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Ghent
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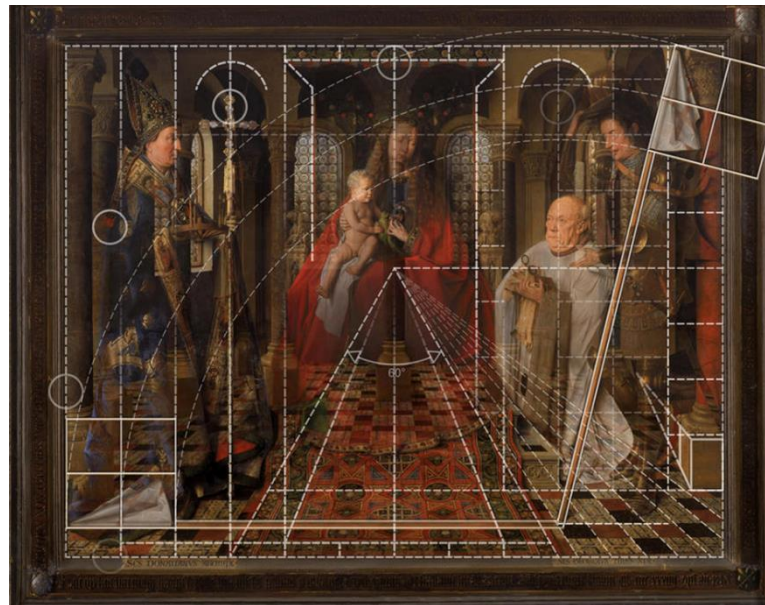
Van Eyck in depth



Friction and harmony through the eyes of architects and artists

03.10.2020 – 30.06.2021

GUM – Ghent University Museum



CONTACT DETAILS:

GUM Press officer:

Michaël Mariën – michael.marien@ugent.be - +32 475 61 97 60

GUM Director:

Marjan Doom – marjan.doom@ugent.be - +32 496 78 02 47

Academic staff member 'Van Eyck in depth':
Lyvia Diser – lyvia.diser@ugent.be - +32 473 83 28 96

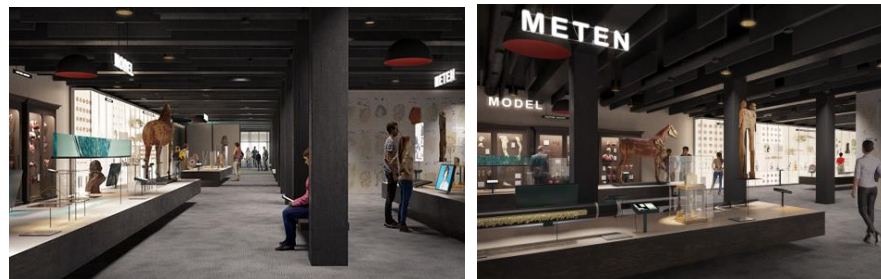
1 Introduction

3 October 2020 marks an important moment! Then, we will open the doors to the **brand-new GUM** (Ghent University Museum), located at the centre of the Ghent Botanical Garden, right around the corner from S.M.A.K. and MSK Gent. The GUM had to postpone the original opening following the outbreak of COVID19. Now the museum can finally open its doors, not with an opening weekend, but with an opening month, all October! In its permanent exhibition, **the GUM encourages you to delve into the brain of the scientist (m/f/x)**. What do scientists actually do? Which challenges do they face? Can scientists ever be in doubt? Are they allowed to use their imaginations and creativity?

GUM visitors will be able to find out all of this and more. They will also be invited to gape at many bizarre, fascinating and stunning objects, every one of them **highlights from Ghent University's heritage collection**, ranging from the fields of biology to archeology, from psychology to medicine. The GUM is intended for everyone, of all ages. The GUM challenges them to apply their critical thinking skills. The Botanical Garden, which encircles the new GUM, is a green scientific treasure trove at the heart of the city – a space for research, inspiration and peace and quiet.

The opening of our brand-new museum is coupled with the opening of our first pop-up exhibition. This exhibit is completely dedicated to **Flemish Master Jan Van Eyck**. Van Eyck might have been a brilliant painter, he unfortunately became known as **'the painter who was not familiar with the rules of perspective'**, contrary to his Italian counterparts... But was that really the case? This expo will be extended until the end of the - also extended - theme year **OMG! Van Eyck was here, June 30, 2021**.

