

Flanders Bulletin

The Press and Trade newsletter of Tourism Flanders-Brussels

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Dear Reader,

The long winter days are gradually coming to an end and with spring just around the corner, Flanders is preparing itself for an exciting season packed full of events and happenings.

This month's Flanders Bulletin brings you news of just a few of these and will continue to do so throughout the year, but if you're eager to know more, please do not hesitate to contact us or download our fantastic events list [Flanders & Brussels Events 2009](#).

Also, we are delighted to announce that we have recently joined [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and hope that you will join us to find out more news and follow our updates.



Beaufort 03 at the Flemish Coast

Leaving those long winter nights behind, and with Easter gradually approaching, a trip to the Flemish Coast, where you can celebrate a continental Easter, seems like the right thing to do. Easter is a two day holiday in Flanders, covering Easter Sunday and Easter Monday but when you're going from the UK you can use Good Friday for your trip too! There's more to its 67km of wide open sandy beaches than meets the eye. You can relax on the many beach promenades or take the coastal tram which stops in all 14 resorts and is only €2. No visit to the coast would be complete without a trip to the local frituur to sample the best in Belgian fries and you will be spoilt for choice by the really tasty, fresh seafood cooked from the first catch of the day!



Also this spring, artists from every corner of the globe will make a beeline for the Flemish Coast, intent on finding the perfect place to show their work at Beaufort 03, the third triennial for contemporary art by the sea. The sea has already been enticing artists for centuries and this year, with artists such as Liam Gillick and Thomas Houseago, Beaufort promises to be an event not to be missed offering a unique insight into art and the seaside. [more»](#)



GOYA, REDON, ENSOR

Starting on 14th March until 14th June 2009, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts (KMSKA) in [Antwerp](#) will host a provocative exhibition where opus' from esteemed masters such as Goya, Redon and Ensor will be displayed. In the oeuvre of Francisco Goya (1746-1828), Odilon Redon (1840-1916) and James Ensor (1860-1949), grotesque representations play a major part. A confrontation between their works of art may clarify and reinforce the significance of these three remarkable artists. The KMSKA has a rare collection of etchings by Goya, a coloured pastel by Redon and the largest Ensor collection in the world. On the basis of this particularly rich collection, the exhibition will be combined with works from museums in Belgium and abroad. [more»](#)



Brussels Electronic Music Festival

From 20th - 22nd March 09 at BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, **Brussels** welcomes its first Electronic Music Festival (BEMF), a celebration of music at which over 30 DJs, musicians and VJs will perform throughout the venue's halls and rooms during the whole weekend. Festival passes are available online and if you attend, expect to see famous figures spinning alongside new, up and coming DJs.

This promises to be a festive event where night owls can let their hair down and will offer all revellers a gold mine of musical discoveries and an opportunity to explore new sound and visual experiences in a setting quite different from the usual scene. A total experience! [more»](#)



From Van Dyck to Bellotto

Also at the BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts from 20th February - 24th May 2009, 'From Van Dyck to Bellotto' brings the very best of Flemish and Italian Masters to **Brussels**, in partnership with Turin's Galleria Sabauda. The exhibition features artworks of some of the most prolific Flemish artists in Europe dating from 15th to the 18th century, including masterpieces by Rubens and a collection of tapestries never previously exhibited in Belgium. To coincide with this event, the multi-disciplinary 'Turin/Italian Spring' will also be staged at Brussels' Bozar to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Italy's unification, albeit two years prior to the actual date. Tickets cost €9 and concessions range from €1.25 - €8.10. Opening times are Tuesday to Sunday, 10am - 6pm (Thursday until 9pm). [more»](#)



PAPER FASHION

From 6th March - 16th August 2009, readily disposable yet strangely resistant 'paper' makes a couture guest appearance at Antwerp's fashion museum (MoMu). With PAPER FASHION, **Antwerp**, the Flemish city which has a cult status in the fashion world, presents a vast collection of throwaway paper dresses from the 1960s in addition to more recent creations from avant-garde designers such as Hussein Chalayan.

