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www.visitbrussels.be/comics
BRUSSELS IS THE CAPITAL CITY OF COMIC STRIP!

In each city district, as you wend your way along the streets and alleyways of Brussels, comic strip is everywhere. It’s a source of national pride, and that can be felt particularly strongly in our capital city. Because so many authors from Brussels have contributed to the rapid growth in popularity of the 9th art, you’ll find out all about it when you visit the Belgian Comic Strip Center, entirely dedicated to comic strip, when you take a stroll around the “Comic Strip Village” or when you come across monumental figurines that have come straight out of several albums by Belgian authors. Comic strip is an art in its own right and the people of Brussels are particularly fond of it.

www.visitbrussels.be/comics
1. BRUSSELS AND COMIC STRIP

A. BIRTH OF COMIC STRIP IN BRUSSELS

Telling stories through a series of images is something that’s always been done all over the world. However, specialists agree that Belgium holds great sway in the sphere of what we now call comic strip. The 9th art is one of the themes that have been shaping the identity of its capital city, Brussels, for nearly a century.

The story of Franco-Belgian comic strip really began in 1929 with Hergé, Georges Remi. It was in Le Petit Vingtième, the youth supplement of the Brussels daily paper Le Vingtième Siècle, that he gave life to that most famous of reporters: Tintin. He also invented “la ligne claire” (the clear line), a strict style of graphic art that’s unmistakeable.

After the Second World War, the world of comic strip was influenced by the predominance of two newspapers for young people: Le Journal Tintin published by Les Éditions de Lombard and Le Journal de Spirou published by Dupuis. These magazines launched or worked together with the biggest comic strip authors of the 20th century. Hergé (Tintin / Quick & Flupke), Peyo (Schtroumpfs or Smurfs / Johan et Pirlouit or Johan and Peewit), Walthéry (Natacha), Franquin (Gaston Lagaffe / Marsupilami), Edgar P. Jacobs (Blake and Mortimer), Roba (Boule et Bill or Billy and Buddy), and Jijé (Blondin and Cirage).

Although Flemish comic strip was not as well known among French-speakers, it also proved a huge hit, with the series Jommeke by Jef Nys, De Kiekeboes by Merho and Nero by Marc Sleen. What’s more, Suske en Wiske (Bob et Bobette or Spike and Suzy) by Willy Vandersteen is still achieving international success today.

Today more than ever, comic strip explores all genres and no school attempts to dominate. The world of movie-making is taking an increasing interest in Belgian comic strips, finding in them perfect scenarios enjoyed by both children and adults.
B. FROM COMIC STRIP HERO TO FILM STAR
How fortunate that the Brussels comic strip heroes are made of paper – they would otherwise be getting big ideas of themselves, now that they’ve made it into the film world. And Tintin is not the only one.

Tintin is still the number one, as always. It was none other than Steven Spielberg who turned this Brussels comic strip hero into a film star. The legendary American film director discovered Hergé’s oeuvre when film reviewers in the early eighties pointed out the similarities between Indiana Jones and Tintin. Spielberg was an instant fan, and also the one selected by Hergé to film Tintin. But he took his time – about thirty years. Tintin’s world premiere didn’t take place until October 2011 in Brussels. The strips *The Crab with the Golden Claws*, *The Secret of the Unicorn* and *Red Rackham’s Treasure* were fused into one action-packed adventure film. Advanced technology was employed to bring Tintin and the motley crew of supporting characters to life. The end result is animation, but the basis was laid using real actors. As a tribute, Spielberg gave Hergé a cameo in the first scene of the film. Hergé is the street artist who draws Tintin at the flea market in the Vossenplein.

The Adventures of Tintin: the secret of the Unicorn is to have a sequel, directed by another giant of the film world who is also a lover of Tintin: Peter Jackson, director of the Lord Of The Rings trilogy.

2011 was also a great year for the Smurfs. Peyo (pen name of Belgian Pierre Culliford), first drew the famous little blue creatures with white gnome hats and trousers in 1958. The strips were a big success and the animation film, The Smurfs and the Magic Flute, followed in 1975. The American break-through came in the eighties, thanks to the hundreds of cartoons produced by Hanna-Barbera for television. In the summer of 2011, Papa Smurf, Grouchy Smurf, Clumsy Smurf and Brainy Smurf conquered the hearts of many children in a Hollywood production. ‘The Smurfs’ is not a cartoon but live action with three-dimensional, computer-generated smurfs. Pursued by the evil wizard Gargamel and his cat Azrael, the smurfs land in the New York of the present day. In July 2013 the movie “The Smurfs 2” took our little blue creatures on a crazy adventure in Paris.

Tintin and the smurfs are not the only comic strip heroes who have made it to film stardom. In 2008 and 2011, two French blockbusters were released based on Largo Winch - a millionaire in jeans with the charm of a playboy and the superhuman powers of the traditional comic book hero. Largo Winch is a creation of the Brussels duo, Jean Van Hamme (screenplay) and Philippe Francq (art work). Together they collaborate on the spare themes of the popular comic strip of the same name.

Spring of 2012 at last saw the release of ‘On the Trail of Marsupilami’ by Alain Chabat, the French director who previously had a hit with ‘Asterix and Obelix Meet Cleopatra’. Marsupilami, a mysterious creature from the Palombian forest that can do the craziest things with its tail, was created by Franquin, the grand master of the Belgian comic strip who also gave us Gaston Lagaffe, among others.

It is very likely that even more comic strip heroes will take the step on to the screen. For example, one project is adapting The Yellow M’ - ‘By Jove!’, one of the most popular adventures of the now classic Blake and Mortimer series by Edgar P. Jacobs.

Niels Ruel (Journalist)
2. COMIC STRIP, PART OF BRUSSELS' HERITAGE

A. BROCHURES ON COMICS

BRUSSELS, CAPITAL CITY OF COMIC STRIP
Fans of comic strip? You won’t be disappointed! As the acknowledged capital of comic strip, Brussels is always giving pride of place to the 9th art. Several museums, galleries, markets, festivals and specialist stores are entirely dedicated to it. But one of the most amazing activities is undoubtedly the famous comic strip trail. Meet Tintin, Astérix, Blake & Mortimer, Bob & Bobette (Spike & Suzy) or Lucky Luke as you wander down a street, around a museum or simply past a café. As you come across forty or so monumental frescoes you’ll get to know these legendary characters and their talented authors. The only walk of its kind!

This minimap is available in English, French, Dutch and German at the price of 1 €.

TINTIN IN BRUSSELS
Brussels is indubitably the city of Tintin: the city where he was born and spent all his life, whilst continuing to remain a great source of pride to the city. Every small Brussels child grew up devouring the adventures of this intrepid globetrotter who is an integral part of Brussels culture. A leisurely promenade in the footsteps of Tintin and his creator in the heart of Brussels. The map is available from all visitor centres around the city.

This minimap is available in English, French, Dutch, German and Spanish at the price of 1 €.

VISITBRUSSELS-SIZED FOR MARC SLEEN
Capital city of the 9th art is a title that Brussels is more entitled than ever to claim! This Region of contrasts is a constant source of inspiration for authors, offering a thousand and one landscapes which lend themselves easily to all kinds of adventures. Marc Sleen, the author of two hundred and seventeen albums of the Adventures of Nero, features in the Guinness Book of Records with this series imbued with beautiful Brussels. Take a fresh look at the capital city through the eyes of Marc Sleen and marvel like Nero in La Tour Noire (The Black Tower), "This capital city of ours really is beautiful!"

This minimap is only available in French and Dutch at the price of 1 €.

COMICS FOR KIDS
In search of comic strip frescoes
Did you know that Brussels has a total of about 50 comic strip frescoes? Visit.brussels invites children from 6 to 10 years of age to explore half of them, which can be found in the heart of the capital. They’ll come across Tintin, Ric Hochet, Stam & Pilou, Billy the Cat, Bob and Bobette (Spike and Suzy), and others. Paper heroes whom they’ll get to know better as they play a number of different games. Spot the difference, pictures for colouring in, a maze and many other fun inventions designed to attract their attention to the details of the frescoes. A few lines of text also tells them something about the lives of these characters and of the people who created them.

On the trail, they’ll also see the statue of Gaston Lagaffe, the famous new Smurf statue and the museums that are too good to miss! Armed with a pencil and their new book of games, the children will stride along the cobbledstones of Brussels in search of the comic strip treasures of our capital city, having lots of fun along the way!

This book of games is available in English, French, Dutch and German at the price of 2.50 €.

LET’S COLOUR BRUSSELS
Colour Brussels with Zinneke
Since the winter holidays, a new product for children aged between 4 and 7 is available in our shops: the colouring book “Let’s colour Brussels: colour Brussels with Zinneke!”. Through a series of drawings Zinneke introduces kids to the main themes proper to our capital city. The book is sold with a nice little case including 12 crayons.

The price of sales of the colouring book with the 12 crayons is 5 €.

BIP
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B. COMIC STRIP FRESCOES
See in more detail about fifty walls of the Comic Strip Walk. The story behind the series, anecdotes and key dates ... they'll hold no more secrets from you!

TINTIN
Feel like bumping into Belgium’s most famous comic strip hero? Then head for rue de l’Etuve, which is home to Manneken Pis. But it’s unlikely that Tintin, his dog Snowy and his friend Captain Haddock will have time to chat with you. The ace reporter and the foul-mouthed whisky lover are up to their ears in an adventure again. We even know which adventure. The drawing comes from “The Calculus Affair”. The eighteenth album in the series sees Professor Calculus abducted, first by Bordurian and then by Syldavian secret agents. He has invented an ultrasonic weapon that both countries would like to misemploy. Tintin and Haddock do their utmost to free their confused friend. Nearly 30 years after Hergé’s death, 1 million copies of his albums are still being sold each year. Tintin is published in 77 languages. None other than Steven Spielberg came up with the 2011 all-action animated film “The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn”.
Hergé, the pen name of Brussels cartoonist Georges Prosper Remi (1907-1983), is considered one of the greatest comic strip authors of all time. His debut came in 1929 in “Le Petit Vingtième”, the weekly youth supplement of the Catholic magazine “Le Vingtième Siècle”. His streamlined drawing style (the famous “ligne claire”) is famous and many regard his drawings as art. But his sense of movement, suspense, humour, adventure and great storytelling are equally important reasons why Tintin has never ceased to enthral readers.
Where? rue de l’Etuve, 1000 Brussels|Author: Hergé|Publisher: Casterman

THE PASSAGE
Internationally renowned comic book authors François Schuiten and Benoît Peeters like to suggest that the universe they depict in their Obscure Cities cycle really exists. The cities and worlds revealed in illustrious titles like Brüsel, Fever in Urbicand, The Archivist and L’Enfant Penché (The Leaning Child) resemble our own, yet are totally different. Are the dazzling, virtuoso drawings developments of visions of what the future might look like, but drawn in the past? Perspective changes with thinkers such as Jules Verne, Jose Luis Borges, Le Corbusier, Victor Horta and Franz Kafka in mind? Think up some of your own. Through lectures, exhibitions, and a comprehensive guide to the obscure cities and websites (www.urbicande.be), Schuiten and Peeters encourage everyone to cast their own light on The Obscure Cities. This works better if you already visited Brussels. The Palace of the Three Powers in Brüssel is the Palais de Justice building designed by architect Poelaert. The Great Hall of Zarbec very much looks like Schaarbeek railway station. The glasshouse city of Calvani must have come into existence after a visit to the Royal Greenhouses of Laken. On their website, Schuiten and Peeters have contended for years that passages exist. Passageways between the Earth and the so-called Counter-Earth, between Brussels and Brüsel. Is the comic strip mural in rue du Marché au Charbon an example of this kind of passageway? The bell tower in the centre of the fresco looks exactly like that of Notre Dame de Bon Secours just up the road. Intriguingly, not all of the blank brick facade is painted over. And did you immediately notice that the shadow figures are drawn at the bottom?
Where? rue du Marché au Charbon 19, 1000 Brussels|Authors: François Schuiten and Benoît Peeters|Publisher: Casterman
THE SCORPION
Go uphill from the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula to Treurenberg and you will come across Armando Catalano. A real hero, which you can tell from the look of determination as he waits fearlessly for the enemy, a choice of weapons that would meet with the approval of Zorro and D'Artagnan boots that would make Puss in Boots envious. And what about his jaw line, the trendy facial hair and the line of chest hair that draws attention to his thorax? Catalano is a real Casanova. And that's without even seeing the tattoo on his right shoulder. The hot-blooded fighter/pleasure-lover gets his nickname, The Scorpion, from this tattoo. His arch-enemy is Trebaldi, a cardinal who could rival Cardinal Richelieu in Alexandre Dumas's The Three Musketeers in terms of lust for power and depravity. With the help of his dreaded red warrior monks and a beautiful poisoner with gypsy blood, Trebaldi works his way up to the rank of pope. When he is not too busy hanging and burning dissidents, he reverts to hunting the Scorpion. Religious fanaticism is timeless, and was no less at home in the eighteenth century. Story writer Stéphane Desberg provides the cloak-and-dagger series with plenty of sword duels in sinister catacombs and other spectacular action scenes. The graceful, lively images are by Enrico Marini. Female characters with lascivious and sensual contours are among the specialties of this drawing talent from Switzerland.