Van Eyck in depth
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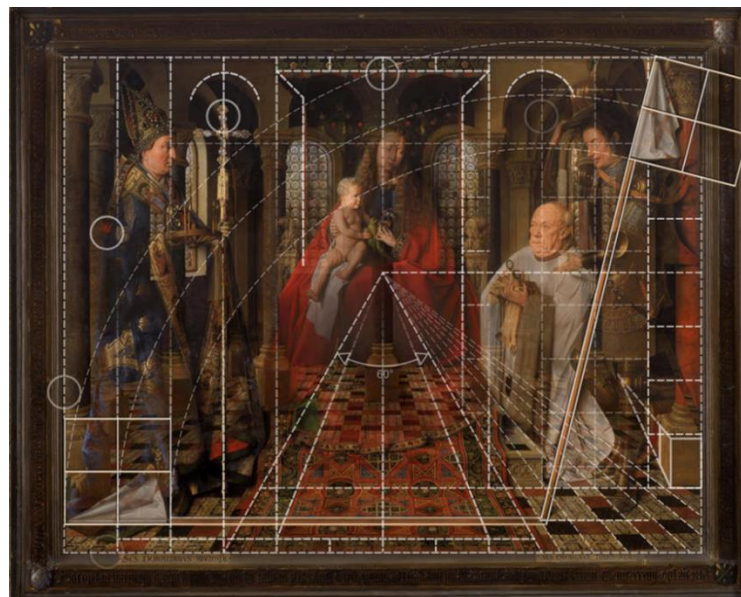
2 Exhibit with a particular perspective

As is made clear by our baseline, i.e. 'Forum for Science, Doubt & Art', as well as by our fresh and unusual house style, the GUM is a museum 'with an edge'. In the temporary exhibition *Van Eyck in depth*, the GUM offers its visitors a taste of this particular perspective.



In this pop-up exhibition in the context of 'OMG! Van Eyck was here', the year in which we celebrate Jan Van Eyck, the GUM takes the **architect's viewpoint** in order to subject Van Eyck's painting to scientific analysis. Was Van Eyck, as is generally believed, indeed not familiar with the rules of perspective? Why then does his work exude this sense of harmony?

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Architect Patrick Seurinck gets to work with these research questions, with the help of a group of UGent students of architecture. Together, they formulate a **powerful hypothesis**. In this hypothesis, Jan Van Eyck features as a **scientist come artist** who carefully navigated between the laws of harmony and the rules of perspective.

In the pop-up, their scientific analysis is confronted with the artistic analysis carried out by **four contemporary artists**. Similar to Van Eyck, Stijn Cole, Katelijne de Corte, Lieve Lefere and Paul Robbrecht set out to look for their own perspective. The visitors are presented with four incredible, unique and never before seen works from the world of contemporary art.

Will their quests lead to harmony? Or, rather, friction? The GUM invites its visitors to conduct their own research.

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3 Curators and exhibition design

GUM Director Marjan Doom and Dr. Patrick Seurinck, architect, philosopher and art historian, both curate the exhibit. Jonas Lescauwae is responsible for the stripped-down design of the exhibition.



Marjan Doom –GUM Director – photo: Sophie Nuytten

4 Contemporary artists inspired by the Flemish Master

In the *Van Eyck in depth* exhibition, the GUM provides **young, contemporary artists** with a platform for the very first time – although it definitely will not be the last one. ‘Providing with’ can be interpreted quite literally: the artists get to work on the spot, taking into consideration the characteristics of the space. This way, the museum’s temporary exhibition space (Gallery) is transformed into a creative arena for talented artists.

When selecting the artists, the curators deliberately and explicitly opted for local Flemish (Ghent-based) talent. Multimedia artist Stijn Cole (°1978) was born in Ghent and studied at LUCA School of Arts in Ghent. Art photographer Lieven Lefere (°1978) lives and works in Ghent. He studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK), LUCA School of Arts and Ghent University, and is part of NUCLEO. Visual artist and ethicist Katelijne De Corte (°1977) was also born and raised in Ghent. Ghent is an important starting point for the creation and

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presentation of her work. Until recently, De Corte worked in the NUCLEO studios, but she just moved to Deinze, where she founded art studio Platvorm. Architect Paul Robbrecht is another alumnus of LUCA School of Arts. His architectural firm Robbrecht & Daem (which he founded with Hilde Daem) has become a household name in Ghent and beyond. Their most important and well-known creations include the new Concert Hall in Bruges, the Canal Houses alongside the Ghent Coupure, the Market Hall at the Emile Braun Square in Ghent and the expansion of the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam. Scenographer and 'shadow thinker' Jonas Lescauwae also studied at LUCA School of Arts Ghent. He continues to live and work in Ghent to this day. Being a shadow thinker, he reflects on things and, from the wings, he directs various artistic and other processes. He has already collaborated with numerous artists in the past.

