



EXHIBITION
TOULOUSE-LAUTREC
EDGAR DEGAS
AND THE BOHEMIA OF PARIS
IN THE « BELLE ÉPOQUE »



CURATOR OF THE EXHIBITION


Jean-Christophe Hubert graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities at the University of Liège, specializing in Modern Art History. He began his career in 1996 with the nonprofit organization Art&Fact and teaches at the Centre de Formation permanente des Classes moyennes et des PME Liège-Huy-Waremme. As a curator or consultant, he has participated in exhibitions at the Musée du Chapitre de Soignies, the Abbaye du Val-Dieu, the Château d'Aigremont, and the Musée d'Art moderne de Liège for the Ministry of Heritage of the Walloon Region. In 2000 he became curator of the Val-Dieu Abbey Museum of Art and History. Inside this magnificent 13th-century building, he will open an exhibition devoted to Rembrandt's engraved works and establish a collaboration with the Rembrandt House in Amsterdam.

A doctoral student at the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (National Fund for Scientific Research) of the University of Liège, he then devoted himself to research before finally devoting himself to curating exhibitions. He developed this orientation within the nonprofit organization Collections et Patrimoines. As art director, he led exhibitions such as Pierre-Paul Rubens in Eupen, Leonardo da Vinci in Brussels, and Sos Planet in Liège.

Curator of the Brussels Museum of Letters and Manuscripts until 2012, he participated in the development of this Brussels cultural hub and saw the opening of seven prestigious exhibitions, including Georges Simenon, Bruxelles Capitale des Arts and L'Étincelle surréaliste. Nearly twenty lectures attracted large audiences and prestigious speakers such as Jacques Bredael, Hervé Hasquin, Marc Eyskens, and Patrick Weber.

At the same time, he has developed projects at such notable sites as the Oud-Sint-Jan site in Bruges, the Château de Waroux in Ans, the Malmundarium in Malmedy, and the Pouhon Pierre le Grand in Spa, and he specializes in curating and staging museums and exhibitions.

In 2010, Jean-Christophe Hubert became curator of the Pablo Picasso Collection in Bruges, at the famous site of the former Hôpital Saint-Jean. He has curated exhibitions devoted to Félicien Rops, Auguste Rodin, Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Jean-Michel Folon, Salvador Dali, Joan Miro, Henri Matisse, Marc Chagall, René Magritte, Pol Bury, and Pierre Alechinsky. He has curated more than 120 exhibitions of 19th- and 20th-century art, including, most recently, the Pablo Picasso exhibition at Palazzo Paesana in Turin. He is the author of more than 30 books on art. His favorite subject is the work and personality of artists in front of their audience.





FOR TOURISM AND SCHOOLS

These exhibitions are an educational tool for exploring art and sharing it with children. The presentation of original works and the use of specific educational tools such as games, crafts, and books provide a fun way to explore an artist, an era, or a technique.

These are not art workshops proper, and the goal is not to learn a technique or artistic style, but rather to stimulate the imagination, educate the child's eye, and have fun doing what the artist does, in order to better understand his or her work. In this way, children learn to see, feel and decode works of art on their own. Art as a way to grow, to learn about others and ourselves. Art for enjoyment. Art to better understand our world, our society, the image it conveys and why. Art that we can dissect to better appreciate it.... Art that helps us learn to live together.

The tools

Children's panels. In the exhibition setting, panels were designed especially for children and games were created especially for them.

Free brochures for families. All families with children will receive a free 12-page booklet with games for their children during the exhibition. Thus, while parents visit the exhibition, children can play games to discover the same works in a different way, with an educational approach. The goal is to make the visit as enjoyable as possible for young people.


A downloadable educational package. To prepare for the visit or to extend the exploration at home, families and schools can download an original educational packet. The download is free of charge.

The different programs offered

For the general public: visit the exhibition with the help of a small "guidebook" and participate in workshops led by project leaders and related to the themes of the permanent and temporary exhibitions.

For school groups: children, divided into small groups, visit the exhibition. The exhibition is led by animators. They encourage children to watch, explore and experience the exhibition, as well as to express themselves and engage in dialogue.

For current and future educators: Guided tour of the exhibition and discussion with project leaders (by appointment).



Better understand those around us

The main goal of this exhibition is to enable the general public, and especially young people and children, to discover art, its history, and its fascination through a concept that meets their expectations. Unfortunately, too many exhibitions are designed without children in mind. The permanent exhibition, designed entirely for children, presents a two-level itinerary that allows children to discover works by Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Miró, Folon, Braque, Magritte, Dali, etc. The route plays an educational role, encouraging visitors to extend their discovery by reading, traveling or visiting other exhibitions...

One of the project's priorities is to desacralize the relationship with art, without oversimplifying it and integrating it into social practices. The goal is to encourage open-mindedness to differences, cultures and the environment by developing an artistic and cultural dynamic among children, families and even the general public.

The goal of this project is to provide an opportunity to learn more about ourselves and those around us. The exhibits are participatory and fun. The entertainers play a key role. They bring the exhibition to life, creating an atmosphere of trust, giving children a voice and encouraging them to listen attentively and warmly so that they can express their feelings about the artworks.