Where? Treurenberg, 1000 Brussels|Artist: Marini|Story writer: Stéphane Desberg|Publisher: Dargaud

SPIKE AND SUZY
Anyone who has noticed the musculature of Manneken Pis will not be taken aback by the scene in rue de Laeken. Without stopping peeing, the famous symbol of Brussels holds five of Belgium's best-known comic strip heroes in one hand. Six actually, if we count Muffin, and we certainly ought to. Suzy's rag doll plays a key role in several adventures. Suzy is the girl with the egg-shaped head, in the white dress and with a bow in her hair. A headstrong damsel, Suzy has not stopped adventuring since 1945. She is ably assisted by the brave Spike. The fair-haired beanpole is nervous Aunt Sidonia. Although Ambrose looks quite respectable and straightforward in the mural, in actual fact he is a dunce, who often causes uproar, but is always good for a laugh. Jethro is a gentle musician. Spike and Suzy is the undisputed number one among Flemish family comic strips. In Flanders, De Kiekeboes by Merho sells better, but thanks to The Netherlands and French-speaking Belgium, Spike and Suzy is still the best-selling comic series in the Benelux. Translations are available in languages including French (Bob et Bobette), Afrikaans (Neelsie & Miemsie), Portuguese (Bibi & Baba) and Latin (Lucius et Lucia). Americans refer to Willy and Wanda, while Spike & Suzy is the British version. The 315th album rolled off the press in November 2011. The series was simply continued after the death of its creator Willy Vandersteen (1913-1990). Vandersteen was known as the Brueghel of the comic strip. Antwerp-born Vandersteen was a gifted artist and a masterful storyteller with lively powers of imagination and a keen sense of lowbrow humour. With that unique combination, he could have conquered the world.

Where? rue de Laeken 111, 1000 Brussels|Author: Willy Vandersteen|Publisher: Standaard

BILLY THE CAT
Enjoy the mischievous look and the enthusiasm with which the yellow and black striped cat floats over the cobblestones. The comic strip mural in the unobtrusive rue d'Ophem is a beacon of light and optimism. Billy the Cat appeared in 1981 in Spirou comic strip magazine but really only began his career in 1987. Its strength lies in the cheerful, polished drawings of Liège artist Stéphane Colman and the tone adopted by the American-Brussels writer Stephen Desberg. The series is part of the glorious tradition of the elegant Belgian children's comic strip that secretly delights many adults too. Living in the street is not easy, but luckily Billy not only has enemies but also a motley crew of friends such as the fat Sausage, Jumbo the Pigeon, Mister Hubert and Miss Cha-cha. The fact that the cat is actually a reincarnation of a boy, and the fact that he would like to return to normality, offers quite a range of possibilities. Other comic strips and ambitions prevented Colman and Desberg from taking it further. At the start of this century, the series was taken over by Liège cartoonist Peral. Billy the Cat is the star of an international cartoon film series. Comic strip and TV series take very different views of the origins of the transformation of boy into cat. In the strip cartoon, the brat Billy crosses the street without looking, and is reincarnated as a cat. The TV series makers were concerned that children would throw themselves in front of cars in the hope of turning into a cuddly cat. They opted for a magician turning Billy, a notorious tormenter of cats, into one himself.

Where? rue d'Ophem 24, 1000 Brussels|Author: Colman|Story Writer: Desberg|Publisher: Dupuis
CUBITUS
What’s the reason for the blissful smile on the chubby dog with the white fluffy hair? Is peeing theatrically without getting a fine so much fun? Or is he delighted to be pulling one over on Manneken Pis? Judging by the thunder cloud above his head, Manneken Pis doesn’t think much of his temporary replacement. Smarter than Rantanplan, lazier then Dogmatix, happier than Snoopy and less exemplary than Bessy or Snowy, Cubitus is not the nastiest comic strip dog around.
Cubitus was born in 1968 in weekly magazine Tintin. We had to wait another year to discover his master: keen on the junk-collecting inventor/ex-sailor/walking disaster Semaphore. Cubitus doesn’t usually like having to test out his inventions. Still, he finds it even more terrible to have to sit in the sidecar of the noisy, polluting, disintegrating motorcycle that Semaphore uses to travel around. Cubitus is more keen on good food, a good novel or intellectual conversations with neighbour Sénéchal. Unless he fancies getting into a scrap with the black tomcat instead. The talking dog is the life’s work of Walloon artist Luc Dupanloup (1945-2000), better known as Dupa, who gave himself a Hitchcock-style appearance in the series. In the late ’80s, Cubitus featured in a Japanese cartoon film series, which only further increased his popularity.
Where? rue de Flandre 109, 1000 Brussels|Author: Dupa|Publisher: Lombard

BLAKE & MORTIMER
By Jove! Edgard P. Jacobs (1904-1987) may not have produced a prodigious output of comics, but every one is a classic. The Adventures of Blake and Mortimer: The Yellow “M” is even considered one of the best comic books of all time. In this album, megalomaniac inventor Septimus has the ubiquitous villain Olrik under his control, and gives him seemingly supernatural powers. After every crime, the super-villain leaves behind his calling card: a yellow mark. On the comic strip mural in rue du Houblon, level-headed Captain Francis Blake of MI5 and irascible nuclear physicist Professor Philip Mortimer appear worried.
The inseparable, good old-fashioned British duo are no novices, however. In their first adventure, The Secret of the Swordfish, they are called upon to overthrow the victor of a world war. They are not afraid of time travel, mysterious pyramids and mad professors who control the weather either. Leaving aside the unusual use of colour, Jacobs adopts a highly realistic graphical approach. The faithful reproduction of characters, clothing, weapons, buildings and other background elements is more than an aesthetic choice: it is meant to make the many fantastic elements believable. In the universe of Blake and Mortimer, you never know where reality ends and fantasy begins. From the ’90s, the series was continued by several renowned writers and artists.
Where? rue du Houblon 24, 1000 Brussels|Author: Edgar P. Jacobs|Publishers: Lombard - Blake and Mortimer

THE ANGEL
"Het misverstand is onuitroeibaar. (Misunderstanding is ineradicable). Dieu est-il mort? (Is God dead?) - God: Nietzsche is dood. (Nietzsche is dead). - Lost illusions are found truths. Dès le début, il n’y avait pas de commencement (In the beginning, nothing started)". The words underneath the mural seem to be an unsolicited addition by a bilingual graffiti artist. But actually, the existential slogans form an integral part of the mural by Bernard Hislaire. From one project to another, he changes his nom de plume: Hislaire, Yslaire, Ber nar Yslaire or Sylaire. The award-winning Brussels cartoonist is unconventional, an innovator who is unafraid to experiment with form and different media. His best-known comic book is Sambre, a historical romantic saga about love and war in which Yslaire focuses on passion, flirting with death between a stunningly beautiful red-eyed woman and a rugged black-eyed man. German Romanticism, Böcklin, Caspar David Friedrich, Hugo and Mallarme are never far away.
The angel on the wall belongs to a series in which the author takes a haunting look back at the revolutionary yet often woeful twentieth century: XXe ciel.com. An angel is immortal. You are only immortal if your beloved is not. Could that explain the obvious sadness of the winged presence that descended on rue des Chartreux?
NERO
A big nose, a bow-tie and exactly two hairs: the man holding out his hand to the birds in this mural could hardly be described as handsome. Yet he is one of the biggest heroes of Flemish comic strips. Nero is a “newspaper phenomenon”. His adventures appeared almost without a break from 1947 to 2002 in the Catholic Flemish newspapers. At first Nero was not the main character but rather Detective Van Zwam, the man in the fresco examining the grass with a magnifying glass. The second album, the detective is in an asylum and meets a man with laurel leaves behind his ears who thinks he is the Roman emperor. Readers found the lunatic more appealing than the detective. The anti-hero with the all too recognizable human flaws took over the leading role. To provide the daily newspapers with a serial, artist Marc Sleen was forced to sustain a relentless pace, and therefore opted for a free, dynamic drawing style and simple backgrounds. Unlike others, he responded to current events in his quick-paced, funny comics. Paul Vanden Boeynants, Guy Verhofstadt, Joseph Stalin, Idi Amin Dada, Margaret Thatcher, Saddam Hussein and other famous figures had guest roles. But the funniest characters are pure fabrications by Sleen. On the mural, you will recognise the children Pat and Pet by the Ps on their shirts, Nero’s genius son Halyard by his professorial appearance and chip shop owner John Samson by his rippling muscles. In the background we see Piet Fluwijn and Bolleke, a children’s comic strip that brought Marc Sleen success in the early ‘60s. The crazy Tuizentflood is hiding at the top of the tree. A fascinating creature is Mrs. Pipe, who just for once is not smoking a pipe. Mr. Pipe is a French-speaking Brussels resident who speaks a French bastardization of Flemish. Until 1993 Sleen drew everything alone. The Guinness Book of Records recognises him as the most prolific cartoonist in the world. The Marc Sleen Museum is located in a beautiful building in rue des Sables 31-33, opposite the Belgian Comic Strip Center.

Where? Place Saint-Géry, 1000 Brussels|Author: Marc Sleen|Publisher: Standaard

CORI THE SHIP’S BOY
In 1949, Bob de Moor (1925-1992) started working for weekly magazine Tintin and became the right-hand man of the perfectionist that was Hergé. They worked together for 35 years: from Destination Moon to Tintin and the Picaros. When he was not working on Tintin, De Moor had the opportunity to work on his own dream project, Cori the ship’s Boy. As you look at the comic strip mural, you may hear a ship’s foghorn and become seasick from the swell. Cori is waving to us from the top of the mast, ecstatic with joy. Nothing or nobody could make this boy a landlubber ever again. The dark emotions of the tide and the thundering avalanche of the surf on a sandbank gladden his heart. The guaranteed adventure and the chance of eternal glory make his heart beat faster. The cabin boy sails with the Dutch East India Company that gave The Netherlands their Golden Age. Mutiny, piracy, bellicose Spaniards, natives of the New Guinea coasts who were ‘hearing the language of muskets for the first time’, treasures that were there for the finding: adventure dripping from every page. The boats are magnificent, the sea battles unforgettable.

The six Cori the ship’s Boy albums are the work of a technically superior artist who had the famous “ligne claire” in his fingers, and was able to give even the least significant minor character a unique style and character. He researched his work in the most meticulous detail, and gave free rein to his passion for the sea, adventure and majestic sailing ships. Ship ahoy!

Where? rue des Fabriques 21, 1000 Brussels|Author: Bob De Moor|Publisher: Casterman
NIC’S DREAMS
You can recognise the artist immediately from his style. But then you will start to doubt. It seems so easy for Hermann to draw a black-haired boy with red pyjamas floating in ecstasy between white clouds, surrounded by a group of animals who are just itching to bring some life into the city. Cynicism is a fixture in his work. Rather than remaining indifferent, Hermann confronts his readers with the terrible things that petty, selfish and power-hungry people do to each other. Above all, he is one of those exceptions who is both an excellent artist and a gifted storyteller. Hermann Huppen broke through with the Bernard Prince adventure comic strip, drew the first albums of Jugurtha and in 1969, began working with writer Greg on Comanche to begin a legendary western series. In 1977, he dumped Bernard Prince for his own series: Jeremiah. The title hero is a loner who tries to be a good person in a post-apocalyptic Far West that brings out the worst in people. One-shots like Sarajevo Tango and Caatinga confirmed his place in the firmament of European comic strips. Plenty of famous strips and characters, but who did this merciless chronicler of human misconduct choose to decorate a blank wall in Brussels? A boy in pyjamas with a fertile imagination and a talent for dreaming. In the early ’80s, Hermann drew three albums featuring Nick. Every night, he has fun adventures in the company of an elephant, a chimpanzee, a giraffe, a hippo, a turtle or a whale, but the adventures do not always turn out well. Hermann calls the three strips a tribute to Windsor McKay, the American comic strip pioneer, whose Little Nemo explored the dream world. He is a sensitive soul.
Where? rue de la Senne - rue des Fabriques 40, 1000 Brussels|Author: Hermann|Publisher: Dupuis

CAROLINE BALDWIN
Place de Ninove is more a major traffic junction than it is a local quarter with a swinging nightlife. An atmospheric eye-catching comic strip mural reveals something different. The drawing will immerse you in a sultry night in some paradise. Perhaps Cuba. The musicians are neither the youngest nor the best-looking, but judging by the passion on the dance floor, they certainly know what the right rhythm can do to a woman. The bricked-up windows and the relief of the wall were a challenge for the artist and the other members of the team. They made the best of the limitations in situ. The entire facade is painted, only on the bricked-up windows you see snapshots of a party that is transporting many people into ecstasy. Note the number of gaping mouths. Take a look at the lady with the short black hair and black dress in the last window who is about to give a kiss. Her name is Caroline Baldwin and she has her own comic strip series. She’s a private detective but not the sort that pursues unfaithful spouses. Baldwin is the type that comes up against Burmese rebels, cheating U.S. presidential candidates, secret services and other low-lifes that have no qualms about conducting grotesque medical experiments. The liberated but vulnerable woman still manages to fall for the wrong man. She has a turbulent on-off relationship with undercover FBI agent Gary Scott. Baldwin does not come out of the adventures unscathed. The vulnerable heroine is HIV positive. Artist and writer André Taymans is an advocate of the “ligne claire” and also pays attention to details that set the right mood.
Where? Place de Ninove, 1000 Brussels|Author: Andre Taymans|Publisher: Casterman
LUCKY LUKE
The ink on the sign has not even had time to dry before the bank has been raided by the notorious Dalton brothers. Little hothead Joe leads the way as usual. Averell, who has just has stolen a ham, is the biggest, hungriest and most gormless of the 4 brothers. Still with jokes: in the mountains beyond the prairie we see the Atomium, Rantanplan, the stupidest dog in the universe, looks at the pot of red paint as if it were a rare steak and hero Lucky Luke is once again faster than his shadow. Combining quick-paced and exciting adventure with hilarious gags was always the speciality of René Goscinny, the genius who also wrote the storylines for Asterix until his death in 1977. But Lucky Luke is primarily the life’s work of Maurice De Bevere or Morris (1923-2001). This Kortrijk native felt drawing was more fun than taking over his father’s pipe factory, and he started his career at the Brussels film studio CBA.

His first Lucky Luke appeared in 1946 in the Spirou Almanac. Morris worked hard on his drawing talent and researched his work thoroughly. His style is very cinematic and reveals a passion for the western. His Lucky Luke albums had sold around 200 million copies by the time the series was taken over after his death by the French artist Achdé and writer Laurent Gerra. TV series, animated films and feature films have kept alive Lucky Luke’s popularity alive as a poor, lonesome cowboy, a long way from home.