5 It's the students' move

Moreover, in order to realise the *Van Eyck in depth* exhibit, the GUM works in close association with students who are part of the UGent's Architecture and Urban Planning programme. As part of the seminar 'Visualising geometry, perspective and architectural space: the paintings of Jan van Eyck', lead by Prof. Dr. Dirk De Meyer, these students design, supply and install part of the exhibition.

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6 OMG! Van Eyck was here

The *Van Eyck in depth* exhibit fits in with *OMG! Van Eyck was here*, the cultural-tourist year celebrating Jan Van Eyck, which is organised by the City of Ghent. Till 30 June 2020, Ghent pays homage to Jan Van Eyck, the Flemish Master who is inextricably bound up with the city thanks to his world-renowned masterpiece, the Lamb of God. With a year's worth of activities and events, Ghent wants to demonstrate how, after six centuries, the legacy of one of the world's most exceptional artists is still part of both the city's and its inhabitants' DNA. Visual arts, theatre, dance performances, design, fashion, gastronomy, music and even shops will bathe in the Van Eyck atmosphere, as well as the ambience of his brilliant work of art, according to the City of Ghent.



Campaign image, through www.visitgent.be.

The GUM does not want to pass up the opportunities that *OMG! Van Eyck was here* provides us with. The theme year offers the GUM a unique opportunity to shed light on the Flemish Master in its own distinct way – with a brand-new approach, moving away from the more traditional physical-chemical (optical) research that occupies centre stage in the restoration. This way, we can share our particular perspective, our own methods with the world. Moreover, it presents us with the opportunity to launch the GUM as a Ghent museum, as a **new force to be reckoned with in the Ghent and Flemish museum landscape.**

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7 We welcome a wide audience

Van Eyck in depth is aimed at a varied range of target audiences: 'value seekers' and visitors of the *OMG! Van Eyck was here* theme year, science lovers and families. And, of course, the broad UGent network with its 15,000 employees (UGent and the Ghent University Hospital), 45,000 students and more than 100,000 alumni, and their families.

Van Eyck in depth opens its doors during the GUM's **festive opening month** on from 3 till 31 Octobre 2020. We look forward to an easily accessible, extremely diversified **and free urban festival featuring art, science & food**, targeted at a wide audience from Ghent and from far beyond the city limits. This weekend offers the GUM a unique opportunity to welcome a diversified group of visitors.

The museum's sustainability policy focuses on the climate and the environment, but also on **social sustainability**, as well as on an inclusive policy that connects the museum with the superdiverse city in which it is situated. We will work closely with other organisations dedicated to naturalisation, diversity, integration and equal opportunities organisations (e.g. IN-Gent, Cel Diversiteit Gent, Diversiteitswerf Gent/Social Track, UiTPAS...). Fair entrance fees, with a number of reduced rates (e.g. for young people, the elderly, the differently abled, minority groups) throughout the rest of the year will guarantee that a diverse group of people will get the opportunity to enjoy the temporary exhibition. We, for example, offer a reduced UiTPAS ticket at a cost of € 1.6.

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8 Our partners

This temporary exhibit could not have been realised without the support of:

- The City of Ghent, which backs this project through the City Marketing Fund as part of the theme year *OMG! Van Eyck was here.*
- The National Lottery players

Many thanks also go out to Ghent University for its continuing support, and to all our partners inside and outside of the university who collaborated on this first temporary exhibition.



