory applied for a patent for his invention of Bakelite, in 1907. Photograph Courtesy of the Amsterdam Bakelite Collection

Bakelite in Yonkers: Pioneering the Age of Plastics is organized by Reindert Groot for the Amsterdam Bakelite® Collection, and Hugh Karraker in partnership with the Hudson River Museum. Bakelite is a registered trade name of Hexion Specialty Chemicals, Inc., Columbus, Ohio.

For more information: www.hrm.org

BACC – Events

Belgian Captain Seminars

In 2010 the BACC introduced “Belgian Captain Seminars”, giving access to our most successful and powerful businessmen. Informal round table sessions on entrepreneurship, career, success versus failure and our country. The next edition will present CEO KBC Group Jan Vanhevel on March 4.

Chicago-Detroit Chapter

On March 25, the BACC launches its Chicago-Detroit Chapter: Making Belgian-American Ventures

successful while building a successful corporate Belgian image, the Belgian-American Chamber of Commerce is going Mid-West and reaches out to the Belgian-American community in the larger Chicago-Detroit area. The BACC strategy is focused on making meaning while becoming better professionals and entrepreneurs. Meet at the Stella Artois Draught Academy from 6:30pm to 9:30 pm

For more information: www.belcham.org or info@belcham.org

*April 3
6:15pm &
April 4,
3:30pm*

Belgian Dancer Liesbeth Demaer in Pat Catterson's latest work "There is No Conclusion"

*Baryshnikov Art Center, 450 West 37th Street Studio 6A
City Center, 130 West 56th Street, studio 5*

Pat Catterson, born in Indianapolis to parents who were a professional ballroom dancing team presented her first full evening of choreography at Judson Church in 1970 and has subsequently choreographed 100 works. The current work in progress, "There Is No Conclusion", her 101st dance, is a full evening length dance for her company of four dancers, Alex Berger, Becky Chaleff, **Liesbeth Demaer** and Tomoko Maeda. The work's title refers to the mutability of meaning that dance produces in general, and to the intractability of our living conditions, of states of continual change but without progress, and of the unending strife between human impulses for violence versus those of compassion.

Liesbeth Demaer, a native from Belgium, started her training at Balletomania in Brussels. She studied at CODARTS in Rotterdam where she got her BA 'dance in education' in 2004. That same year, she received a Fulbright Award and an Art Grant from the Netherlands to study at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio in New York. While being a full-time merit-scholarship student, she worked with choreographers like Pat Catterson, Kara Tattelbaum's Independentdancemaker and Jean Freebury performing throughout the city. Returning back to Belgium in 2007, she became a faculty dance teacher at various dance academies around Brussels, while also being active as a Pilates Instructor. Deciding to move back to New York, she was an assistant teacher at the 2009 Summer Dance Program of the National Dance Institute and is happy to be dancing with Pat Catterson's dance troupe. She is currently also working with Abe Abraham's dance company "Abanar" (www.abanar.org) for the making of his new dance film.

To see clips of her work: www.youtube.com/BRU2NY

On Saturday April 3rd at 6:15PM at Baryshnikov Art Center and on Sunday April 4th at 3:30PM at City Center. Entrance is free – donations welcome

**March
2010**

The United States Census 2010

The U.S. Census counts every resident – citizen and non-citizen alike- in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The data collected by the census helps determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and helps to quantify federal aid to local and state authorities.

As mentioned in the December Newsrelay, Mayor Bloomberg has personally asked all Consulates based in New York City to plead with their national communities for participation in the census. We were given the assurance that all the information is strictly confidential, and cannot be transmitted to any government agency, especially regarding tax or immigration issues.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. A form with 10 short questions should be completed and mailed back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a [census taker](#), who will ask you the [questions from the form](#).

The Consul Chantal Bastin has been designated as the contact person for the census. In case you have any specific questions, you can contact her by sending an E-mail to newyork@diplobel.fed.be to her attention. Paper brochures are also available at the Consulate.

For more information:
<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

The Consulate General of Belgium has an immediate opening for an Administrative Assistant

The successful candidate should be fluent in French, Dutch and English. He/she holds a green card or is a US citizen.

Relevant experience in administrative support and familiarity with the standard office computer applications is essential. He/she should have excellent communication, interpersonal and social skills and can demonstrate the ability to work independently.

Please note that a key requirement will be the ability to handle a broad range of consular tasks within the work schedule. The Consulate is offering a competitive salary and benefits package.