Where? rue de la Buanderie 19, 1000 Brussels | Author: Morris | Publishers: Dupuis, Dargaud

ASTERIX
Asterix, Obelix and their colourful fellow villagers are in the process of attacking a Roman camp with much gusto. Dogmatix leads the way. It’s a scene familiar to millions of readers. The diminutive but particularly brave Gaul and his rotund friend who has not had any magic potion since his childhood when he fell into the cauldron of druid Getafix need no introduction. Sales of the album have passed the 350 million mark. Their own theme park and three very popular feature films (the fourth is on the way) have ensured that Asterix and Obelix are also familiar names in households that don’t have bookshelves full of comic strips. Of course, they don’t know what they’re missing.

Asterix is the comic strip at its best: playful and exciting, but also many-layered, intelligent and full of references to culture and history. A good Asterix can be read over and over again, with the reader discovering new things each time. They are usually very funny. Asterix came into being on 29 October 1959 in Pilote magazine. Gifted artist Albert Uderzo and brilliant writer René Goscinny met in Brussels. Before Asterix, they worked together on the Indian comic strip Hoempa Pa. After Goscinny’s death in 1977, Uderzo continued Asterix on his own. He wants the series to live on after his death too. Asterix and Obelix are not finished yet, much to the chagrin of the Roman centurions.


ISABELLE
Walking past the comic strip mural in rue de la Verdure, you will forget all your troubles and cares, at least for a while. The magical tableau required in order to enter a fantasy world where strange green creatures play at being construction workers, aunts arrive by boats and a complete castle is being built on stilts in the water, is dominated by the lady with the black hat, long grey hair and yellow skirt hiding metres-long legs. In actual fact, the cheerful girl with the red hair and the blue and white striped sweater is the character who gives her name to the comic strip. Isabelle is a rather normal, sweet girl who, due to circumstances beyond her control, is constantly embarking on adventures in a fantasy world. Aunt Ursule doesn’t believe in all that, and plies her with cake. Uncle Hermes knows better, he’s a magician. His fiancée is the gracious lady who conjures up the mural: the friendly witch Calendula. Her great-grandmother is the wicked witch Kalendula. Isabelle was invented by Raymond Macherot and Yvan Delporte in 1969 but is mainly the brainchild of Will, the pseudonym of Walloon artist Willy Maltaite (1927-2000). As from 1975, Will worked on the poetic fantasy series in collaboration with his friend Franquin. As a child, Will was taken under the wing of none other than comic strip pioneer Jijé to further develop his artistic talent.

Where? Rue de la Verdure 17, 1000 Brussels | Artist: Will | Story writers: Raymond Macherot, Yvan Delporte, Franquin | Publisher: Dupuis
RIC HOCHET
A comic strip mural that will appeal to amateur detectives. At first sight, a mysterious wind seems to be carrying away Inspector Bourdon’s hat and pipe. That inspires the little dog to perform a circus trick which distracts journalist Rik Hochet and his report on the solidity of Brussels roof guttering almost goes wrong. Obviously, there is more to the case than that. Closer examination of the optical illusion reveals that Nadine is being attacked by a mysterious villain with an ominously large knife. How fortunate that Rik Hochet has over fifty years’ experience in saving lives (preferably that of the police inspector’s niece) and solving the most perplexing puzzles. He has less affinity with fashion. The detective has been wearing the same polo neck sweater and black and white tweed jacket or raincoat for years.

The artist Tibet, the nickname of Gilbert Gascard (1931 - 2010), and writer Paul-André Duchâteau met in the Brussels studio of Walt Disney and have both been honoured with the freedom of the city. Hochet initially helped the readers of the weekly Tintin magazine solve one-page detective mysteries. In 1961, he began on his life’s major work. Over the course of 78 albums, the savvy journalist with the Porsche outwitted the biggest charlatans and most dangerous lunatics. Tibet and Duchâteau are the spiritual fathers of the humorous western Chick Bill.

Where? rue du Bon Secours 9, 1000 Brussels|Artist: Tibet|Story writer: A.P. Duchâteau|Publisher: Le Lombard

VICTOR SACKVILLE
And who is that impeccably dressed gentleman on this mural, making an awful discovery in the presence of a charming lady? The name is Sackville, Victor Sackville. In our imagination, he is more British than James Bond. As a spy for His Majesty the King of England, George V, he travels around the world during the First World War. Where he can, he throws spanners in the wheels of the Germans. Without sinking to underhand trickery, of course. One is either a gentleman or one is not.

Sackville is not the most famous of comic book heroes but the historical espionage comic strip does have a loyal following. This is because Walloon artist Francis Carin is able to recreate the atmosphere of the time and knows how to carry on the tradition of beautiful “ligne claire” drawing. He goes out of his way to show the scenes in the most minute detail. He is so meticulous that the result is sometimes more like a historical tourist guide than a comic strip. Fans of architectural masterpieces and vintage cars are well served as well. The mural shows the shining cobbles that are so typical of Brussels. The scene comes from the very first album, The Zimmerman Code 1: Death at the opera. Recommended.

Where? rue du Marché au Charbon 60, 1000 Brussels|Artist: Francis Carin|Story writers: François Rivière, Gabrielle Borile|Publisher: Le Lombard

BROUSSAILLE
Broussaille was the very first comic strip mural in July 1991. You only have to look at the way they are walking to see that the gingertop and his likeable and intelligent girlfriend Catherine are not going out for a leisurely stroll. This cheerful couple feels like going for a brisk walk around the city. The dreamy, gentle young man would be an ideal city guide. The well-read occupant of rue Godecharle in the heart of the Leopold district knows Brussels inside out and enjoys walking. In his latest “adventure”, Un faune sur l’épaule (A faun on your shoulder), Broussaille experiences a profound sense of harmony with things while he is on his roof overlooking the city. He decides to share those intense moments of happiness and oneness with nature by telling people about it. Brussels author Frank Pé does not deny that Broussaille is an alter ego. In fact, it can’t be denied. Both city boys are sensitive souls, curious nature lovers down to the fibre of their being and they are gifted dreamers. In their philosophical visions they see fauns, whales flying across the grey city, giant turtles crossing our boulevards. Frank Pé signed his first Broussaille in 1978, in the nature section of Spirou comic magazine. The young man was happy to share his knowledge of nature with the readers. Once he had teamed up with writer Bom, the first album was published in 1984. There have since been four more. Quality comes first for Frank Pé.

Where? Plattesteen, 1000 Brussels|Author: Frank Pé|Publisher: Dupuis
OLIVIER RAMEAU

Just a stone’s throw from Manneken Pis is one of the most festive comic strip walls. The fresh, cheerful young man who excitedly takes off his straw hat and holds out his hand with a stately appearance is called Olivier Rameau. The stunning beauty in the short skirt is Colombe Tiredaile. The man in the bowler hat is kindly Mr. Pertinent. The three men in gowns are the Three Ice Lollies who rule Aurora the capital of Rêverose. Money is unknown in this utopian parallel universe. You pay with tears of joy, songs, laughter or a big kiss. Were cartoonist Dany and writer Greg on mind-expanding substances when they invented the fantasy series Olivier Rameau in the crazy year that was 1968? Well, a little flower power can’t do any harm in Brussels today. The poetic series flourished in the ’70s. In 2005, after a gap of eighteen years, a new album was published at long last. Men who spend too long staring at Colombe Tiredaile have no reason to be ashamed. Dany is very good at drawing voluptuous shapes, round breasts and sensual lips. He also draws the erotic, humorous series Rooie Oortjes.

Where? 9 Rue du Chêne, 1000 Brussels | Artist: Dany | Story writer: Greg | Publisher: Le Lombard

LE JEUNE ALBERT

The greatest artist that nobody recognises? That could be Yves Chaland (1957-1990). He was aged just 33 when he was killed in a car accident and consequently barely had time to make a breakthrough with the general public. Collectors fight over the modest body of work that he left behind. Renowned artists reference him as their great example. Experts value his work very highly. Chaland was French but drew in a more Belgian style than the Belgians. He set himself up as the heir to the masters of the Ligne Claire. The master stylist did not slavishly imitate the work of Hergé. The nostalgia is palpable but for a gratuitous retro exercise you will have to look elsewhere. Chaland is very playful with tradition and blends the rigorous style of Hergé and Jacobs with the dynamism of Franquin and Jijé. The best of both worlds: the Brussels school and the Marcinelle school. His Atomic style had followers all over Europe. Bob Fish and Freddy Lombard are Chaland’s most famous characters. The brilliant mural in rue des Alexiens refers to Jeune Albert. In these albums, Chaland told of the sometimes outrageous, cruel boyish pranks of a kid growing up in post-war Brussels. Mind you, the little rascal does not have much time to get up to mischief, he’s reading a detective story from the famous “Série Noire” series. Let’s hope he doesn’t miss his tram.

Where? rue des Alexiens 49, 1000 Brussels | Author: Yves Chaland | Publishers: Humanoides Associés, Metal Hurlant

BLONDIN AND CIRAGE

A birdcage can’t prevent a voracious yellow beast from grabbing the fruit. In box one, the grocer is angry, while in box two, he is a bit more at ease. The two young customers who have to pay the bill don’t look too happy about it. Comic strip fans will recognise Blondin and Cirage. Blondin is an earnest Tintin-style hero, who solves problems through reasoning. Cirage is the crazy friend who prefers direct action. The characters enjoyed their first adventures between 1939 and 1942 in Catholic magazine Petits Belges. They were invented by Joseph Gillain (1914 -1980), known as Jijé. The godfather and pioneer of the Belgian comic strip began working in 1939 at the newly launched Spirou magazine. He took over the Spirou series from Frenchman Rob-Vel and introduced Fantasio. He brought Jean Valhardi to life and drew American comic strips when the supply dried up during the Second World War. After the war, Spirou magazine flourished. The magazine’s mainstay Jijé brought in one great talent after another: Will, Morris, Eddy Paape and Franquin. In 1950, Jijé started his Jerry Spring western series and, as a devout Catholic, he produced a biography of Baden-Powell and Don Bosco. Ten years later, he took over Tanguy and Laverdure from Albert Uderzo and Redbeard from Victor Hubinon. The gifted artist could handle any genre. He also immediately realised how great Franquin’s Marsupilami was, and in ‘Blondin and Cirage discover the Flying Saucers’, he came up with a variant. The Marsupilami Africanis is tailless, fatter and ... less popular with grocers.

Where? rue des Capucins 15, 1000 Brussels | Author: Jijé | Publishers: Averbode, Dupuis, Magic Strip
ODILON VERJUS
Do you recognise the fascinating beautiful lady so gallantly helped down by a sturdily-built missionary? A tip: her most infamous outfit consisted of little more than a banana skirt. Yep, this is the famous Josephine Baker who lit up Paris between the wars with her exhilarating cabaret act. That leopard was a leftover from a show at the Folies Bergère in 1927. The comic strip series really tells the madcap adventures of missionary Odilon Verjus and his frightened disciple Laurent de Boismenu. Josephine Baker only plays a role in three of the seven albums. But you have to admit, she’s the star of this comic strip mural a few steps from the Palais de Justice. The fine drawing is by Laurent Verron. The late Jean Roba asked him to continue Billy and Buddy. For the time being, Verron and writer Yann have decided not to put out new episodes of Odilon Verjus. The humorous adventure series has no hesitation in involving historical characters (Edith Piaf, Hitler, Laurel & Hardy, John Wayne,...) and events, something which requires a lot of research.
Odilon Verjus is a grumpy grumbler who is not pleased that the Vatican keeps taking him away from his beloved Papua to lumber him with yet another secret mission. But actually, he is generosity itself. Don’t take any notice of the austere white beard and dress code: his knowledge of Papuan curses and coarse songs has led to quite a few red ears. And do not pick a fight with him because he has a past as a street kid, a pimp at Place Pigalle and as a chaplain in the trenches of the First World War. Miss Baker was in good hands.
Where? rue des Capucins 13, 1000 Brussels|Artist: Laurent Verron|Story writer: Yann|Publisher: Lombard

JOJO
In which year is this perfect example of domestic bliss situated? The tile stove, grandma’s love for clothes with flowers and bulbs and the fact that there is a thick sandwich on the kitchen table where you might expect cornflakes suggest the scene is half a century old. Anyone who recognises the cartoon character knows better. The cheerful lad is called Jojo and has a game-boy. This disarming children’s comic strip is set in the present day. The seven year-old boy, who is as honest as the day is long, savours life with an infectious appetite and is usually accompanied by his best friend fat Louis, the Tarzan who is testing the strength of the lamp on the mural. As he doesn’t have a Mum, Jojo lives with his grandma or Mamy, in a place where the city meets the countryside. The place where Jojo’s overworked dad lives is a more built-up and modern environment. The vague date is no coincidence. The artist André Geerts who died young (1955-2010) was not ashamed of a touch of nostalgia or romance. With recognisable scenes of everyday life, he tried to reconstruct a lost paradise. He combined his talent for spotting these small but priceless moments with a drawing style that was both dynamic and fragile, with lots of curves and pastel colours. Jojo was born in 1983 but inexplicably failed to achieve the level of sales it deserved. Hopefully time will put that right.
Where? rue Pieremans, 1000 Brussels|Author: André Geerts|Publisher: Dupuis

THE BEAVER PATROL
Several Belgian comic strip heroes are fine role models, guys who are not afraid of adventure and stand up for noble values like justice, comradeship and helpfulness. Quite a few renowned artists have a scouting past and revealed their talents for the first time in their member magazines. Tintin is marked by Curious Fox, Spike and Suzy by Wily Fox, Natacha by Dynamic Ostrich, Nero by Resolute Heron and The Smurfs are an invention of Humorous Ram. Toucan Benévole (Selfless Toucan) was the keenest in the ideology of the scouts. Selfless Toucan is the totem of Uccle-born Michel Tacq (1927-1994). Under the pseudonym Mitacq, this admirer of Hergé’s drew the first adventures of a group of scouts in 1953. Colt (the inspired leader), Hawk (the intellectual), Cat (the daredevil), Tapir (the bon vivant) and Fly (the shy youngest member) together form the Beaver Patrol. The first 21 scenarios are by Jean-Michel Charlier, known from the Blueberry and Buck Danny comic book series. The last nine comic strips were dreamt up by Mitacq himself.
The strip wall gives a false impression of the Beaver Patrol. Painting blank walls in the heart of Brussels’ Marolles district is probably one of those good deeds which scouts are supposed to do every day. But actually Colt, Hawk & Co. rarely have time for that kind of chore. Like Jommeke, Tintin and Spike and Suzy they often get home late for dinner because the heroic deeds urgently needed to be performed somewhere on the other side of the world. And it is not about some painting but humanitarian aid in countries with military dictatorships.
Where? rue Blaes - rue Pieremans, 1000 Brussels|Artist: Mitacq|Story writers: Jean-Michel Charlier, Mitacq|Publisher: Dupuis
LE CHAT (THE CAT)

What's that, a suit-wearing cat that is laying bricks to produce a mural of itself on the wall? Le Chat first appeared in Le Soir newspaper on 22 March 1983. The humorous/philosophical cat that addresses readers directly is an invention of Philippe Geluck. Initially, the cartoon had a permanent slot, but later on Le Chat was used more as a disruptive element, turning up in unexpected places in the newspaper. The drawing style is simple, sober and efficient, which focuses attention on what Le Chat has to say. He does not live for applause but chuckles whenever he manages to briefly perplex readers. Something which he primarily achieves by way of absurd or philosophic remarks or jokes about apparently trivial matters, seen from a very different angle. He does not aim for belly laughs, a chuckle will do nicely. The first album that combines the best jokes came out in 1986 and was a great success. Le Chat is also the self-portrait of Geluck. 'But that's particularly the case when he says something intelligent and doesn't appear stupid", he jests. By and large, cartoonists are too shy to compete with the fame of their characters but Geluck is the exception. Innumerable radio and TV programmes in Belgium and France have made him famous. Le Chat can put the fact that in Paris, he was knighted as a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres into context in four or five well-chosen words.

