

Van Eyck An Optical Revolution

The MSK is announcing new loans that will be on show in Ghent from 1 February 2020 at the largest Van Eyck-exhibition ever

On 1 February 2020, the largest exhibition ever to focus on Jan van Eyck is opening at the Museum of Fine Arts Ghent (MSK). More than 40 000 visitors have already bought their tickets and visitors from countries from all over the world, including Japan, Russia and the US, are getting ready for their visit to Ghent. Today, 2 months before the opening, the MSK is announcing yet another sneak peek.

New loans and restorations/conservations

It is with great pride that the MSK can confirm the exhibition will include an exceptional loan from the National Gallery: Jan van Eyck's 'Portrait of a Man (Léal souvenir)'. This masterpiece is one of the three Van Eycks in the National Gallery's collection and, together with the Ghent Altarpiece, is the earliest dated painting in the oeuvre of the master. Paintings by Van Eyck are rarely allowed to leave the museums where they are held, and that certainly holds true for 'Portrait of a Man (Léal souvenir)'. Moreover, the masterpiece is currently undergoing conservation especially for the occasion.

In addition to this enigmatic masterpiece from the National Gallery, the MSK is announcing that the inspiring 'Portrait of Jan de Leeuw' from the Kunsthistorisch Museum in Vienna will be joining the impressive portrait gallery of the exhibition. The intense glance of the sitter, possibly a friend of the painter, transcends the distance between art and reality and is ultimate proof of Van Eyck's genius.

Finally, some museums have taken the opportunity to have the loans undergo a conservation and / or restoration treatment especially for the exhibition. As a result, the public will be able to discover various masterpieces in their original condition for the first time in the MSK, as only Van Eyck's contemporaries were able to admire them until now. In addition to 'Portrait of a Man (Léal Souvenir)' from the National Gallery, 'Portrait of Baudouin de Lannoy' from the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin and the prestigious 'Turin-Milan Book of Hours' (Museo Civico d'Arte Antica / Palazzo Madama, Turin), which includes miniatures attributed to Jan van Eyck, are undergoing a treatment.

More Van Eyck than ever shown together

There are only twenty remaining panel paintings by Jan van Eyck and at least half of them are coming to the exhibition. The MSK is bringing them together with works by Van Eyck's workshop, fifteenth and sixteenth-century copies of paintings by Van Eyck of which the original has been lost over time, and over 100 masterpieces by contemporaries and followers of the Master. These will be spread over no fewer than 13 galleries in the Museum of Fine Arts Ghent.

These masterpieces by Van Eyck will be shown:

- Jan and Hubert van Eyck, *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* (The Ghent Altarpiece), 1432 (outer panels of the closed Altarpiece) St Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent
 - The Archangel Gabriel and the Prophet Zachariah
 - City-view and the Sybil of Eritrea, with Adam on the verso
 - Interior and the Sybil of Cumae, with Eve on the verso
 - The Prophet Micah and the Virgin of the Annunciation
 - Joos Vijd
 - John the Baptist
 - John the Evangelist
 - Elisabeth Borluut
- Jan van Eyck, *The Madonna at the Fountain*, 1439
Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp
- Jan van Eyck, *Portrait of Baudouin de Lannoy*, ca 1435
Gemäldegalerie der Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin
- Jan van Eyck, *The Annunciation Diptych*, c. 1433-1435
Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid
- Jan van Eyck, *Portrait of a Man with Blue Chaperon*, c. 1428-1430
Museum National Brukenthal, Sibiu (Romania)
- Jan van Eyck, *St Barbara of Nicomedia*, 1437
Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp
- Jan van Eyck, *The Annunciation*, c. 1434-1436
Andrew W. Mellon Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- Jan van Eyck, *The Turin-Milan Book of Hours*, c. 1420-1440
Palazzo Madama, Turin
- Jan van Eyck, *St Francis Receives the Stigmata*, c. 1430-1432
Philadelphia Museum of Art, John G. Johnson Collection
- Jan van Eyck, *Portrait of a Man (Léal souvenir, or Tymotheos)*, 1432
The National Gallery, London
- Jan van Eyck, *Portrait of Jan de Leeuw*, 1436
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Gemäldegalerie
- Jan van Eyck, *Portrait of Margareta van Eyck*, 1439 (until 09.03.2020)
Museum Brugge – Groeningemuseum, Bruges

These works by Jan van Eyck and workshop will be shown:

- Jan van Eyck and workshop, *The Madonna at the Fountain*, c. 1440
Private Collection
- Jan van Eyck and workshop, *The Crucifixion*, c. 1430
Gemäldegalerie der Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin
- Jan van Eyck and workshop, *The Crucifixion*, c. 1445
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam
- Jan van Eyck (workshop), *The Three Marys at the Tomb*, c. 1440
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam
- Jan van Eyck (workshop), *St Jerome in his Study*, c. 1442
Detroit Institute of Art
- Jan van Eyck (workshop), *The Crucifixion*, c. 1445
Galleria Giorgio Franchetti alla Ca' d'Oro, Venezia
- Jan van Eyck (workshop), *The Twelve Apostles*, c. 1445
Grafische Sammlung Albertina, Vienna
- Jan van Eyck (workshop), *Madonna and Child with St John the Baptist*, c. 1440
Musée du Louvre, Paris
- Jan van Eyck (workshop), *Portrait of a Man with a Chaperon*, fifteenth century
Musée du Louvre, Département des Arts Graphiques, Paris

International tour de force

These works will be complemented by more than 100 works of art by contemporaries and followers of the Flemish master. Various masterpieces from internationally renowned collections will be on show in Belgium for the first time, or will be shown together for the first time. An exceptional series of paintings by great Italian contemporaries such as Fra Angelico, Pisanello, Masaccio and Benozzo Gozzoli, who started their own painting revolution in Florence at the same time as Van Eyck did in the Netherlands, will also be added. The juxtaposition between Italy and Van Eyck has never before been presented in an exhibition in this way.

What can the visitor expect?

The exhibition unravels the myths surrounding the artist and places his revolutionary technique, his oeuvre and his influence in a new perspective. The exhibition will bring visitors closer to the genius of this Flemish Master than ever before, as it presents paintings, sculptures, miniature art and drawings.

The eight outer panels from the closed 'Ghent Altarpiece' are at the heart of the exhibition. For the first time in history, an exhibition outside of St Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent will be dedicated to these revolutionary panels. The panels will be shown separately in different galleries throughout the exhibition so you will be able to come closer to Van Eyck's mastery than ever before. After the exhibition they will return to the cathedral and will never leave again.

The panels by Van Eyck (and his workshop) will guide the visitor through the exhibition, which is built around themes including 'Van Eyck and the Burgundian court', 'Sin and Salvation', 'Space', 'Mother and Child', 'The Word of God', 'Architecture', 'Portraits' and 'The Divine Portrait'. During their stroll through thirteen galleries of exceptional art, the visitor will undoubtedly be amazed by Van Eyck's optical revolution.

Don't miss your presale ticket!

The museum has capacity for 240.000 visitors over the duration of the exhibition and more than 40.000 fans have already purchased their ticket. Early deciders receive a presale discount, paying a maximum of 25 euros per ticket instead of 28 euros during the exhibition. Concession/reduced rates are available at 22, 15, 5 or 2 euros. The multi-lingual audio guide is included in the ticket price.

Buy your ticket in advance, skip the queue and become part of this absolute once-in-a-lifetime experience! Book now via www.vaneyck2020.be

Jan van Eyck in Bruges

In addition to the exhibition in Ghent, the Groeningemuseum in Bruges will present "Jan van Eyck in Bruges" (12/3 – 12/6/2020). This more intimate show highlights aspects of the artist's environment in Bruges and focusses on the creation of Van Eyck's masterpiece "Madonna of Canon Joris van der Paele" and his other works in the city.

Information and contacts

- 'Van Eyck. An Optical Revolution', 01.02.2020-30.04.2020
- Museum of Fine Arts Ghent, F. Scribiedreef 1, B-9000 Ghent
- Info and tickets: www.vaneyck2020.be
- Scientific committee: Till-Holger Borchert (Director Musea Brugge), Prof. dr. Jan Dumolyn (Ghent University) and Prof. dr. Maximiliaan Martens (Ghent University)
- Johan De Smet, MSK, Head of the Project, tel. +32(0)9 323 67 41, email johan.desmet@stad.gent
- Soetkin Bruneel, MSK, Press and Communications, tel. +32(0)9 323 67 64/ +32(0)476 60 08 96, email soetkin.bruneel@stad.gent
- Karen Rodts, MSK, Communications, +32(0)9 323 67 10/ +32(0)474 82 80 39, email karen.rodts@stad.gent
- Peggy Hobbels, MSK, Events, Trade, Partnerships and Sponsoring, tel. +32(0)9 323 67 80, email peggy.hobbels@stad.gent
- For practical questions regarding the exhibition visit, you can contact +32(0)9 210 10 75 or info@vaneyckexpo.be

This exhibition is made possible by the close collaboration with the Flemish Community -- Department of Culture, Youth & Media, the City of Ghent, Visit Flanders, St Bavo's Cathedral, the Ghent University Art Historical Department, the Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies at Ghent University, the Flemish Research Centre for the Arts in Burgundian Netherlands, and the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA).