PAPER FASHION brings together the most remarkable of these creations. In addition to the historic objects, the exhibition includes designs by A.F. Vandevorst, John Galliano, Walter Van Beirendonck, Dirk Van Saene, Issey Miyake and many more. Entrance is free and the exhibition is open from Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 6pm. [more»](#)



The Museum Pass

With its quaint cobbled streets and winding canals, **Ghent**, which is considered by many as Flanders' hidden gem, is finally starting to get the recognition that it deserves. Set amongst its 900-plus listed buildings, Ghent offers visitors plenty of culture and quirkiness including several museums of note. To celebrate this, for just €20,00 you can visit all the main museums and monuments, including temporary exhibitions. What's more, the 'Museum Pass' card enables you to use all 'De Lijn's' buses and trams in the city free of charge!

So next time you're in Ghent, be sure to snap up a Museum Pass and visit the essential sights: the 12th century fortress of Gravensteen, St Baafskathedraal, the late Gothic cathedral which contains several paintings by Rubens and Bosch as well as one of the world's greatest art treasures, Hubert and Jan van Eyck's stunning 20-panel altarpiece, Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, not forgetting the Belfort, the 14th century belfry which offers stunning views of the city.

Or for a quirky take on a museum, head to Patershol and visit the House of Alijn, otherwise known as the Museum of Things That Never Pass where you will be led through displays of curiosities from popular culture and everyday life. The pass is valid for 3 days and is on sale at the Ghent Tourist Office, the museums involved, hotels and



the sales outlets of 'De Lijn' transport company. It's valid from the moment you write the date on the back, so you can buy it in advance too. With only one payment and you can see it all! For a full list of participating museums click here [more»](#)



Cinema Novo festival

From 12th - 22nd March, **Bruges** will once again be host to the Cinema Novo film festival which will present new films from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Premieres, short films and features are screened in art house cinema, the Lumiere, and the Liberty.

The festival also invites a number of filmmakers to Bruges to present their work. New classics of world film such as 'City of God', which received four Academy Awards nominations and Mexican film 'Y tu Mama Tambien' have previously been shown along with premieres from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Since its start in 1983, Cinema Novo stands as firm today as ever before and is today considered to be a substantial asset in the Belgian film scene. [more»](#)



Fabulous Flanders

We have recently launched our exciting new **Facebook account** in order to connect and network with the general public as well as with our 'friends of Flanders'.

The 'Tourism Flanders' account and subsidiary group site 'Fabulous Flanders' is aimed specifically at the UK market and will offer regular updates on events, consumer evenings and all things Flemish as well as entice visitors to Flanders' assortment of cosmopolitan, easy-to-reach towns and cities.

Friends of Flanders will subsequently be able to add photos, videos and comments of their experiences in the diverse region, enabling them to interact directly with members of our UK team. Furthermore, you can also find '**FabFlanders**' on Twitter, the social messaging utility for staying connected in real-time that is taking the digital world by storm.



Royal Greenhouses

Another spring crowd pleaser for green fingered enthusiasts is the opening of the Royal Greenhouse in **Brussels**. Each year, in the spring, the Greenhouses of Laeken are opened to the public for almost three weeks, a tradition which has continued for a century.

Alphonse Balat created a 'little winter garden' adjoining the Royal Palace in Laeken on the request of Leopold II. His aim was to house a real anthology of plants and tropical trees, brought back from all over the world. Underneath tens of tonnes of glass and steel, visitors can wander around this very unusual world and enjoy the varieties of exotic flowers, not to mention rare tree species with their intoxicating scents. Some of the plants belonging to Leopold II's original collections still exist today and therefore should not be missed.

Open 18 April until 10 May 2009. Entrance is €2.5. [more»](#)

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