Where? Boulevard du Midi 87, 1000 Brussels|Author: Philippe Geluck|Publisher: Casterman

QUICK AND FLUPKE

The animated film Tintin by Steven Spielberg has given a tremendous boost to Tintin’s international reputation. But let’s not forget that Hergé (1907-1983) had two other sons. In many respects, Quick and Flupke are the opposite of Tintin. They are subversive rather than role models. Their adventures are not set all over the world but in the Marolles, the Brussels quarter where Hergé grew up. The two kids are just one year younger than Tintin. They played their first comic strip pranks in 1930 in Le Petit Vingtième, the children’s supplement of Le Vingtième Siècle where Tintin also made his debut. The strips consist of several humorous stories of one or two pages, with or without text. Whether Quick with the red turtleneck sweater and Flupke with his green jacket deliberately create mischief or cause problems whilst playing, they usually end up clashing with authority. Or have they managed to play a trick on Policeman No. 15? Does anybody know what it is that is on show through the hole in the fence on the mural? Quick and Flupke look a bit worried. Have they hidden away one of their ultra-dangerous soapboxes there? Colleague Johan De Moor dreamt up a few jokes for Quick and Flupke in the eighties, and was the man behind a series of very short animated films.

Where? rue Haute 195, 1000 Brussels|Author: Hergé|Publisher: Casterman

PASSE MOI L’CIEL

In the humorous comic strip series “Passe moi l’ciel”, story writer Janry (De Kleine Robbe) and artist Stuf make fun of Saint Peter and Lucifer. At the pearly gates, latecomers, lost or disobedient angels cause St. Peter no end of headaches and extra work. So he never gets a rest or a game of billiards. He who must ensure that everything goes according to plan in heaven goes through hell. Can you blame the good man for occasionally getting a tad tiddly, and allowing people into heaven who don’t actually deserve it? The fact that St. Peter is familiar with every human failing is also apparent from the mischievous mural in rue des Minimes. The Palais de Justice is just metres away, and served as a source of inspiration for pranksters Janry and Stuf. Lucifer could file complaints there against his famous upstairs neighbour. Not only does that spoil his barbecue, St. Peter is managing a real cannabis plantation and judging from his blissful smile, there is no question about the quality of the weed. The floating lawyer in his gown no longer seems capable of handling advanced legal texts. Not even a simple administrative detention. The long arm of the law is too busy with the shadows of the Rasta man and keeping an eye on a nude beach. Everybody needs to have priorities.

Where? rue des Minimes 91, 1000 Brussels|Artist: Stuf|Story writer: Janry|Publisher: Dupuis
TITEUF
Suzy has an egghead, Tintin a quiff. Titeuf has both. Deriving his name from the egghead, “petit oeuf” was corrupted into Titeuf. But it is thanks to his proud, rebellious straw yellow crest that everyone immediately recognises him wherever he goes. It is not unlikely his behaviour has something to do with that as well. Look at the comic strip mural. Is Titeuf on a school trip to the globes of the Atomium in Brussels and checking in the convex mirror to see if his hair is alright? Or was it an attempt to spy on the girls from the air? With a cheeky show-off, you never know. His jokes, tricks and caprices have tremendous appeal for young readers. With print runs exceeding 1.5 million, Titeuf qualifies as a phenomenon. The comic strip hero has his own animated series, computer games and wallpaper and made it onto the cinema screens in 2011. His spiritual father is a Led Zeppelin fan who disproves the cliché that the Swiss have no humour. Although his real name is Philippe Chappuis when he goes to the bank, he answers to Zep when he is signing comic strips. Titeuf is a humorous comic but doesn’t only contain jokes. There is still room for emotion, amazement and tenderness. The guy speaks like a real child and not the way older people think that children speak. His adventures don’t take place on distant planets but in the playground, the classroom, at home or on the way to school. His imagination does the rest. He is convinced that his ageing teacher is an extraterrestrial. By seeing the absurd grown-up world through the eyes of Titeuf, you will split your sides laughing.

Where? Boulevard Emile Bockstael 1, 1020 Laeken|Author: Zep|Publisher: Glénat

TINTIN
Brussels loves Tintin. Rail passengers who get off at the Gare du Midi cannot miss him. At the Place Horta entrance, a fresco measuring eight meters square has been an eye-catcher ever since the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Georges Remi (1907-1983), aka Hergé. The Bruxellois is considered one of the greatest cartoonists of all time. The drawing is an enlargement of the 56th illustration from Tintin in America. Tintin is not travelling on the locomotive to avoid paying his fare. The goody-goody but very brave boy would never do that kind of thing. He is in the middle of chasing after Billy Smiles. This gangster is after Tintin because he refuses to kill the notorious Al Capone. Tintin in America is the third album from the famous series by Hergé and dates from 1932. A long time ago perhaps, but Tintin has never ceased to enthral readers young and old, all over the world. Hergé’s unparalleled, timeless graphic style has a lot to do with that. The original drawings attract big money at art auctions these days. But the comic was a phenomenon because of Tintin’s lively and exciting adventures in every corner of the globe. The hero with the funny quiff is a relatively colourless and anonymous figure. We never get to know his age, full name and family situation. But this neutrality makes him at home everywhere and enables everyone to identify with him. Friends, enemies and acquaintances like Captain Haddock, Professor Calculus and the bumbling detectives Thompson and Thomson are even crazier and more colourful.

Where? Place Horta, 1000 Brussels|Author: Hergé|Publisher: Casterman

DEBBIE
Is it not heroic to take the dog for a walk so happily and carefree through the city? The dog is named Timmy; the girl is called Debbie. Well actually, in Bruges she is called Tiny. In Tournai people know her as Martine, in Tirana as Zana, in Madrid as Martita, in Cagliari as Cristina, in Skopje as Mapuka, in Ankara as Aysegül, in Maribor as Marinka and in Malmö as Mimmi. More than 85 million albums have been sold in thirty countries. Debbie is proof that even a squeaky-clean girl can be a real world star. Each album is dedicated to a new hobby or activity for the improbably sweet, helpful and talented child. The series started with a trip to the farm. The sea, the circus, the mountains and the park would follow. In 1964 she went shopping. In 1968 she played mother, in 1975, she learned to swim, she found a cat in 1994, and in 2009, she discovered nature. In everything she does, she is eerily good. Walloon artist Marcel Marlier (1930-2011) was himself a perfectionist. The character of the ideal daughter remained unchanged from her first appearance in 1954. However, her look constantly evolved. Marlier faithfully followed the prevailing fashion trends. The series is particularly popular with girls in primary school. Nobody can criticise the beauty and harmony of the idyllic drawings. Marlier swears by a naive realism with sophisticated lighting, endearing pastel colours and backgrounds that are developed in detail.

Where? Avenue de la Reine 325, 1020 Laeken|Artist: Marcel Marlier|Story writers: Gilbert Delahaye, Jean-Louis Marlier |Publisher: Casterman
LE ROI DES MOUCHES (KING OF THE FLIES)

Look at the names above the intact cages: King Kong and the Minotaur will remain locked up in the imaginary zoo in the shadow of the Atomium for some time yet. The enthusiastic boy who loves Batman and flared trousers chose to free the Yeti. The animal looks more like a hairy, oversized gorilla but it is the Yeti. Exhibit one: the bars of the Yeti’s cage have been repaired. Exhibit two: Tintin in Tibet. In this world famous and quite emotional album, Tintin cannot believe that his friend Chang (The Blue Lotus) has not survived a plane crash in the Himalayas and starts a search. Chang is indeed still alive: he has been rescued by a lonely female, cuddly teddy bear that is condemned to go through life as the abominable snowman.

Compare the physique and character traits of Hergé’s yeti with Mezzo’s yeti and you will conclude that this is a tribute. Mezzo is the pseudonym of Frenchman Pascal Messenburg. Together with writer Michel Pirus, in the King of the Flies albums he devised a universe far stranger and darker than the mural in rue Stiernet suggests. Hergé may be an influence, but so is the American underground culture. With sardonic pleasure, in a number of stylishly drawn and very depressing short stories they tell of the madness and frustrations of young people who are bored to death in a middle-class environment. The King of the Flies is ideal for fans of David Lynch, Robert Crumb or Charles Burns.

Where? rue Hubert Stiernet 23, 1020 Laeken|Artist: Mezzo|Story writer: Pirus|Publisher: Drugstore

LINCOLN

Blueberry, Lucky Luke, Comanche, Buddy Longway, Jerry Spring...: the list of great western comic books is a long one. The Jouvray family was - quite rightly - not put off by this, and came up with a new western in 2002: Lincoln. Olivier Jouvray invents the scenarios, brother Jerome handles the drawings and Jérome's wife Anne-Claire does the colouring. As you can see on the mural in rue des Palais, things are pretty rough in their comic. Lincoln is the young man with the hat who is ready to box with the giant who is rolling up his sleeves. It is not the first time this grumpy, lonesome cowboy lets his fists do the talking or gets into a fight. Lincoln is a born brawler and a notorious grumbler who is bone-idle. But God is relying on this specimen of the human species to restore some order, super-hero-style, at the start of the twentieth century. God has bet Lincoln that one day he will finally find happiness. Just to make sure, he has made the cynical cowboy immortal. If there is a fight, God prefers to remain aloof. On the mural, he is looking on from the first floor, surrounded by angels with harps. Two doors down, his eternal adversary the devil is seen sporting a grin. The original concept was developed in a series of exciting adventures, topped with pithy humour. Lincoln is able to put his mostly pessimistic view of the world into words with sharp wit.

Where? rue des Palais Outre-Ponts, 1020 Laeken|Artist: Jérôme Jouvray|Story writer: Olivier Jouvray|Publisher: Paquet

LITTLE SPIROU

“He is a cheeky, spontaneous and healthy boy who likes a joke, but has a heart of gold: he is a model, a champion of good humour.” This is how proud publisher Jean Dupuis described the hero of the same name as his legendary comic magazine: Spirou. Spirou was first written by French artist Rob-Vel, but was later taken over by other artists, the best known of whom are Jijé (1943-1946) and André Franquin (1946-1968). Today the comic strip is in the hands of Morvan and Munuera. But between 1981 and 1998, Spirou was handled by Tome and Janry. The pair got to know each other when they were just known as Richard Vandevelde and Jean-Philippe Geurts.

In 1983, they brought out a special issue with a gag about Spirou’s childhood. Little Spirou was born. He is definitely not an incorruptible hero of unimpeachable character, but more of a cheeky rascal with a rather premature, naive interest in sex and an unbridled imagination. Characteristics that do not do him any favours when he is repeatedly the victim of incomprensible and sometimes weird teachers. The new series was a hit. Drawings are carefully produced, the good humour and the sweet, slightly nostalgic atmosphere can last for another few years. The carousel on the comic strip mural at Bruparck has a few turns to go, much to the delight of Little Spirou’s maths teacher. Teacher Miss Claudia Chiffre is the amazon who dads tend to stare at.

Where? Bruparck, 1020 Laeken|Artist: Janry|Story writer: Tome|Publisher: Dupuis
GASTON LAGAFFE
He thinks it's another day that is just far too beautiful to give to the boss, and so he is leaning on the window sill, playing with his yo-yo. The fact that the yo-yo is bound to hit a random passer-by on the head was written in the stars. You are either Gaston Lagaffe or you're not. This gentle anarchist, the first anti-hero and the most socially critical clown in Franco-Belgian comic strips, made his debut on 28 February 1957 in Spirou magazine. The first issues, he confined himself to mysterious appearances. Being a pest seemed to be his vocation. Allegedly he was the laconic mail sorter and bone-idle errand boy of the Spirou editorial team. His ability to create uproar with crazy experiments, insane inventions (the phone gaffe!) or ingeniously absurd ideas made him very popular with readers.

Brussels artist André Franquin (1924 - 1997) loved Gaston, who was invulnerable to serious adult thinking, capable of putting an end to the cruellest rebukes and manifestations of fury with one and a half words: M’enfin (Oh, come on!). Over the years, Franquin increasingly used his non-conformist alter ego to lend expression to his ecological and humanitarian concerns. Like Hergé, Franquin was a great example for future generations. His free, very dynamic drawing style opened the eyes of many. “He's a great artist, and in comparison I am but a poor artist,” admitted Hergé.