EXHIBITION TOULOUSE-LAUTREC EDGAR DEGAS THE « BELLE ÉPOQUE » AND BOHEMIA

EXHIBITION FEATURES


The exhibition brings together 100 pieces: engravings, drawings, posters, lithographs and photographs by Toulouse-Lautrec, Edgar Degas and other Belle Epoque artists, all original and validated by the estates.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition presents around one hundred works by the greatest artists of the late 19th century, centered around Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Born in 1864, the works of this world-renowned artist rub shoulders with works by Rodin, Degas and Renoir. Not exactly spoiled by nature, Toulouse-Lautrec was born of a consanguineous union between cousins. He was short, ugly and suffered from a speech impediment. A rather poor student, he chose to become an artist.

Toulouse-Lautrec, along with his friends Rodin, Degas and Renoir, was very fond of women and dancers. Toulouse-Lautrec's personal fortune enabled him to frequent the best brothels of the day. He had a very human character and respected prostitutes. He painted many of them, and often struck up genuine friendships with many of them. In particular, he frequented the famous star dancer of the Moulin Rouge, Jane Avril. Toulouse-Lautrec frequented brothels, particularly the one on rue des Moulins, where he stayed.






Toulouse-Lautrec became a post-impressionist painter, an Art Nouveau illustrator and a remarkable lithographer. Along with his friends Rodin, Renoir and Degas, he sketched the Parisian bohemian lifestyle at the end of the 19th century. He was considered the "soul of Montmartre", the Parisian district where he lived. His works often depict life at the Moulin Rouge and other cabarets and theaters in Montmartre and Paris. In particular, he had a permanent room at La Fleur blanche.

Three of the well-known women he portrayed were Jane Avril, singer Yvette Guilbert, and Louise Weber, better known as La Goulue, the eccentric dancer who created the cancan.

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec came from an aristocratic family in the southwest of France. Two successive leg fractures crippled him and stunted his growth. This probably explains his relentless drawing and his taste for the company of the underclass. An assiduous visitor to the cabarets and brothels of Montmartre, he became famous for his many portraits of prostitutes and dancers. In 1891, he immortalized music-hall star "La Goulue" for the Moulin Rouge poster. It was also he who gave lithography all its credentials. Institutionalized in 1899 following two attacks of "delirium tremens" caused by the amount of alcohol he consumed each day, he owes his release only to the relentlessness with which he produced magnificent works dealing with the circus. He illustrated Jules Renard's "Histoires naturelles", and was a member of the jury for the poster section of the 1900 Universal Exhibition. But illness and exhaustion caught up with him, and he died at the age of thirty-seven.

This exhibition-event Toulouse-Lautrec brings together some one hundred drawings, sketches, original lithographs and posters by the artist, whose 150th birthday is being celebrated. The exhibition explores Toulouse-Lautrec's world, his favorite subjects and the many encounters that marked his career. It was in Paris, where he was first taught academically by Bonnat and then by Cormon, that his style took root. It was here that he discovered the entertainment district of Montmartre. His studio was located near the boulevards de Clichy and de Rochechouart, where cabarets and concert cafés flourished. His nocturnal evenings and strolls on the Butte took him to the Moulin Rouge, the Chat Noir, the Moulin de la Galette, the Ambassadeurs and the Mirliton. All the personalities that made up Parisian bohemia at the time were to be found there. The exhibition showcases Toulouse-Lautrec's entire world, from singer Aristide Bruant to Moulin Rouge star La Goulue, including Jane Avril and Yvette Guilbert.





The exhibition shows Toulouse-Lautrec's need for human, suffering and carnal reality. Alongside the ephemeral stars of the Butte Montmartre, Toulouse-Lautrec's world also included the Butte's many "brothels". The artist felt a sense of solidarity with outcasts, troublemakers, anarchists and asocials. Toulouse-Lautrec's prostitutes are depicted in all kinds of positions. They put on their stockings or take off their shirts. They comb their hair or use the toilet. They are attending to a "visit", in front of the bed, without any vulgar allusion to their profession. The customer, if there is one, is represented by a cylinder leaning on a chair, by a shadow on the wall, by an overcoat hanging on a nail. True icons of Toulouse-Lautrec's world, Rolande, Marcelle, Mademoiselle Popo, Mademoiselle Pois-Vert, Elsa la Viennoise and Madame Poupoule are not just partners, but models for the artist.

Degas took part in the first exhibition of the Impressionist group in 1874 at the Durand-Ruel gallery. He quickly became famous for his paintings of young ballet dancers, female nudes and horse races, in which he sought the instantaneous and the ephemeral. He was particularly interested in ballet, which he saw as an ideal subject for observing rapid movement, and a vast possibility for spatial composition. Degas was especially sensitive to backstage scenes, work behind the curtain, exercises and rehearsals. He was also interested in the rich society that could now afford the luxury of shows, theater, music and dance. For Degas, this microcosm became a privileged place for observing human relationships and the contradictory relationship between art, work and business.



Degas stopped working in 1912. His last years were sad, especially as he had outlived many of his close friends. He died alone in Paris on September 27, 1917. After his death, many works were discovered that were not intended for exhibition, but which illustrate Degas' creativity and intimacy. This is particularly true of the monotypes that form the centerpiece of this exhibition.





« Toulouse-Lautrec & Edgar Degas » exhibition at BOCHOLTZ
Maison internationale de Liège



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« Toulouse-Lautrec & Edgar Degas » exhibition at ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE - Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



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