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PRESS KIT
Brussels, 15 March 2017

Brussels commemorates René Magritte

In 2017, it has been 50 years since the death of René Magritte. Brussels will take this opportunity to put its most famous surrealist artist in the spotlight. Fans of the artist will have plenty to look forward to in Brussels this year. In addition to several temporary exhibitions, they will have the opportunity to walk in Magritte's footsteps, visiting his works at the Musée Magritte Museum, his private residence and favourite haunts, the Greenwich and "Het Goudblommeke in Papier".

Brussels has always been a creative and cultural hotspot, where artistic movements such as surrealism have been able to thrive. This is the year in which Brussels, more than ever before, lays claim to being the city of surrealism. Indeed, the capital city was clearly influenced by one of the 20th century's most remarkable artistic movements: surrealism. This year, exhibitions in the Atomium, the Musée Magritte Museum, as well as in the René Magritte museum in Jette, will offer the unique opportunity to discover Magritte in multiple ways. In addition to a brochure on Magritte-related locations and events, a mini-map with a surrealism walking route has been made available to guide visitors through all of this.

Throughout 2017

Municipality of Jette

In 2017, Jette will honour its most famous resident, René Magritte. Magritte was not only a great surrealist painter, but he also spent 24 years of his life in Jette. Between 1930 and 1954, he lived along the Esseghestraat in Jette. During this period, he painted half of his entire body of work, including many of his most stunning works which have etched into our collective memory and in which one may even recognise parts of Jette, or elements of the street on which he lived. To celebrate this, various associations will join forces to creatively indulge in surrealism, Magritte's life and the spirit of his age.

Starting March, all activities can be found at www.jette.be or at www.facebook.com/renejette17/
1090 Brussels (Jette)

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Musée Magritte Museum

The centre of Brussels houses an exceptional collection of works by the Belgian surrealist René Magritte: the Magritte Museum. The more than 200 works assembled here comprise the richest collection anywhere in the world. The multi-disciplinary museum houses paintings, watercolours, drawings, sculpture, painted objects as well as advertising posters, sheet music, old photographs and films shot by Magritte himself. Towards the late 1920s, René Magritte, who belonged to a group of Brussels iconoclasts, drew much attention through the radical way in which he broke with traditional visual language. He quickly became one of the major players in surrealism, both within and outside of Belgium.

www.fine-arts-museum.be

Regentschapsstraat 3, 1000 Brussels

Museum René Magritte

Magritte moved to Brussels in 1930, where he was to paint his most emblematic paintings. Soon, his home in Jette was one of the places where like-minded artists would get together. The René Magritte Museum is based in the home where the famous surrealist artist lived for 24 years. The residence, reconstructed with its original furniture, was an important source of inspiration to Magritte. Magritte's most creative period took place in the modest dining room, leading to countless masterpieces. The Belgian surrealists' headquarters was also based at 135, Esseghemstraat. The painter's circle of friends would have their weekly meetings there, as well as all manner of events. Their gatherings resulted in numerous subversive activities, books, magazines and pamphlets. On the first and second floors, these activities are extensively illustrated by original works, personal documents, objects, letters and photographs. The museum is intended to be a permanent homage to one of the most genius artists of all time.

This year, visitors buying a ticket to the Musée René Magritte Museum at the Koningsplein will receive a voucher for a €2 discount on the entrance fee to the Musée René Magritte Museum in Jette.

www.magrittemuseum.be

Esseghemstraat 135, 1090 Brussels (Jette)



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La Fleur en Papier Doré - Het Goudblommeke in Papier

Gerard (Geert) van Bruaene, a Brussels anarchist poet, bought this small artists' café in 1944. He named it "La Fleur en Papier Doré - Het Goudblommeke in Papier". Van Bruaene was close with the group of Brussels-based surrealist artists, with Louis Scutenaire Marcel Mariën, E.L.T Mesens, Irène Hamoir, Christian Dotremont and Camille Goemans among those gathering in the café. René Magritte also stopped by now and then. Furthermore, it was the favourite pub of Pierre Alechinsky, Jacques Brel and Hergé. This picturesque tavern, where a large group photograph of the surrealist company still hangs on the wall, has retained its old charm. There is a rare atmosphere, evoked by the motley collection of objects and the historical furnishing. Opposite the café, the thoughts of several surrealists are emblazoned on the urban furniture along the small Dinantplein. The most remarkable quote is undoubtedly from the "Livre d'or de la Fleur en Papier Doré," by Gerard (Geert) van Bruaene: "Etre vivant, c'est là une excellente raison de vivre" (being alive is an excellent reason for living).