9 GUM online

This is where you can find the GUM online:

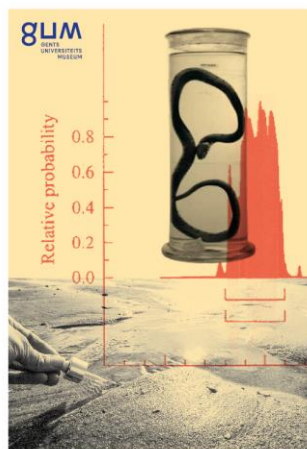
Website : www.gum.gent

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GUMgent

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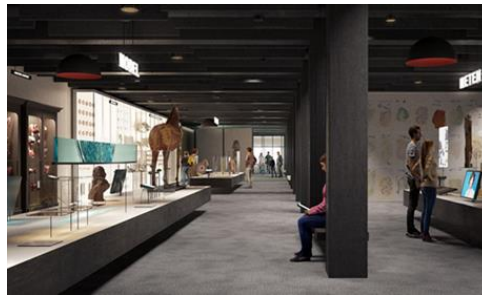


10 Visual materials

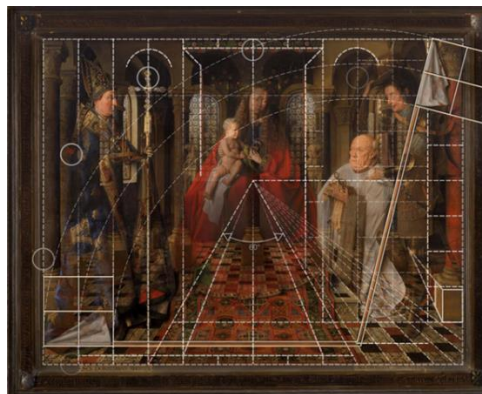
IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THIS LINK.



Flyer GUM – ‘Van Eyck in de diepte’/ ‘Van Eyck in depth’



3D visualisation GUM - © GUM – Image: Handelsreizigers in Ideeën – Koen Bovée



Jan van Eyck - Madonna with Canon Joris van der Paele – geometric diagrams in composition and perspective © Musea Brugge, www.lukasweb.be – Art in Flanders, photo: Hugo Maertens

Van Eyck in depth



The future GUM, in the heart of the Ghent Botanical Garden



*Marjan Doom – GUM Director
Photo: Sophie Nuytten*

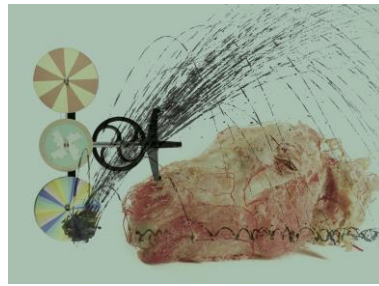
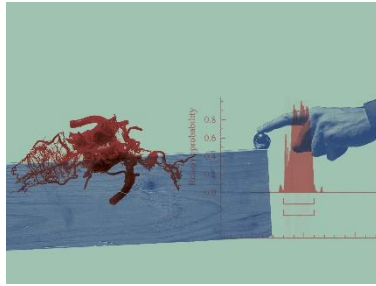


The future GUM, with the mural of ROA (picture: Michiel Devijver)

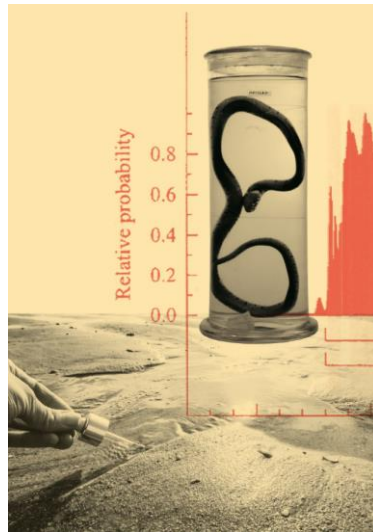


The future GUM, with the mural of ROA (© GUM)

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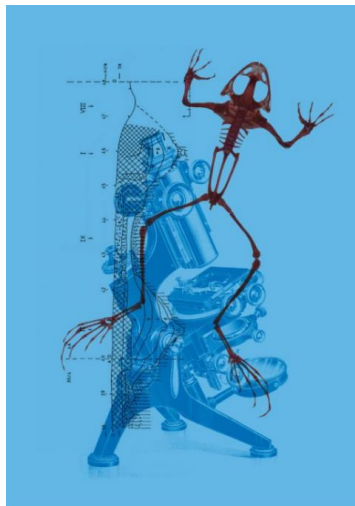


*GUM – Forum for Science, Doubt & Art
Design: Pjotr*



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