Applications in Dutch, English or French should be sent to: newyork@diplobel.fed.be

WANTED: BELGIAN CITIZENS LIVING IN THE US

*Baruch College,
137 East 22nd Str*

Jean-Michel LAFLEUR from the University of Liège in Belgium would like to interview Belgians who have been residing in the USA for at least one year and are currently living in New York or New Jersey. The purpose of these interviews is to discuss Belgian citizens' perception of their home country after they have left it. Dr. Lafleur can meet you at his Baruch College office in Manhattan or at any other place that suits you best. Interviews last usually between 60 and 90 minutes and can be conducted in French, Dutch or English. Full confidentiality is obviously guaranteed.

This research project is financed by the National Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS) and seeks to contribute to a better understanding of what it is to be a Belgian citizen abroad. Its results will be made available in the form of an academic publication at a later stage. If you are interested in contributing to this research project on Belgians abroad, you can get in touch with Jean-Michel Lafleur at the following address:

JM.Lafleur@ulg.ac.be

Office phone: (646) 660-6733

Cellular phone: (631) 565-0166

www.cedem.ulg.ac.be

In the news

Check out the video of the Fashion Flanders Institute Designers at Flanders House last week:

<http://www.een.be/programmas/de-rode-loper/antwerpse-zeven> and on the website of Flanders House www.flandershouse.org/showroom-antwerp

The Time-Honored Exaltation of chocolate – with Pierre Gilissen and his “Belgique Patisserie and Chocolatier” in Kent. Click [here](#) for the NYT article

Review of Luc Tuymans exhibition “Putting the Wrongs of History in Paint”. Click [here](#) for the NYT Article

“Rachel Ray Pizza Fame goes to East Village Joint Motorino”, owned By Belgian chef Mathieu Palombino. Click [here](#) for the article in NY Daily News

Events in the Chicago Area

**March 12
& 13**

Belgian movies at the 13th European Union Film Festival

*Gene Siskel Film Center, School of the Art Institute
164 North State, Chicago*

Modus Operandi

2008, Hughes Lanneau, Belgium
March 7 (3:15pm) March 9 (6:00pm)

The Misfortunates /De helaasheid der dingen

2009, Felix Van Groeningen, Belgium/The Netherlands
March 26 (6:00pm) - March 27 (9:30pm)

Katanga Business

2009, Thierry Michel, Belgium/France
March 13 (5:15pm), March 16 (7:45pm)

Thank you to Flanders Trade and Investments Claude Stomp) and Wallonia Export & Trade (Martine Leclercq) agencies in Chicago for their generous involvement in promoting all aspects of Belgian film culture with Gene Siskel Film Center.

For more information and ticket:

Tel (1)(800)982-2787 or www.siskelfilmcenter.org

Events in the New England Area

**March 12
& 13**

Jean "Toots" Thielemans with Kenny Werner and Oscar Castro-Neves

*Doubletree Guest Suites
400 Soldiers Field Rd.
Boston, MA
02134*

Don't miss this opportunity! Two shows at 8pm and 10pm each night.

The 200-seat Scullers Jazz Club, voted "Best Live Music Venue" and "Best First Date Spot", offers spectacular views of the Boston skyline and the Charles River.

For tickets: www.scullersjazz.com

March 17

Events organized by the Belgian American Society of New England

*Brasserie Eastern Standard
Kenmore Square,
Boston*

The Society holds informal dinners at the Brasserie on the third Wednesday of every month in 2010. Confirm your presence by Email to basne@yahoo.com Walk-ins are welcome. Visit their website for updates on future dinners: <http://bas-ne.org/>

Depuis le 12 janvier, nous les chanceux survivants, nous essayons de nous arracher de ce cauchemar, les uns mentalement secoués, les autres financièrement ruinés, d'autres encore affectivement atteints.

Que de morts, que de souffrances, que d'enfants lâchés seuls, errants, perdus dans les rues de Port-au-Prince... Hier encore, Brice, le chauffeur, m'a raconté la triste histoire d'une petite fille d'à peine dix ans, marchant devant lui, parlant toute seule. Intrigué, il s'approcha d'elle et l'entendit qui disait: "*Manman, bam yon ti bout pain tanpri*" (Maman, un p'tit morceau de pain, je t'en prie). Elle avait perdu la tête. Combien y en a-t-il, de ces petites filles ?...

J'ai écrit "sortir de ce cauchemar". Comment ?

