



Press release: Ghent pays tribute in a spectacular way to its greatest Flemish Master with 'OMG! Van Eyck was here'

When one says Ghent, one says the Mystic Lamb. Ghent is the city where Van Eyck painted his world-famous altarpiece. With 'OMG! Van Eyck was here' Ghent puts the unbreakable bond between the city and the great master in the spotlight. For 'OMG! Van Eyck was here' the City of Ghent composed a large and varied programme together with many proud Ghent citizens and partners from the cultural, tourist and economic sector.

Van Eyck year extended until spring 2021

The corona crisis has also hit the Van Eyck year hard. Many events and activities unfortunately have been suspended or postponed. The theme year 'OMG! Van Eyck was here' is therefore extended by six months. To avoid losing the program that should have made 2020 a festive year, the Van Eyck year is extended until June 24, 2021 with the Saint John's Day as the closing event. A unique open-air folk festival with dance, medieval street food, folkloric performances, spectacular tableaux vivants and troubadours.

The largest Van Eyck exhibition ever

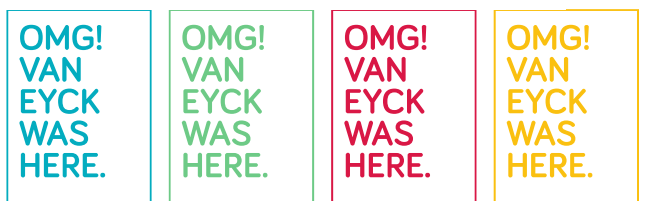
The exhibition 'Van Eyck. An optical revolution' will be one of the absolute highlights during OMG! Van Eyck was here and it will run from 1 February to 30 April 2020 in the Museum of Fine Arts (MSK). More than half of all preserved works of the Flemish master will travel from all over the world to Ghent, which will make this the largest Van Eyck exhibition in world history.

www.vaneyck2020.be

Brand-new visitors' centre for the Mystic Lamb

A second highlight is the opening of a brand-new visitors' centre in St Bavo's Cathedral on 26 March 2021, which will allow visitors to admire the largely restored Mystic Lamb in full glory and in optimal conditions. With the help of augmented reality, visitors will be able to travel deep into the past and experience the eventful history of the masterpiece and the Ghent Cathedral as if they were there themselves.

www.sintbaafskathedraal.be



The 7 Senses Tour: experience Ghent through the senses of Van Eyck

As of 2 July 2020, the 7 Senses Tour will allow visitors to experience Ghent in the same titillating way as great master Jan Van Eyck must have done in the 15th century: with all senses fully active.

Smelling, feeling, tasting, hearing, seeing, spiritual experience and movement are all activated during this unique city walk. Sensory experiences alternate with the splendid medieval heritage of Ghent and street art inspired on Van Eyck by such big names like Pastel and Strook. A surprising, new way to experience the city, for both residents and visitors.

www.vaneyckwashere.be/sevensensestour

Van Eyck in the 21st century: multimedia spectacle in St Nicholas' Church

From 26 June 2020 to June 2021 artist Mat Collishaw brings a digital and musical reinterpretation of the Mystic Lamb with 'Lights on Van Eyck'. An immersive trip through the world of Van Eyck with stunning, contemporary video mapping and a great light spectacle. 'Lights on Van Eyck' is a collaboration between Mankind and CREATE.eu. Both were major crowd pleasers with their dancing robot arms and fire-breathing dragon during the previous Ghent Light Festival in 2018.

www.lightsonvaneyck.be

World premiere composition by Arvo Pärt about the Mystic Lamb

The City of Ghent commissioned the internationally renowned Estonian composer Arvo Pärt to create 'Für Jan Van Eyck', a work for choir and organ inspired by the famous masterpiece of Van Eyck. The world premiere takes place on 22 and 24 September 2020 during Ghent Festival of Flanders in St Bavo's Cathedral and St James' Church. Pärt entrusts the execution of his brand-new composition to Collegium Vocale, the acclaimed Ghent vocal ensemble of conductor Philippe Herreweghe. Collegium Vocale celebrates its 50th birthday in 2020.

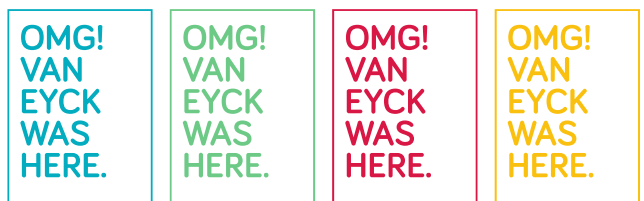
Smakeleyck: Burgundian gastronomy through the eyes of a Flemish Foodie

Inspired by the 15th-century culinary heritage, Flemish Foodie Olly Ceulenaere, chef of the Ghent restaurant Publiek, is looking for contemporary recipes with historical ingredients for OMG! Van Eyck was here. Accessible to everyone, but with a special twist. And especially made with qualitative, regional products from a local grower or maker. For more than a year, the Ghent catering business, chip shops, bakers, but also passionate home cooks will be stimulated with cooking tips, dishes, workshops and many tastings of well-known and lesser known medieval dishes and products. The Burgundian gastronomy with a contemporary look!

www.vaneyckwashere.be/smakeleyck

Today's Ghent masters get inspired

The unprecedented virtuosity and the unparalleled eye for detail of Van Eyck in the Mystic Lamb have been fascinating and inspiring new generations of masters for centuries. For OMG! Van Eyck was here more than seventy makers from Ghent have agreed to make a product or design inspired by the famous altarpiece. They are all passionate



professionals who, like Jan Van Eyck in the 15th century, keep the traditional mastery alive with great care, knowledge and patience.

The Van Eyck-makers practise a wide variety of trades, which will result in a great diversity of unique products: jewellery, hats, bouquets, beer, carpets, scarves, handbags, ceramics, glassware...

The exclusive and special products will be for sale from February 2020 in the Van Eyck Shop in the Raadskelder (Council Cellar) under the belfry.

www.vaneyckwashere.be/makers

OMG! Van Eyck was here: an extensive programme

Countless partners from Ghent give shape to OMG! Van Eyck was here in 2020. The Design Museum Gent examines the impact of Van Eyck's use of bright colours on design history in the exhibition 'Kleureyck. Van Eyck's Colours in Design'. Families with young children can indulge themselves in the exhibition 'Hello Jan. The Little Realm of Jan Van Eyck' in The World of Kina, the puppet theatre play 'The Mystery Revealed by TAPTOE's ERF or the children's play about Van Eyck by production company 4Hoog. The theme of the Ghent Floralties in 2020 is 'My paradise, a worldly garden' Maaseik Square next to St Bavo's Cathedral will be transformed into Fruitgaard XL ('Fruit Orchard XL'), a new park full of plants and flowers that can be found on the Ghent Altarpiece.

During the Ghent Festival of Flanders, music lovers can go on a musical journey of 12 top compositions inspired by the Mystic Lamb during 'The Musical Mystic Lamb' or they can be carried away in the concert rituals of Amenra during 'In den Troon Verheven' in the Handelsbeurs. And these are just a few of the events and activities that have been confirmed so far.

OMG! Van Eyck was here will be a theme year that will shake the foundations of the city. A feast that Ghent citizens and visitors cannot afford to miss.

You can find the full programme on www.vaneyckwashere.be.

Consult the press files of our partners and initiators at www.vaneyckwashere.be/pressroom.

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