MISTER JEAN
Do you see that man who doesn’t seem bothered that it is a drizzly day, and that the tram has switched all its lights on? Right hand in his trouser pocket, briefcase in his left hand, casually smoking, he saunters past one of our beautiful brasseries serving gueuze and other Brussels specialities. That is Mr. Jean. He sometimes leaves his socks lying around. How do we know? After a handful of comic strips, you know Mr. Jean better than your best friend. This writer from Paris does not go out on grand, enthralling adventures, but leads an utterly routine life. With each album he gets a little older. Fear of the concierge made way for fear of commitment, and then fear of fatherhood. Conflict in his relationship, depression, friends who are unlikely to complain, the endless battle against routine, the daily grind that saps so much energy: his experiences are touchingly familiar.

The undertone is alternately light-hearted and slightly depressing or sad. A bit like everyday life itself. The simple but very pleasant and elegant drawing style lights up the routine. The ratio of nonchalance to brightness is just right. It's not that one draws and the other invents scenarios. Authors Philippe Dupuy and Charles Berberian do everything together. They draw inspiration from their immediate surroundings. In 2008, they won the Grand Prix of the Angoulême comic book festival.

FC DE KAMPIOENEN
Dear foreigners, please refrain from laughing: in Flanders, the most popular football club is not Bruges, Anderlecht, FC Barcelona or the national team, but a bunch of amateurs that rarely manage to win a match. The explanation? The worse FC De Kampioenen (in English, The Champions FC) play, the more people laugh. FC De Kampioenen is not a real club, but the name of a hugely popular television series that ran from 1990 to 2011. Even repeats of repeats have families gathering around the TV. Since 1997, FC De Kampioenen have also existed in comic strip form. The humorous series was a big success, right from the first album “Zoi’t gaan, ja?” (Enough already). The comic books are drawn by Hec Leemans, a seasoned artist who made his name with the historical comic strip series Bakelandt. On the mural, you will recognise the main characters. The wildly gesticulating man with the yellow jacket and moustache is Balthasar Boma, the boastful chairman/sausage manufacturer/womaniser. Fernand Costermans, far left, calls himself an antiques dealer but in actual fact he is a bit of a swindler. The lady with the short skirt (top centre) is, Carmen: an extrovert gossipmonger often behind the crazy misunderstandings that pervade every episode. Perhaps the funniest of the bunch is the young father with the baby: the hopelessly naive and clumsy Marc Vertongen.

Where? rue du Canal 27, 1000 Brussels|Author: Hec Leemans|Publisher: Standaard

LA VACHE (THE COW)
In the world of the cartoon, it is rare for children to follow in the footsteps of their parents. One exception is the son of Bob De Moor, Hergé’s right-hand man. Johan De Moor started out as a cartoonist. In the early ’80s, he moved to Studio Hergé, where he invented new jokes for Quick and Flupke and featured the kids in a well-received series of short cartoons for television. He had been fed a diet of the famous ‘ligne claire’ since infancy. Both Hergé and Edgar P. Jacobs were visitors at the De Moor home. But by engaging with a Brueghelian tradition, as well as the zany, popular style of Willy Vandersteen and not being afraid of an experimental mix of different techniques, Johan De Moor developed a colourful, unique style of his own.

Just look at the two exuberant murals adorning the Sleepwell youth hostel. You do not know what to look at first. The Magritte bowler hats? The Yellow Mark on the sphere of the Atomium? The cow on the skateboard is called Kobe. She is Secret Agent Pi = 3.1416, and was the muse for De Moor and writer Stephen Desberg for a series of exuberant, mischievous, slightly anarchic comics. On the second fresco, Kobe is wondering where that enthusiastic mouse inside Tintin’s rocket is travelling to. The giant in the black check suit is part of Brussels folklore. Like the waffles, the stoemp that you find at the chip shop, the averted gaze of the elephant on the roof of a blue car. ‘When I read your books it’s like a pot of paint being thrown in my face”, an artist friend once told Johan De Moor.

Where? Hotel Sleep Well, rue du Damier 23, 1000 Brussels|Author: Johan De Moor|Publisher: Casterman - Lombard
YOKO TSUNO
The green spacesuit and fish bowl on her head are not very flattering. You can’t tell from the mural, but take it from us (or read the comic) Yoko Tsuno is a good looking young Asian woman. But that’s not all she is. Together with air hostess Natacha, Yoko Tsuno was one of the first comic strip women to get her own series in the early ’70s. She represents a break with the stereotypical image of women. She is an electrical engineer, a keen space traveller and just as bold, courageous and adventurous as her male colleague comic strip heroes. The young Japanese is a multilingual Buddhist, and with her knowledge of aikido and kendo, she gives many a villain the go-by, whilst effortlessly moving between different cultures.

Her adventures alternate between Earth and space. But whether she is travelling back in time to the city of Bruges in the 15th century or braving the dangers of the planet Vinea, she always remains true to itself. Loyalty, friendship and respect for life are the qualities she values above all else. This sensitivity distinguishes her from the clumsier action heroes. Yoko Tsuno is a creation by Roger Leloup for the weekly Spirou magazine. Through his heroine, the Walloon comic strip author arouses interest in modern technology, science and astronomy. He researches his work meticulously and does a lot of work on each drawing. Over a period of forty years, only twenty-five albums have been published.

Where? rue Terre-Neuve, 1000 Brussels|Author: Roger Leloup|Publisher: Dupuis

XIII
For many action heroes, the key question is: what villain should I defeat before he destroys the world? For XIII the question of questions is: Who am I? Am I John Fleming, Jason Mac Lane, Hugh Mitchell, Karl Meredith, Brian Kelly or Reginald Wesson? Like Jason Bourne in the film, XIII is a trained fighting machine whose main characteristic is a failing memory. While searching for his true identity and wondering why so many people seem to be trying to kill him, he stumbles from one adventure into the next. He is suspected of murdering the President of the United States and unwittingly becomes a pivotal figure in various grotesque conspiracies. XIII is surrounded by even more intriguing, interesting characters such as his arch-enemy The Mongoose and archangel Major Jones, one of the female heroines. Action scenes seem to have been lifted straight from the movies. Every time you think the mystery cannot get more complicated, a new intrigue or unexpected twist proves you wrong.

Brussels writer Jean Van Hamme (see also Thorgal and Largo Winch) entrusted his characters and exciting plots to William Van Cutsem aka William Vance. This Brussels cartoonist is known for his realistic style and thorough research. Together, they built XIII into a stalwart of the realistic action comic strip. Sales of albums have now passed the 10 million mark.

Where? rue Philippe de Champagne, 1000 Brussels|Artist: William Vance|Story writer: Jean Van Hamme|Publisher: Dargaud

CORTO MALTESE
The four drawings on Quai des Péniches are eighty metres in length. Someone has to have the longest comic strip mural. No one begrudges Hugo Pratt (1927-1995) that honour. With Corto Maltese, called the master, and born in Venice in 1967, Pratt created a hero the likes of which are rarely seen: brave, anarchic and strong, but also dreamy, romantic, melancholy and mysterious in equal parts. His long white trousers, plain coat, sailor’s hat and earring make the unpredictable captain without a ship stand out from afar. The circumstances naturally emphasise his composure. The unfathomable world traveller pops up time and again in places that have an appointment with history. Corto witnessed the Boxer Rebellion in China, the Russo-Japanese War, the Russian Revolution and the First World War. The world is on fire, civilisations are crumbling but only gorgeous femmes fatales can put this worldly-wise adventurer who is keen to retain his freedom off his stroke. The cosmopolitan is a popular guide in unfamiliar areas and throughout the twentieth century. The images on Quai des Péniches have been taken from the albums Corto Maltese in Africa, Corto Maltese in Siberia, the Golden House of Samarkand and The Celts. The sobery drawn, erudite, charming comic strips by Hugo Pratt are often compared to novels. He was not too bothered about the constraints of the traditional comic strip and was one of the first to be unafraid to deliberately aim his work at an adult audience.

Where? Quai des Péniches, 1000 Brussels|Author: Hugo Pratt|Publisher: Casterman
NATACHA
A painful but true story: you don’t come across many women in the comic strips of the ’70s, and certainly no heroines who dared to flaunt their femininity. Comanche and Yoko Tsuno followed fairly quickly but it was Natacha who broke the mould in 1970. We’re not supposed to tell you that she’s blonde, blessed with voluptuous curves and looks great in uniform. All you need to do is look at the mural. But don’t stop at her appearance. The stewardess is not a dumb blonde but an intelligent woman who knows what she wants and is keen to retain her independence. The resolute lady knows how to keep her composure in an emergency and is unafraid to answer back if offended. She can also be quite stubborn and like all true comic strip heroes, she has a highly developed sense of justice. Most of her adventures are somehow related to air travel. The man on the mural sweating as he drags two red suitcases, is Walter. The clumsy jazz lover would like more than be her friend, colleague and fellow adventurer, but that is unlikely. Natacha is the character with which Walloon artist Francois Walthéry is closely associated. Walthéry was only seventeen when he became the assistant of Peyo, the creator of The Smurfs. In the late ’60s, he took over Peyo’s drawing work for Steven Sterk. He doesn’t like rush jobs. Over a period of forty years, just over twenty albums have been published. There are both classic adventure comic strips which are in the thriller or science fiction genre. Walthéry worked with a dozen different writers. Fortunately, Natacha has kept her looks after all that time.

GIL JOURDAN
Find the comic hero .... It’s the guy behind the wheel of the yellow car: detective Gil Jourdan. In the passenger’s seat we see Libellule (Dragonfly), known for his special sense of humour, in this case recognisable by his yellow hat and cigarette. Libellule is an ex-burglar who assists the sometimes arrogant detective with varying degrees of success. The charming adventures are built around an exciting plot involving action, witty dialogue, a pinch of mystery and humour. Gil Jourdan solved his first case in Spirou magazine in 1956. But actually Maurice Tillieux (1922 -1978) was embroidering a character he had previously drawn for the weekly Hérosic albums: the red-haired, bespectacled journalist Felix. At the end of the ’60s, Tillieux handed the drawing work over to Gos so he could focus more on coming up with scenarios for Will (Beard and Bald), Roba (The Swarm), Walthéry (Natacha) and Roger Leloup (Yoko Tsuno). He devised one comic strip after another under various pseudonyms. It is no coincidence that the mural is dominated by a rugged sailor. Tillieux was a seaman but the Second World War nipped his naval career in the bud. The joke with the danger sign warning of a straight line is a bit macabre. After having dreamed up and drawn countless car crashes, Tillieux died in a car accident.

Where? rue Jan Bollen, 1020 Laeken|Author: François Walthéry|Publishers: Dupuis, Marsu Productions

Where? Corner of rue Thijs van Hamme - rue Leopold I, 1020 Laeken|Author: Maurice Tillieux|Publisher: Dupuis
DE KIEKEBOES
You’ll have to look long and hard to find a Fleming who is unable to tell you that the man with the moustache behind the camera is Marcel Kiekeboe. Very long and hard indeed. His wife Charlotte shows off the clothes of the legendary trade fair hostesses of the 1958 World Exhibition which catapulted Brussels into the modern age. Son Konstantinopel wants to be an ace reporter. The babe in the elegant ’50s dress who is keeping up a hula hoop is Marcel’s daughter. Fanny has already turned many men’s heads. Not least when she posed nude on the cover of a Flemish men’s magazine. The Kiekeboes are a typical example of a Flemish family comic strip and in terms of sales even manage to give Spike and Suzy a run for their money. Each new album sells a hundred thousand copies. A clear story is always seasoned with a healthy dose of good-natured humour. There is no shortage of puns and parodies.

The series debuted on 15 February 1977 in Het Laatste Nieuws daily newspaper. In 2004, Gazet van Antwerpen and Het Belang van Limburg took over Kiekeboe. To supply the newspaper with new strips daily, in the same way Willy Vandersteen, Marc Sleen and Jef Nys had done before him, Merho had to work at a hellish pace. Merho, the alias of Robert Merhottein, drew his first Marcel Kiekeboe for his brother, an avid puppet show performer. Even children in the last row had to be able to recognise the puppet easily, hence the big nose, big eyes and huge moustache. The half-bald head fits back perfectly in the tradition of Lambic and Nero.

Where? American Theatre, avenue du Gros Tilleul 2, 1020 Laeken
Author: Merho
Publisher: Standaard Uitgeverij

STAM & PILOU
To admire this comic strip mural, you will have to go to the summer terrace of café La Fleur en Papier Doré. Not that that is a punishment. The figureheads of Brussels surrealism like René Magritte, Louis Scutenaire, Marcel Mariën came here and many other artists and writers followed them. References to the art movements which make La Fleur en Papier Doré a culturally historic café have been incorporated into the drawing. The cartoon characters themselves are from “Les aventures involontaires de Stam & Pilou”.

The boy who is not as good an acrobat as he thought is Stam. Girl-next-door Pilou is sitting on his head. They love to play together. Grandpa Fons is studying Stam’s mother’s rear end. It is no coincidence that he is a retired postman and an avid stamp collector. The strip was produced at the request of The Belgian Post Office and appeared in the magazine of a stamp club for young people. When the light and cheerful stories with lots of practical jokes and situation humour proved successful, albums were also published. On the board that Grandpa Fons is holding, the words “Sprekt a mooiotoêl, ARA!” appear, which is Brussels dialect for “speak your mother tongue”. Ara is an organisation supporting the Brussels dialect. Stam & Pilou is a creation by De Marck and De Wulf, the stage names of the original kids Marc Daniels and Rick Dewulf.

Where? La Fleur en Papier Doré, rue des Alexiens 53/55
Authors: De Marck and De Wulf
Publisher: Van Halewyck

MARSUPILAMI
On 8th May 2013 a new fresco was inaugurated on Avenue Houba de Strooperlaan. The Marsupilami, famous friend of Spirou since 1952, recently joined the famous Comic strip walk of Brussels. The location for the wall-painting was not chosen at random, on the contrary. The story goes – and historians and comic strip enthusiasts seem to agree – that Franquin found his inspiration for the Marsupilami’s “Houba, Houba” scream when he walked on this avenue. The name “Houba” sounded so appealing to him that he decided to use it as the scream for his new comic strip character. The realization was given to Farmprod, a collective of Belgian and French artists based in Brussels since 2003.