- Quand tous les jours une petite secousse (ou pas si petite que ça, comme ce matin à 4 h 40 !) précipite tout le monde hors de sa maison !!!
- Quand on sort de la maison pour se retrouver nez à nez avec ces affreuses ruines, et qu'on se demande combien il y a encore de morts sous ces décombres !!!
- Quand on rencontre un ancien ouvrier, maçon, serviteur, qu'on l'embrasse, qu'on lui dit "C'est magnifique, tu es vivant !", et qu'il répond, gêné, honteux, parce qu'il n'a pas l'habitude de mendier, "oui, mais je ne te cacherai pas que depuis 2 jours, je n'ai plus rien à donner à mes enfants, pas même de l'eau"...
- Quand un objet qui tombe trop fort, la vibration d'une voiture qui démarre, le cri d'un enfant, vous font sursauter
- Quand on a peur de fermer les yeux pour ne plus revivre cette sensation de chavirer, pour ne pas réentendre cet horrible grondement et ces cris de frayeur...

Nous n'oublierons jamais ces nuits blanches, passées dans le jardin, à la belle étoile. Nous étions une trentaine, locataires, voisins, amis, veillant, guettant la moindre secousse, secousses fréquentes alors !

Comme me disait une amie rencontrée hier, nous ne serons plus jamais les mêmes. Comportement, philosophie différents. Notre vaisselle en morceaux, bibelots cassés, quelle importance? En avons-nous vraiment besoin? Cette façon de voir semble extrême et avec le temps elle changera. Mais ce qui ne devrait pas changer, c'est notre solidarité, notre compassion.

Nous avons recueilli dans une partie de la propriété quelques centaines de réfugiés, on ne peut pas savoir exactement combien. Beaucoup d'entre eux, marchandes de légumes, de fruits, s'en vont tôt le matin pour la journée. D'autres partent à la recherche de travail, laissant derrière eux les enfants:

Garçons de 3 à 14 ans: 71

Filles de 3 à 14 ans: 62

Bébés de 0 à 2 ans: 29 (dont 3 nés ici)

Ils reviennent tous pour dormir le soir, entassés comme des sardines.

Gros problème: le taux de chômage, déjà si élevé auparavant, a considérablement augmenté, suite à la destruction de tant de maisons de commerce, d'hôtels, de maisons privées, d'usines... On se retrouve avec des milliers et des milliers de sans-abri-sans-travail.

Et puis, et puis, et puis...

Je disais donc merci à vous tous, famille et amis. A tous, nous disons que votre aide, plus précieuse que vous ne pouvez imaginer, nous permet de soulager bien des misères.

Nous pourrons, grâce à vous

Aider des sinistrés qui désirent partir pour leur province natale, en payant leur ticket de bus et en leur donnant un peu d'argent pour pouvoir se retourner au début.

Nous pourrons, grâce à vous

Nous occuper des enfants du camp, leur acheter des jouets, des bonbons, des DVDs (chaque jour il y a "cinéma" dans notre garage). Ils sont maintenant forts en sudoku, UNO, dames et othello...

Nous pourrons, grâce à vous

Aider financièrement les sinistrés qui n'en peuvent plus et avouent n'avoir plus rien à manger.

Nous pourrons, grâce à vous

Prendre soin des bébés, y compris les 3 nouveau-nés du camp !, en leur donnant du lait, des langes, des vêtements, des médicaments.

Nous pourrons, grâce à vous

Leur donner du papier de toilette, des serviettes hygiéniques, des tubes de pâte dentifrice.

Merci, merci, merci

Nouvelle inquiétude ! Hier, les enfants sont venus, timidement, un par un d'abord, puis en groupes, me dire "Madame, j'ai soif". J'ai distribué une partie de ma réserve d'eau potable et je devrai certainement recommencer aujourd'hui et demain. Et puis après ???

Je me débrouillerai !!!

Une bonne chose, cependant. Hier dimanche, nous avons été très formellement invités à une représentation "*Haiti pap péri*" (Haïti ne périra pas), organisée par un groupe de jeunes, avec des enfants comme acteurs. Les préparatifs étaient touchants. Une table avec des biscuits, un gâteau, des piroulis (sucettes), des colas. J'ai un peu aidé à la décoration de la scène. Le résultat était étonnant. Un beau spectacle. Danses folkloriques, blagues, chants, pièces de théâtre. Super!!! De l'enthousiasme, du talent, et enfin, un peu de joie.

Ce n'était plus pour un instant un camp de sinistrés, mais un camp de vacances. Que c'était bon!

Mais maintenant, on est de nouveau devant la réalité. Surtout après les deux secousses d'aujourd'hui, coup sur coup. Inquiétude, soucis, peur du lendemain.

Encourageons-nous en disant comme eux "*Haiti pap' péri*"

Je vous embrasse tous

Lily

To contribute to the "Fonds 12 Janvier", please find hereunder the bank information. Kindly fax a copy of the payment document, check or transfer order.

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