www.goudblommekeinpapier.be

Cellebroersstraat 53-55, 1000 Brussels

Greenwich

"If Magritte is as good a painter as he plays chess, he has his work cut out for him." According to the legend, such was René Magritte's reputation when he attempted to sell his first canvases in café Greenwich. The Greenwich is a listed café which is certainly worth a small detour. Its fame is largely due to the fact that for many years, it served as a meeting place for chess players, where Magritte often came to play against other Brussels surrealists. Today, the Greenwich is a cosy brasserie serving typically Belgian dishes and where the setting takes guests back to the time when Magritte and his friends wanted to make a better world by a good glass of Geuze.

www.greenwich-cafe.be

Kartuizersstraat 7, 1000 Brussels

Schaarbeek cemetery

The Schaarbeek cemetery may be less famous than the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris, but those visitors to our capital will find the experience rewarding. The cemetery is the ideal setting for a quiet walk in search of historical figures who embody Brussels. For instance, several well-known surrealists are buried here: husband and wife Magritte, husband and wife Scutenaire or the poet Marcel Mariën, who left the following message to us on his gravestone: "Il n'y a aucun mérite à être quoi que ce soit" (There is no merit in being anything whatsoever). Other well-known persons are also buried at the Schaarbeek cemetery, such as the resistance fighter Andrée De Jongh, the explorer Ernest Cambier and the writer and statesman Louis Bertrand.

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www.schaarbeek.irisnet.be
Everestraat 4, 1030 Brussels
Autumn 2017

Atomium

Magritte, Atomium meets surrealism (21/09/2017 > 16/09/2018)

50 years after the death of René Magritte's, the internationally famed icon of Belgian surrealism, the Atomium brings a unique homage to Magritte. Starting 21 September 2017, the Atomium will open its doors to this unique exhibition. Some of Magritte's most prominent and sensational works will be brought to life. These works, transformed and disentangled into sets, will allow the visitor to get to know René Magritte's surrealist world in a visual way. Experience, interpret and enter the surreal world of Belgium's greatest artist. Get to know the hidden message behind the art, discover exceptional sets and enjoy René Magritte's masterpieces. René Magritte and the Atomium, two icons of Belgian heritage brought together.

www.atomium.be
Atomiumsqaure, 1020 Brussels



Musée Magritte Museum

Magritte is alive! Magritte and contemporary art

Marcel Lecomte. His relationship with René Magritte (13/10/2017 > 18/02/2018)

In 2017, Belgium's greatest surrealist artist, René Magritte, died fifty years ago. Many projects have been planned, including an exhibition demonstrating the René Magritte's vivid presence in contemporary art. His influence and his legacy can be found among Gavin Turk, George Condo, Sean Landers, Raymond Pettibon, Robert Longo, ... A smaller exhibition is centred around Marcel Lecomte. He was a writer and art critic and worked for the Royal Museums of the Fine Arts and it was because of him that Magritte discovered the works of Giorgio de Chirico, which radically changed his vision of painting. In addition to the relationship between the two, the exhibition also presents exclusive writings by Lecomte on Magritte and letters exchanged between these good friends.

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www.fine-arts-museum.be
Regentschapsstraat 3, 1000 Brussels



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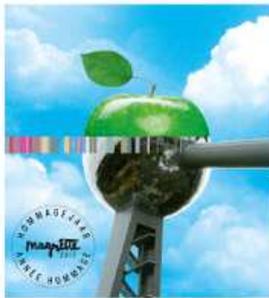
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More Magritte in Brussels

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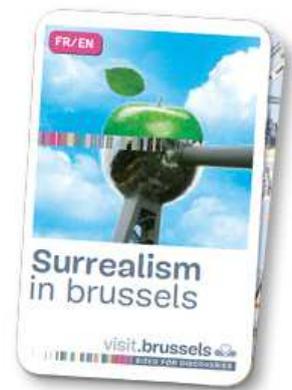
This brochure contains information on the most important locations linked to René Magritte, a calendar listing the most important activities surrounding 50 years Magritte and the guided tours around Brussels with surrealism as one of their themes.

Mini-map "Surrealism in Brussels"

Brussels has managed to keep alive the influence of surrealism, one of the 20th century's most amazing art movements. By following the mini-map "Surrealism in Brussels", visitors can walk in the footsteps of Magritte and his companions among the surrealists.

The mini-map can be purchased at the visit.brussels visitors' centres. It is available in French/English and Dutch/German.

For those who would prefer to explore the city with their smartphones or tablets, an app is available from Tales and Tours: <http://talesandtours.com>



More information and event updates: www.visit.brussels/magritte



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