André Franquin (3rd January 1924 – 5th January 1997), a native of Etterbeek, worked for a long time for the publishing house Dupuis. In 1946, he is asked to take over the adventures of Spirou and Fantasio. He then creates the Marsupilami character which first appeared in the Spirou magazine in 1952. The Marsupilami is an imaginary, black-spotted yellow monkey-like creature that lives in the wild in Palombia. He nests high up in the canopy with all his family: Marsupilamie, Bibi, Bibu and Bobo.

Where? Avenue Houba de Strooperlaan 141, 1020 Brussels / Author: André Franquin / Editor: Marsu Production.

THORGAL
To the delight of both local residents and passers-by Thorgal and his wife Aaricia watch over Place Anneessens since 18 October 2013. Thorgal, famous Viking hero and brainchild of Jean Van Hamme and Grzegorz Rosinski, is the latest addition to Brussels’ comic strip trail. Born in 1977 from the encounter between Jean Van Hamme and Grzegorz Rosinski, he features in the first comic book resulting from the collaboration between a graphic artist from the “Eastern Bloc” and a writer from the “Free World” within the context of the Cold War. He also shows if need be that art is able to transcend apparently insurmountable barriers. The project was entrusted to Urbana Project, a collective of Brussels artists led by Nicolas Moreel.

Where? Place Anneessens, 1000 Brussels / Authors: Jean Van Hamme & Grzegorz Rosinski / Editor: Le Lombard
BOULE & BILL
Roba was inspired by his family to create Boule & Bill (known in English as Billy & Buddy), namely his son and his dog. Boule is a typical little boy whose best buddy is Bill, his adorable cocker spaniel. In addition to Boule, Bill has another passion: Caroline, the cute turtle ... In a family world brimming over with kindness and love of life, the mischief and pranks of Boule and Bill have delighted readers of all ages for generations.
This mural was first inaugurated in 1992 and restored in 2014 after building work.
Where? Rue du Chevreuil, 1000 Brussels / Cartoonist: Roba / Writer: Maurice Rosy / Publishers: Dargaud, Dupuis

SPIROU
The Spirou mural fits in perfectly with the Marolles district where second-hand dealers reign supreme. Without ever straying from his striking red groom’s uniform, Spirou is very much an adventurer. Always accompanied by his friend, Fantasio, and Spip, his pet squirrel, Spirou fights all sorts of villains all around the world. He takes on the terrible evil scientist Zorglub or the dastardly pirate John Héléna, he faces up to the Italian mafia and Chinese triads in New York or solves the mystery of a mythical animal in Palombia: the Marsupilami.
One of the greatest comic book heroes is still incredibly active 75 years on! Since his creation by Rob-Vel in 1938, Jijé, Franquin, Fourrier, Cauvin & Nic, Chaland, Tome & Janry, and many other authors have successively lent their talent to breathe life into Spirou in his comic book and albums. Some appear in this mural ... will you recognise them?
Where? Notre Dame des Grâces, 1000 Brussels / Authors: Yoann & Velhmann / Publisher: Dupuis

FROUD ET STOUF
Originally created for television, this comedy series with its very Belgian outlook has also appeared in comic-book form. Froud and Stouf are two small blue dogs who philosophise about life. They spring from the imagination of Frédéric Jannin, author of several series including “Germain et nous”, in collaboration with Stefan Liberski, a Brussels-based director and writer. They also worked together on the television series “Les Snuls” (or “The Dummies” in the Brussels dialect) for the television channel “Canal + Belgium”. The mural, created in October 2014, brightens up the blocked windows of a 3-storey building.
Where? Boulevard Maurice Lemonnier 32, 1000 Brussels / Authors: Frédéric Jannin and Stefan Liberski / Publishers: Luc Pire, Dupuis

L’ARCHE
Located in the municipality of Ixelles/Elsene, “L’Arche/De Ark” by François Schuiten and Alexandre Obolensky is a wall painting illustrating the city of tomorrow, a sustainable and humane city. With this work of art, project initiator Atrium Flagey wanted to embellish the commercial neighbourhood and at the same time increase its general appeal. “The Arch/De Ark” invites us on a journey through the streets and alleys of Ixelles/Elsene. The mural stays true to François Schuiten’s typical style: a gigantic imaginary but at the same time familiar steamship. This monumental piece was first drawn and painted on canvas and later, i.e. in 2013, applied on the façade. In 2014, “L’Arche/De Ark” is completed by a soundtrack. Passers-by can scan the nearby QR code and then land on a website which not only provides additional information on how the work was made but also a larger-than-life soundtrack complete with seagulls crying, steamships hooting and passengers talking... All it’s missing is a faint salty breeze...
Where? On the corner of Rue Maesstraat and Chaussée d’Ixelles/Elsensesteenweg, 1050 Brussels / Authors: François Schuiten and Alexandre Obolensky

THE CAT
This is the second mural devoted to the comic series “The Cat” in the Brussels-Capital Region, the first being on the Boulevard du Midi. It spreads out over a length of nearly 140 meters along the former “Géruzet” fire stations in the municipality of Etterbeek. Twenty or so original drawings were designed by Philippe Geluck for the occasion and the gags can be read in French, Dutch and English. Several themes specific to the district are addressed, such as Europe and multiculturalism for example. The main objective of this mural is to increase the appeal of the Chasse district and its shops.
Where? On the corner of Boulevard Général Jacques and chaussée de Wavre, 1040 Brussels / Author Philippe Geluck / Publisher: Catserman
B. BUILDINGS AND STATUES NOT TO BE MISSED

LE LOMBARD
Close to Gare du Midi (railway station) stands the “Tintin Building”, a listed monument which was once home to the publishing company Les Éditions du Lombard. They published the Tintin magazine from 1946 to 1988. The sign in the image of Tintin and Milou (Snowy) is one of the symbols of Brussels.

Avenue Paul-Henri Spaak 7, 1060 Brussels

SMURF STATUE
When the idea of creating a Smurf statue was presented to Studio Peyo, they first did some research to find the appropriate pose and attitude. Numerous sketches were made and given the impressive size of the statue the scale of the Smurf needed to be expressed so he was placed on a mushroom. He also needed to look his usual warm and friendly self so was given a broad smurfy smile, thus inviting people to come into the gallery or to come and pose next to him.

Rue Marché-aux-Herbes, 1000 Brussels - next to the Horta Gallery (in Brussels Central Station)

GASTON STATUE
The statue of Gaston Lagaffe was commissioned by Delhaize Le Lion for the Christmas and New Year holidays of 1992. Gaston Lagaffe is a mythical character in the Belgian comic strip created by the famous author Franquin. Lagaffe found a permanent place for himself close to the Centre belge de la Bande Dessinée (Belgian Comic Strip Center) in February 1996.

Boulevard Pocheco, 1000 Brussels

STATUE OF BILLY AND BUDDY
Since September 2000, the commune of Jette has had a statue of Billy and Buddy, made by the sculptor Tom Frantzen. It’s a nod to Jean Roba, from Jette, who used to live not far from there.

Avenue Van Engeland- Avenue du Heymbosch, 1090 Jette

STATUE OF TINTIN AND SNOWY IN UCCLE AND SABLON
In 1975, Raymond Leblanc (Les Editions du Lombard publishing company) and Guy Dessicy (Publiart) decided to give Hergé a surprise for the 30th anniversary of the Tintin magazine. To mark the occasion, they commissioned a standing statue of Tintin & Snowy from the sculptor Nat Neujean. Several copies were made of this statue: the first is currently in the Centre Culturel d’Uccle (Uccle Cultural Centre) after spending some time in Wolvendael Park. This copy had been officially unveiled on 29th September 1976.

The second copy has been standing in Grand Sablon since 21st September 2011. This 1.80 m statue had been acquired by Francis Slomka in Paris. He then promised to bring it back to Brussels. That’s now been done to the delight of all Tintinophiles.

Rue Rouge 47, 1180 Uccle & Grand Sablon 8, 1000 Brussels

LA MAISON AUTRIQUE (AUTRIQUE HOUSE)

www.autrique.be

Autrique House is a grand townhouse built by Victor Horta in 1893. Between its construction in 1893 and the mid-1990s, Autrique House underwent a number of transformations. François Schuiten and Benoît Peeters are currently responsible for its entire scenographic design. From Wednesday to Sunday, its doors open onto a unique atmosphere. Every year, La Maison Autrique plays host to outstanding exhibitions!

Chaussée de Haecht 266, 1030 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 215 66 00
info@autrique.be
C. MUSEUMS, EXHIBITIONS AND GALLERIES

COMICS ART MUSEUM
www.cbdd.be

The Belgian Comic Strip Centre? In the land of Smurfs and Tin-tin, visitors discover a range of permanent exhibitions, illustrated with original artwork and unique objects. Simultaneously, there are also several temporary exhibitions. But the Comics Art Museum is also the former Waucquez Warehouse, a gem of Art Nouveau by grand master Victor Horta (1906). Open every day from 10am to 6pm.

- Three new permanent exhibitions at the Comics Art Museum:

  THE INVENTION OF COMIC STRIP
  How did the comic strip begin, and how is it defined? This exhibition takes you on a journey in enormous strides through the history of the world and its civilisations.

  THE ART OF COMIC STRIP
  This exposition proposes to explore the comic strip in all its forms, from the creative process to the range of genres that constitute the European comic strip today.

  HORTA AND THE WAUCQUEZ WAREHOUSE
  This exhibition tells the story of a shop the like of which is no longer seen. Now over 100 years old, this is the only semi-industrial building designed by Victor Horta still in existence today. And what an existence it has had!

- The temporary exhibitions in 2015 include:

  PICTURING BRUSSELS (FROM 16 SEPTEMBER 2014 TO 1 MARCH 2015)
  Between the Sacred Isle (‘Îlot Sacré’) and the European quarter, to the north of the canal and the south of the River Woluwe, live the people of Brussels. In joint tribute both to the 25 years of the Brussels-Capital region and to its own 25th anniversary, the Belgian Comic Strip Centre has set out to capture the image of Brussels as seen in the comic strip over the last 25 years (1989-2014). Whether permanent residents of the city or simply passing through, from the traditional authors to the most contemporary, from the old greats to the work of students just completing their studies in the art of the comic strip, the image of Brussels is a constantly evolving structure, a joyous melting-pot of cultures and influences as appealingly reflected in the comic strip – and in the CBBD 25-year anniversary exhibition.

  ROSINSKI FROM POLAND (FROM 2 DECEMBER 2014 TO 24 MAY 2015)
  Ever since discovering comic strips in 1953, at the age of ten, Grzegorz Rosinski always knew that his destiny lay in sharing his passion for telling stories through images with the public. Born in Poland, this major European comic strip author had already embarked upon his chosen career long before he met the scenario writer Jean Van Hamme in Brussels in 1976, and created the Thorgal saga with him. A lover of images – their only limit being credibility and readability - Rosinski is the painter of the world of make-believe.

  JEAN VAN HAMME, TRAVELLER WITHOUT FRONTIERS (FROM 16 JUNE 2015 TO 29 NOVEMBER 2015)
  He then abandoned his career overnight to devote himself to writing film and comic strip scenarios. Van Hamme went on to become the author of huge best-sellers such as Thorgal, XIII and Largo Winch – 25 years old this year! – and also wrote many memorable works such as Epoxy, Histoire sans Héros, SOS Bonheur and Le Grand Pouvoir du Chninkel. His great strength lies in his skill at exposing the hidden face of power. An inveterate wanderer, Jean Van Hamme has travelled widely throughout the world, and heads off to research every location to which he sends his heroes on their adventures.
FRED JANNIN, FROM COMIC STRIP TO MULTIMEDIA (FROM 22 SEPTEMBER TO 28 FEBRUARY 2016)
As the author of the series Germain et nous in the magazine Spirou, he is regarded as a privileged witness to the youth scene of the 1980’s. It was for this series that he created The Bowling Balls, a parodic rock group. Then followed a number of recording projects, including Zinno, which rose to success in the hit charts. Jannin subsequently enjoyed a parallel career as a humorist, appearing in many TV and radio shows to become a key figure in the Belgian media landscape.

JEAN-POL, PLEASURE IN MOVEMENT (FROM 12 DECEMBER TO 29 MAY 2015)
An author with a flair for humour – in life as in his works – Jean-Pol already had a considerable body of work behind him when he took over the series Sammy, created by Berck and Cauvin for Spirou magazine. His exuberant, well-rounded drawings have won him great admiration and brought him the international renown he deserves.

Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 219 19 80
visit@cbbd.be

MUSEUM MARC SLEEN
www.marc-sleen.be
Admire the life and work of Marc Sleen as you make your way through a permanent exhibition which details the many different aspects of his creative body of work. Marc Sleen is considered to be one of the fathers of Flemish comic strip. He’s the creator of Nero, for which he alone produced more than 200 albums.

Rue des Sables 33-35, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0)2 219 19 80
visit@cbbd.be
LA MAISON DE LA BANDE DESSINÉE (THE COMIC STRIP HOUSE)

www.jije.org

This bookshop offers a choice of comic strips to suit a varied audience with diverse tastes. It offers a selection of comic strips from past and present as well as re-issues, de-luxe editions, well-stocked manga shelves, an English language section and a wide choice in Dutch, a comic strip department for young people, comic strip stamped stationery and spin-off objects! Not forgetting the must-see space dedicated to Tintin and its creator, which offers the albums of the hero in different formats and in nearly 70 different languages and dialects. A wide bibliographical choice on Hergé and his work is also available.

Two or three times a year, The Comic Strip House holds a very good exhibition on an author, character or particular theme of comic strip. For these, original documents and items, coming from private collections, are displayed and accompanied by vintage spin-off objects.

