



n^{*}cturnes

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Nocturnes: every Thursday evening, another look at Brussels' museums



The 21st edition of the Nocturnes takes place this year from 21 April to 9 June. Every Thursday, 5 to 10 Brussels museums in the same neighborhood open their doors from 5 to 10 pm and offer an unusual and contrasting programme in the indefinable atmosphere of an early evening at the museum.

More than a late opening: 4 programming axes "guides", "behind the scenes", "workshops" and "extra-muros"

In addition to the discovery of temporary and permanent exhibitions, the Nocturnes offer 4 types of programming axes: original **guided tours**, **behind the scenes** visits & access to the museum reserves, tailor-made **workshops** and **extra-muros** walks in the various communes of Brussels: no less than **63 museums** have planned everything to catch the eye of their visitors and show how they remain surprisingly relevant.

The full programme for this year's event is now available online at www.nocturnes.brussels. Some highlights of this season:

- A visit behind the scenes of several museums of the Cinquantenaire with the incredible Moulding Workshop of the Art & History Museum, the aircraft restoration workshops of the Royal Army Museum and the art restoration workshops of the Institute of Artistic Heritage (IRPA).
- A new look at the permanent exhibition of the BELvue Museum through the prism of "Men and women: the challenge of equality" via a guided tour given by historians specialized in the history of women and gender. They break down many preconceived ideas about the living conditions of women in the past.
- A burlesque tour of the works of art of the Brussels City Museum.
- A storytelling performance in the gardens of the House of Erasmus, where Boccaccio's short story collection Decameron, which tells the amusing and satirical stories of ten young Florentines during the plague, will come to life!
- The *Live Magazine*, a living and ephemeral newspaper that offers an immersive dive into real stories at the House of European History. Journalists, photographers, filmmakers and artists tell the story of Europe with the musical group *Les Garçons* in the background.
- A visit behind the scenes of the Institute of Natural Sciences, the hidden side of the *Museum*. Offices, research areas, repositories of hundreds of specimens and all kinds of surprises.
- At La Fonderie, a back massage workshop by students from the BGC massage school as part of the "Oh! ça ne coule pas de source" exhibition, which links Brussels to water.
- A discovery of a former air raid shelter under the Flemish House of Representatives or a guided tour of its contemporary art collections (Panamarenko, Fabre, De Bruyckere, Raveel).
- Nature and science visits and workshops for the 100th anniversary of the ULB's Jean Massart Botanical Garden, which is home to almost 2000 species of plants.

This year, three **new museums** are taking part in the Nocturnes for the first time: the Visitors' Centre of the Flemish Parliament with its collection of modern art, the surprising House of the Parachutists, and the FeliXart Museum in Drogenbos. The Museum of Musical Instruments, the Halle Gate, the Art & History Museum, the workshops of La Monnaie, the Parlamentarium, the D'leteren Gallery and the network of ULB Museums are **back after a few years of absence**.

The Nocturnes are also an opportunity to discover the **newest exhibitions**, such as "Sick Architecture" at the CIVA, which focuses on the close relationship between architecture and illness; "Portrait of a Lady" at the Boghossian Foundation, which highlights the representation of women in different cultures from prehistoric times to the present day; "Haute Tension", an exhibition of outsider art between lines and wires stretched across art et marges museum; or "Belleville" at the Fondation A, which follows the intimate experience of photographer Thomas Boivin through the streets of this Paris neighbourhood.

Towards more accessible and up-to-date museums

The Nocturnes are an accessible Thursday evening outing with a **special rate** of €5 (standard) or €2.50 (under 26) per museum. Some museums also open for free. The event is part of Brussels Museums' broader ambition to **make museums more accessible** to everyone, by working on the specific barriers of admission prices, traditional opening hours, perceived distance, available information and visibility. The Nocturnes are also **a laboratory for experimentation for the museums**, which have the opportunity to test new programming proposals for all their audiences.

A festive opening that sets the tone

This new season kicks off on Thursday 21 April with a **grand opening** in Schaerbeek where the Maison des Arts, the Spontaneous Art Museum, the Schaerbeek Beer Museum and the Autrique House have planned a festive and varied programme. A concert by Belgian singer Idyl in the garden of the Maison des Arts, guided tours of Schaerbeek's heritage and storytelling walks by the *Fédération des conteurs professionnels*, a demonstration of a 19th century loom, an immersive music installation, a bar and Schaerbeek beer: all reasons to look forward to this new cultural season in Brussels.

Practical Info

When: Every Thursday from 21 April to 9 June, from 5pm to 10pm.

Price: per museum, €5 (standard), €2.50 (-26 years old) for admission and all extras for the evening.

A special Article 27 rate also applies: €1.25.

Each week, museums in the same Brussels district open their doors and allow you to combine visits.

The full programme and sales are available from 29.03.2022 on www.nocturnes.brussels.

[Join the Facebook event.](#)

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