Boulevard de l’Impératrice 1, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 502 94 68
info@jije.org

LE VILLAGE DE LA BANDE DESSINÉE (THE COMIC STRIP VILLAGE) - COMICS CAFÉ

www.comicscafe.be

Le Village de la Bande Dessinée is the only concept of its kind and the perfect place for all fans of the 9th art. First of all, it's a kind of museum consisting mainly of objects or illustration plates on loan from leading European and American collectors. Here, you'll find original illustration plates of Tintin, Lucky Luke, Blake & Mortimer, Astérix, Corto Maltese, and others. It's also an art gallery which will give everyone the opportunity to get hold of a rare piece of work for him/herself. But the concept of Le Village de la Bande Dessinée doesn't stop there. It's also a brasserie, called “Comics Café”, where you’ll be able to dine on Popeye or Obélix hamburgers. You’ll be greeted there by a statue of Tintin & Milou (Snowy) standing no less than 1.80 m tall!

Place du Grand Sablon 8, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 513 13 23
contact@comicscafe.be
MOOF
www.moof-museum.be
The Museum of Original Figurines has a unique collection dedicated to the heroes of comic strip, which explores the great myths of comic strip in the form of real “little” works of art. Some very special figurines are: Milou’s (Snowy’s) sarcophagus (*Les cigares du Pharaon / The Cigars of the Pharaoh*), Tintin’s vase (*Le Lotus bleu / The Blue Lotus*), the statue of the boy Abdullah (*Tintin au pays de l’or noir / Tintin in the Land of Black Gold*), the bust of the Japanese rogue Mitsuhirato (*The Blue Lotus*), the frescoes of Rascar Capac (*Les 7 Boules de cristal / The Seven Crystal Balls*) as well as the life-sized statues of Tintin, Milou (Snowy), Captain Haddock and professeur Tournesol (Professor Calculus) as they appear in *On a marché sur la Lune / Explorers on the Moon*. You’ll also discover other exclusive objects there, such as: two bronze busts of Astérix and Obélix, and an original illustration plate of Franquin’s Gaston in black & white, and the “life-sized” village of the Schtroumpfs (Smurfs).

Based inside the MOOF, the Raymond Leblanc Foundation promotes, collects and preserves all of the cultural heritage built up by Raymond Leblanc, founder of Les Éditions du Lombard publishers, the Tintin magazine, the Publiart advertising agency and the Belvision cartoon studios.

MOOF
Galerie Horta-Central Railway Station
Rue du Marché-aux-Herbes 116, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: + 32 (0) 2 265 33 25
info@moof-museum.be

Raymond Leblanc Foundation
Galerie Horta-Central Railway Station, 1000 Brussels
Paulette Smets-Melloul (Director-Founder)
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 526 68 90
THE HERGÉ MUSEUM
www.tintin.com
A voyage in 80 original printing plates and 800 photos that delve into the essence of Hergé’s work through a series of items and documents on display at the Hergé Museum. Here you will discover the creative spirit of Hergé, who did not confine himself to Tintin. A graphic designer, publicist, caricaturist and storyteller, all facets of the artist are laid bare.

ELEVENTH SPECIAL FLEA MARKET DEDICATED TO THE WORK OF HERGÉ
On May 2015 the Hergé and Tintin flea market will be held right next door to the Hergé Museum, at the Martin V Primary School in Louvain-la-Neuve, from 11 am to 5 pm. All kinds of objects (books, toys, original artwork, publications, posters, figurines, games, documents, etc.) related to the work of Hergé, will be on display and available to buy! All kinds of other surprises are in store for visitors to the market.

Rue du Labrador, 26, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve
Tel.: +32 (0) 10 48 84 21
www.museeherge.com

GALERIE BRÜSEL
www.brusel.com
Founded in 1994 by Frédéric Ronsse and Reynold Leclercq, the Brüsel bookshop and its stainless steel structure unearthed from the “Cités Obscures” (Obscure Cities) has, for nearly 20 years, been part of the life of all comic strip fans living in or familiar with Brussels. And it can pride itself on having become the comic strip reference point of the comic strip capital. Set up in an old grocery shop and a fin-de-siècle building in the area around la Bourse (the Stock Exchange), Brüsel has followed and often led the development and the transformations of the 9th Art. The bookshop that used to offer the best of the 500 annual issues on a surface area of 60 m², now champions the cream of more than 5000 publications a year on 300 m² and a stock of 20,000 titles.

From the start, the bookshop was divided into an exhibition and sales gallery, becoming a new leader in “para-comic strip”: exhibitions, sales, originals, silk-screen prints, posters, framing, figurines, production of ex-libris and of exclusive editions. At the end of 2010, Brüsel split itself into a new branch on Place Flagey in Ixelles, focusing on the local market, books for young people and literature. But although the size has changed, the philosophy has never slipped: the service, advice and varied nature of the customers and the publishers, continue to make it an animated place, open 7 days a week and devoted to comic strip.

Boulevard Anspach 98, 1000 Brussels
Mon-Sat: 10.30 – 18.30 h
Sun: 12 noon – 18.30 h
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 511 08 09
info@brusel.com

Place Flagey 29, 1050 Brussels (Ixelles)
Mon-Sat: 11.00-19.00 h
Sun: 10.00 – 17.00 h
Tel: +32 (0) 2 649 02 11
flagey@brusel.com
Housed in a mansion in the typical style of Brussels, the Champaka Gallery lies somewhere between comic strip and illustration. It takes an unusual look at creators of worlds of international stature. So, don’t look for albums or original illustration plates in this extraordinary gallery. The Champaka Gallery is aimed at a more particular kind of audience, to which it presents comic strip works bordering on contemporary art.

Rue Ernest Allard 27, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 514 91 52
sablon@galeriechampaka.com

At the heart of the Sablon district, dozens of original drawings are on display at the Galerie Huberty & Breyne. This gallery, which also has a branch in Paris, puts on several exhibitions every year, but also organises special auctions of original high-end boards and drawings.

Place du Grand Sablon 8, 1000 Brussels
philippe@petitspapiers.be

The Gallery, located in the very centre of Brussels, 5 minutes away from Grand-Place and Central Station, between the Manneken-Pis and the Sablon, settles to exhibit graphic art pieces, especially comic strips. Vieille Halle aux Blés is located at the foot of the first surrounding city wall vestiges. It was named after the wheat hall that is mentioned there from the 13th century onwards. Over the centuries, it then turned into a departure place for the diligences going to Amsterdam, Luxembourg and Paris, to finally become an outstanding 150 m² space, in a 17th century house with a baroque facade. The gallery owners offer a dozen of exhibitions per year, original drawing boards, illustrations as well as a shop presenting rare books, curiosities, engravings, highlights, various unusual and nowhere else to be found collector’s items.

COMIC STRIPS APERITIFS – on some occasions, the gallery turns into a space where artists and fans can meet during signing sessions.

Place de la Vieille Halle aux Blés 29, 1000 Brussels
contact@galeriebruxellesparis.com

The gallery “le 9ème RegArt” permanently proposes a wide choice of drawings, Indian inks, watercolours and paintings produced by cartoonists. The artworks taken from their albums or inspired by their universe are carefully selected for their artistic and decorative quality. The gallery is open to the public on Sundays from 10am to 1pm, or by appointment.

Avenue du Général de Gaulle 46, 1050 Brussels
pfranck@skynet.be
THE CARTOONIST
www.thecartoonist.be
The Cartoonist opens its doors. From now on our capital has gained a special place: a separate location for the Belgian press cartoonists. The archive of the participating cartoonists is accessible and collected on the website www.thecartoonist.be. In addition, their work can be seen in the gallery bearing the same name and located in the Marolles district. At the gallery they organize solo as well as themed exhibitions.

Rue Haute 11 Hoogstraat, 1000 Brussels

3. REGULAR COMIC STRIP ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The 9th art always takes pride of place in the Brussels-Capital Region. Each event draws in the crowds. Children and adults, professionals and enthusiasts meet up here to find that rare gem or just to enjoy a typical Brussels-style celebration.

More information on : WWW.VISITBRUSSELS.BE/COMICS

A. COMIC STRIP FESTIVAL (FROM 4 SEPTEMBER TO 6 SEPTEMBER)
www.fetedelabd.be
It is about time that Brussels, of all places, had a festival to celebrate comic strips! The weekend festival will offer events of all kinds, exhibitions, book signings, a fair, and lots more, including an airborne parade of helium-inflated comic-strip heroes, life-size comic-strip characters and authors in city parks.

Contacts visit.brussels:
• Martha Meeze - m.meeze@visitbrussels.be
• Pierre Massart - p.massart@visitbrussels.be
• Gary Divito - g.divito@visitbrussels.be
• Catherine Renard- c.renard@visitbrussels.be
B. SEVERAL COMICS EVENTS IN BRUSSELS

MADE IN ASIA (14 & 15 MARCH 2015)
Made in Asia is a big draw for all fans of manga and its derivatives. Demonstrations, sale of Japanese products, concerts, cosplay contests and other activities enrich the programming of this colourful fair that has become a real must.

Brussels Expo, 1020 Brussels
www.madeinasia.be

STRIP-FESTIVAL-BD JETTE (AUGUST 2015)
In August, the Abbay of Dieleghem hosts the new edition of Jette's "Strip-festival-BD". Each year several comic strip artists are in the spotlight.
Rue Jean Tiebackstraat 14, 1090 Jette

RAYMOND LEBLANC AWARD (SEPTEMBER 2015: TO BE CONFIRMED)
Each year the Raymond Leblanc Award stands out as one of the highest rewards for young talented cartoonists. Each candidate is invited to present a short story and cover, on a given topic. The winner gets a prestigious award: a contract with publishing house Éditions du Lombard.

www.fondationrleblanc.be

THE DIAGONALE PRIZE (SEPTEMBER 2015: TO BE CONFIRMED)
This international comic strip prize was created in Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve in 2008 and is the first major prize in Belgium dedicated to the 9th art. It distributes 3 prestigious awards whose winners are always extremely proud of their achievement.
- The DIAGONALE Prize Grand Jury Prize, awarded to a comic strip writer for their total body of work.
- The Prize of the Town of Ottignies for the best album of the year.
- The Walloon Brabant Province Award recognises the best series of the year.

www.prix-diagonale.be

TALK ABOUT COMICS (SEPTEMBER 2015)
Lectures by Talk about Comics during the Comic Strip Festival in Brussels.

Find out more and book on talkaboutcomics.be.

JAPAN EXPO BELGIUM (NOVEMBER 2015: TO BE CONFIRMED)
Embark on a journey to the heart of the Japanese culture... Fans of Japanese pop culture have an appointment in Brussels for several days packed with events and emotions.

Tour & Taxis/Thurn & Taxis
Avenue du Port 86C, 1000 Brussels
www.japan-expo.be
C. GUIDED TOURS

BRUSSELS & BELGIUM GUIDES - GBB
www.visitbrussels.be

• BRUSSELS, CAPITAL OF COMIC STRIP
The official guides of Brussels take you on a walk through the world of comic strip. This trail criss-crosses the city from one fresco to another and is a very special and unusual interpretation of our city.
Encounters with the authors: Frank Pé, Roba, Carin, Tibet, Morris, Philippe Geluck, Marc Sleen and Vandersteen, and with the characters: Boule et Bill (Billy and Buddy), Lucky Luke, le Chat (the Cat), Ric Hochet, Cubitus, Bob & Bobette (Spike & Suzy), Nero and his friends. A wonderful way to round off this journey is a visit to the Centre belge de la Bande dessinée (Belgian Comic Strip Center) where you’ll find all your favourite heroes (to be booked specifically at the CBBD).

• ON THE TRAIL OF TINTIN, THE LITTLE REPORTER
Find out about this typical Brussels character with the official guides of Brussels (GBB).
On a two-hour walk with them, they’ll show you the different places, buildings, frescoes and anecdotes featured in the Tintin albums.
The spotlight will be on Hergé, the pseudonym of Georges Remy and comic strip artist of all the albums of the famous reporter. And the character, Tintin, will be ‘unpacked’ and analysed in an entertaining way. Throughout the tour, your guides will shed light on the subject of the private and professional life, the achievements and the workplaces of the greatest master of comic strip.

2015 prices: Walk: € 110.00, Schools: € 90.00, maximum 25 people per guide
Tour starts from: Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée, rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels

Brussels Town Hall
Grand-Place, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 548 04 48
guides@visitbrussels.be

ITINÉRAIRES
www.itineraires.be

• TINTIN AND BRUSSELS
From one speech balloon to another, thanks to Milou’s (Snowy’s) great sense of smell, the Itinéraires team invites you to explore Brussels with Tintin as your guide. From the high notes of La Castafiore in front of the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie to the port of Brussels with Captain Haddock, a reminder of the encounter between Tchang (Chang) and Hergé, the brilliant ideas of our professeur Tournesol (Professor Calculus) and the collaboration of our two famous detectives Dupond and Dupont (Thomson and Thompson). You’ll experience some ‘real’ adventures: ones that put the 9th art and “another Brussels” centre stage.
This route was developed in cooperation with the Hergé Studios. Please contact the Itinéraires team to agree on the practical details of your tour.

• BRUSSELS AS TOLD BY THE HEROES AND AUTHORS OF COMIC STRIP
The Comic Strip Route is an exploration of the interaction between artistic expression and urban place of interest. It’s a way of getting closer to the character of its inhabitants by means of the personality of the comic strip artists and scriptwriters, through the atmosphere of the stories that they’ve staged.
Finally, it’s a completely original angle from which to explore the city, some of its most contrasting monuments and districts. A comic strip and a comic strip coordinator at the start of your walk will liven up your tour! Please contact the team to agree on the practical details of your tour.
• **BRUSSELS SEGWAY: COMIC STRIP**
  
  Set off on a Segway to explore a comic strip route in Brussels. This rather odd, playful, environmentally-friendly and surprising machine that’s great fun to use is a motorised two-wheeled vehicle which balances dynamically and which you drive standing up. Two experiences in one: while riding around on this funny machine, with your guide, come across the heroes of our comic strips on the painted walls, the historic buildings depicted by our comic strip authors and the must-see sites that make Brussels the living capital of comic strip.
  
  Maximum 7 participants per tour. As soon as the asbl (not-for-profit association) confirms your booking, you’ll be asked for payment by transfer before the tour. Segway hire included in the price.

  *Rue Hôtel des Monnaies 157, 1060 Brussels*
  
  Tel.: +32 (0)2 534 30 00
  
  info@itineraires.be

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**CENTRE BELGE DE LA BANDE DESSINÉE (BELGIAN COMIC STRIP CENTER)**

www.cbbd.be

• **COMIC STRIP TRAIL**
  
  Visits to the CBBD can be adapted to the age and interests of the group. The guide service provides guided tours based on specific themes (Art Nouveau, classic or modern comic strip, Tintin, etc.), and discovery walks in the centre of Brussels.
  
  Duration: 2½ hours
  
  Price per guide (group of max. 25 people): €115.00
  (except school groups from Tuesday to Friday: €100.00)
  
  Languages: French, English, Dutch, German, Spanish, Italian, Danish, Polish, Czech and Greek.

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• **HERGÉ’S BRUSSELS**
  
  The roots of Tintin and of Hergé are closely linked to Brussels. Set off to discover the character and his creator with an official guide from the Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée (Belgian Comic Strip Center). You’ll be heading out to encounter not only a series of places and buildings that appear in the albums but also frescoes of the Hergé series as well as innumerable details on the biography of the artist.
  
  During this two-hour walking trail, you’ll (re)discover an icon of the Ninth art and get to know Brussels as seen through the eyes of one of its great artists.

  2015 prices: guided tour: €115.00, schools: €100.00, maximum 25 people per guide
  
  Start of tour: Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée, Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels

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• **NERO ROUTE**
  
  Discover Brussels through the eyes of Nero and his creator Marc Sleen. The tour takes about 2 hours and a half. It starts at the Belgian Comic Strip Centre and ends on Grand-Place.

  2015 prices: guided tour: €115, schools: €100, maximum 25 people per guide
  
  Languages: English, French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Italian, Danish, Swedish and Greek.

  *Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels*
  
  Tel.: +32 (0)2 219 19 80
  
  visit@cbbd.be
BUS BAVARD (CHATTERBUS)
www.busbavard.be
The ‘bus bavard’ (chatterbus) presents original trails and a new way of exploring Brussels: Brussels seen through comic strip, Brussels in strip drawings,…

Rue des Thuyas 12, 1170 Brussels
Tel: +32 (0) 2 673 18 35
busbavard@skynet.be

PRO VELO
www.provelo.org
Cafés and comic strip. From Quick and Flupke to Brüsel including Lucky Luke, the capital of Europe is also the capital of comic strip. Many authors have chosen to set up home here and one of Victor Horta’s finest buildings has been converted into a temple of comic strip. More than 40 blind walls in the heart of Brussels have been adorned with comic strip frescoes. Discovering them prompts you to see the city from another perspective. What’s more, since in Belgium beer is an art too, the tour also takes in a few ‘brusseleir’ cafés. 3½ hrs - 12km

Rue de Londres 15, 1050 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 517 17 65
velotourisme@provelo.org

MORE GUIDED TOURS ON:
www.visitbrussels.be/guides

TO FIND OUT MORE...

“Brussels in comic strip. Comic strip in Brussels” by Thibaut Vandorselaer
This guide presents a trail in the heart of Brussels. Its unifying thread: comic strip. It looks, with us, at the most famous vignettes with Brussels as their setting and shows us the frescoes of comic strip artists in the city. Both comic strip fans and those who love Brussels will enjoy this. Thibaut Vandorselaer attaches particular importance to the development of Brussels and to the 9th art. After graduating in tourism and European studies, he specialised in environmental management and regional development.

Éditions Versant Sud
Coll. “Itinéraire Découverte”
2004
140 pages

THE “BD en Ville” BLOG
This blog is the work of a fan of comics. Guy Detienne features on his site not only the murals created in Brussels and its suburbs but also in other Belgian provinces.

www.bd-en-ville.be (in French)
4. COMIC STRIP SHOPPING

The Brussels-Capital Region has a wealth of original shops. Here and there, you’ll come across some key bookshops and galleries. The most emblematic are, without a doubt, the specialist centres Brüsel & Multi-BD on Boulevard Anspach, Het B-Gevaar on Rue de la Fourche or else Le Dépôt BD and Utopia, Rue du Midi. Some hold exhibitions, others book-signing sessions. Together they make up the most animated hub of the comic strip sector in Brussels.

A. PLACES TO SHOP

WWW.SHOPINBRUSSELS.BE

| Brussels-City | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | | | |
| | Brüssel | Boulevard Anspach 98 | 1000 Brussels |
| | La boutique Tintin | Rue de la Colline 3 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Smurf Store | Rue Marché-aux-Herbes 116 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Het B-Gevaar | Rue de la Fourche 15 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Tropismes | Galerie du Roi 4 | 1000 Brussels |
| | La Maison de la BD | Boulevard de l’Impératrice 1 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Le Village de la Bande Dessinée | Place du Grand Sablon 8 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Petits Papier | Place Fontainas 1 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Little Nemo | Boulevard Maurice Lemonnier 25 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Le Fantôme Espagnol | Boulevard Maurice Lemonnier 31 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Multi-Jeunesse | Boulevard Anspach 126 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Le Dépôt | Rue du Midi 108 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Multi BD | Boulevard Anspach 122 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Utopia | Rue du Midi 39 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Dong Co | Rue du Midi 33 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Hors Série | Rue du Midi 67 | 1000 Brussels |
| | Jeu de Bulles | 79 Place du Jeu de Balle | 1000 Bruxelles |

| Etterbeek | Filigranes | Avenue des Arts 39-40 | 1040 Etterbeek |

| Saint-Gilles | Librairie The Skull | Chausée de Waterloo 336 | 1060 Saint-Gilles |
| | Dargaud-Lombard SA | Avenue Paul-Henri Spaak 7 | 1060 Saint-Gilles |
| | Béduennia | Chausée de Waterloo 169 | 1060 Saint-Gilles |
| | Forbidden Zone | Rue de Tamines 25 | 1060 Saint-Gilles |
| | Anthracite | Chausée de Waterloo 205 | 1060 Brussels |
### Ixelles – Porte de Namur

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<th>Librairie Durango</th>
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<td>Le Dépot</td>
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<td>Espace BD</td>
<td>Place Fernand Cocq 2 1050 Ixelles</td>
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### Jette

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<td>Rue Henri Werrie 85 1090 Jette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objectif BD</td>
<td>Avenue de Jette 272 1090 Jette</td>
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### B. OTHER BOOKSHOPS

**LE WOLF**  
[www.lewolf.be](http://www.lewolf.be)  
This bookshop is mainly for young people. This institution is laid out as a bookshop, a library and a cafeteria. Here, young people can find comic strips, among other things.

*Rue de la Violette 18/20, 1000 Brussels*  
*Tel.: +32 (0) 2 512 12 30*  
*info@lewolf.be*

**THE SLUMBERLAND BOOKSHOP - BELGIAN COMIC STRIP CENTER**  
[www.cbbd.be](http://www.cbbd.be)  
Albums, figurines, postcards, board games and other spin-off products... here, you can track down all kinds of comic strip stamped objects.

*Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels*  
*Tel.: + 32 (0) 2 219 19 80*  
*visit@cbbd.be*

**THE BOOKSHOP OF LA MAISON DE LA BANDE DESSINÉE (THE COMIC STRIP HOUSE)**  
[www.jije.org](http://www.jije.org)  
Advance issues, de-luxe editions, new publications and mangas are available for you to peruse in this bookshop, which has become an absolute must in Brussels.

*Boulevard de l’Impératrice 1, 1000 Brussels*  
*Tel.: +32 (0) 2 502 94 68*  
*info@jije.org*
5. COMIC STRIP RESTAURANTS

COMICS CAFE IN LE VILLAGE DE LA BD (THE COMIC STRIP VILLAGE)
http://comicscafe.be
Le Village de la Bande Dessinée, in Sablon, also houses the COMICS CAFE, a giant American brasserie where you can dine on an "Obélix" XXL hamburger or a “Popeye” burger with salmon and spinach. To quaff a “Loch Lomond”, the famous whisky of Captain Haddock, all you have to do is go downstairs into the pub lounge of the Village.

Place du Grand Sablon, 8, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 523 13 23

LA FLEUR EN PAPIER DORÉ
www.fleurenpapierdore.be
Hergé often used to drop in at this ‘estaminet’ (old-style little café-bar) with an illustrious past to enjoy a good Gueuze. It was here that the key figures of twentieth-century Belgian surrealism used to gather in the days of René Magritte. And it was also the favourite bistro of Pierre Alechinsky and Jacques Brel. The café is still an artistic and literary watering hole nowadays. Since May 2011, the inner courtyard of la Fleur en Papier Doré has been home to a comic strip fresco created by the comic strip artists De Marck and De Wulf (Stam and Pilou).

Rue des Alexiens 53/55, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 511 16 59
lepetitgerard@lafleurenpapierdoré.be

BAR DESSINÉ - RADISSONBLU
www.radissonblu.fr/royalhotel-brussels/restaurant/bar
Go on a world tour of Belgian comic strip at the Bar Dessiné, as you savour a single-malt whisky, puff on an Havana cigar or sip an exquisite cocktail. Original and unique images decorate the ‘estaminet’ (old-style café-bar) where you can order light snacks and specialities of Brussels.

Rue du Fossé-aux-Loups 47, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 219 28 28

BRASSERIE HORTA - THE COMICS ART MUSEUM
www.brasseriehorta.be
The Comics Art Museum is a seminal meeting-place of fantasy, imagination and beauty. It also includes a brasserie with the inimitable Brussels atmosphere. Art Nouveau and Comic Strip enthusiasts alike are in for a treat: pleasing on the eye and on the palate.

Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 217 72 71
6. COMIC STRIP HOTELS

HOTEL AMIGO
www.roccofortehotels.com
This famous hotel has rooms enhanced with 100% Tintin details: little touches of humour that brighten up the spacious bathrooms. The Amigo hotel is one of the most prestigious in Brussels and it's the favourite of numerous stars and heads of State. It stands right in the heart of Brussels, close to the Grand-Place and the leading tourist sites. Close to this hotel, you’ll come across several frescoes: a fresco of Tintin (Rue de l’Étuve), Le Passage, Broussaille & Victor Sackville (Rue du Marché au Charbon) and others.

Rue de l’Amigo 1-3, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 547 47 47
enquiries.amigo@roccofortecollection.com

HOTEL MÉTROPOLE
www.metropolehotel.com
Métropole Hotel appears in Hergé’s Les 7 Boules de cristal (The Seven Crystal Balls) and in Wayne Shelton: Son altesse Honesty (Her Highness Honesty) by Vanhamme & Denayer. This wonderful 19th-century hotel is situated in the centre of Brussels, just a 10-minute walk away from the Grand-Place and the Gare Centrale (railway station) of Brussels. The decor, a perfect blend of past and present, is unique. An entrance lobby of marble and gilding, an incredibly Baroque tavern: it’s not surprising that this legendary place inspired Hergé and many other artists.

Place De Brouckère 31, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 217 23 00
info@metropolehotel.be

ATLAS HOTEL
www.atlas-hotel.be
This hotel is very recognisable in the Charly series published by Dupuis. The Atlas hotel is situated close to Rue Antoine Dansaert and les Halles St Géry: the oldest district of the capital where Brussels’ best, world-famous designers have gathered together.

Rue du Vieux Marché aux Grains 30, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0)2 502 60 06
info@atlas-hotel.be

RADISSON BLU - ROYAL HOTEL
www.radissonblu.fr/royalhotel-brussels
Radisson Blu Royal Hotel is built on the original city walls of Brussels, a vestige of which can be seen at the foot of the Atrium. On the walls of the Bar Dessiné on the ground floor hang original drawings, which make this a pleasant little place for sipping a cocktail or treating yourself to a light snack.

Rue du Fossé-aux-Loups 47, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 219 28 28
Reservations.brussels@radissonblu.com

HOTEL SLEEPWELL (YOUTH HOSTEL)
www.sleepwell.be
The SleepWell gives you a friendly welcome and has all the facilities you need for a super-cool short stay in the capital. The lobby of the hostel is decorated with two crazy frescoes of “La Vache” (The Cow) by the comic strip artist Johan De Moor.

Rue du Damier 23, 1000 Brussels
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 218 50 50
info@sleepwell.be
7. USEFUL CONTACTS

VISITBRUSSELS
www.visitbrussels.be
Rue Royale 2-4
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 (0) 2 513 89 40
info@visitbrussels.be

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Pierre Massart: p.massart@visitbrussels.be
Gary Divito: g.divito@visitbrussels.be
Catherine Renard: c.renard@visitbrussels.be

SOME PUBLISHERS AND RIGHT OWNERS

DARGAUD-LOMBARD S.A
www.lelombard.be / www.dargaud.com
Avenue Paul-Henri Spaak 7, 1060 Brussels
T.: +32 (0) 2 526 68 11
info@lelombard.be

EDITIONS DUPUIS
www.dupuis.com
Rue Destrée, 52, 6001 Marcinelle
T.: +32 (0) 71 600 500
infos@dupuis.com

STANDAARD UITGEVERIJ
www.standaarduitgeverij.be
Mechelsesteenweg 203, 2018 Antwerp
T.: +32 (0) 3 285 72 00
info@standaarduitgeverij.be

STUDIOS HERGÉ – MOULINSART
www.moulinsart.be
Avenue Louise 162, b7, 1050 Brussels
T.: +32 (0) 2 626 24 21
info@tintin.com / info@moulinsart.be

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISING,
PROMOTION & SERVICES S.A. (smurfs)
www.smurfs.com
Rue du Cerf 85, 1332 Genval
T.: +32 (0) 2 652 02 20
imps@smurf.com

ALL INFORMATION ABOUT COMIC STRIP IN BRUSSELS:
www.visitbrussels.be/comics

PICTURES LIBRARY:
WWW.VISITBRUSSELS.BE/PICTURES
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