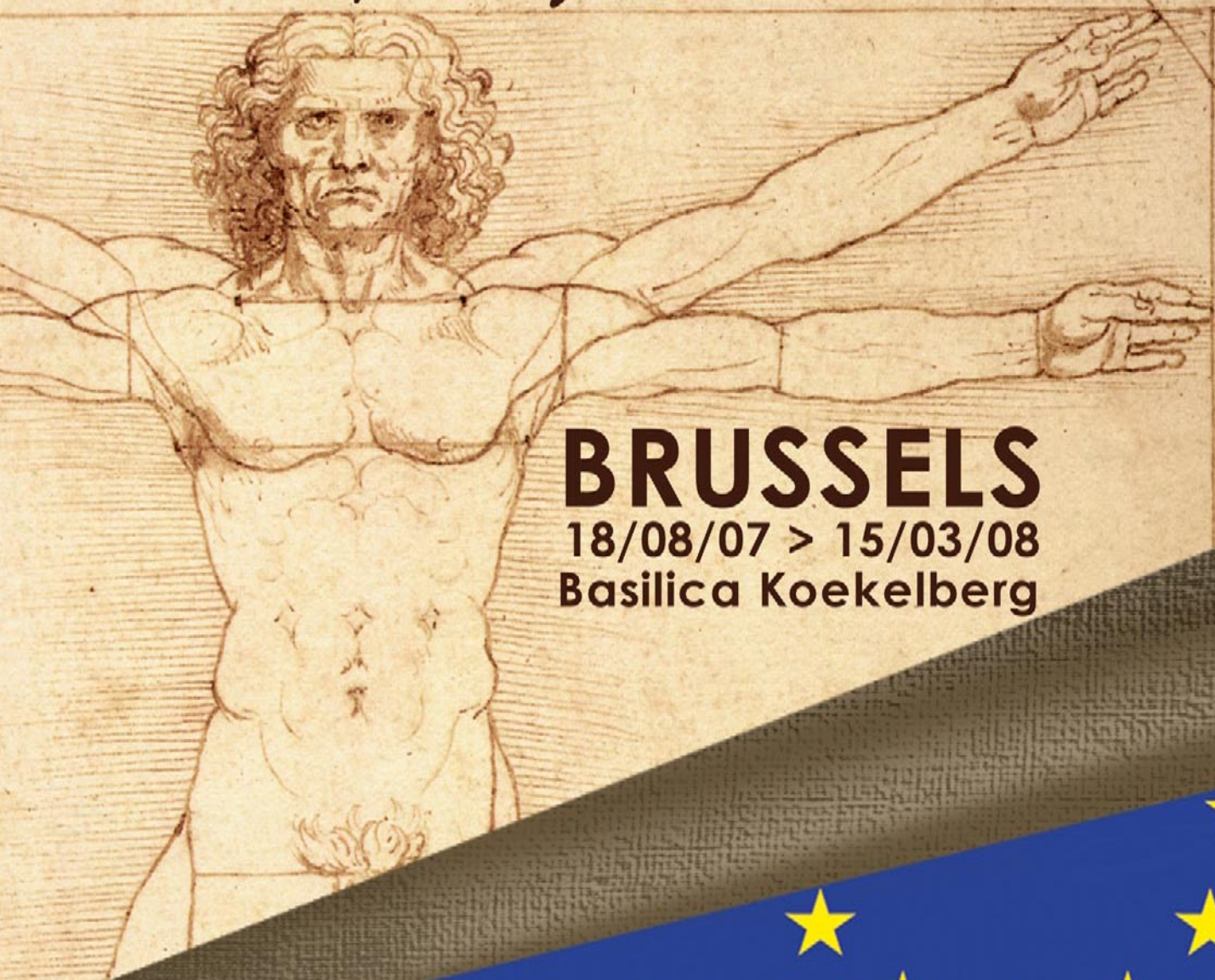


Leonardo

EXPO DA VINCI

The European Genius



BRUSSELS

18/08/07 > 15/03/08

Basilica Koekelberg

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After “TOUT HERGE”, “TOUT SIMENON”, “J’AVAIS 20 ANS EN ’45” (“I WAS 20 IN ’45”), “MADE IN BELGIUM”, COLLECTION & INHERITANCES presents the exhibition “LEONARDO DA VINCI - the European genius” as part of the festivities for the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. This exhibition is being held from August 18th, 2007 to March 15th, 2008 in the National Basilica Koekelberg, the 5th largest church in the world.

The work of Leonardo da Vinci: a universal subject

Leonardo da Vinci, a personality beyond standards and outside time, with his ‘try anything’ spirit and revolutionary methods, made a mark on his era. He continues to make a mark on humanity with his modernity and his precursive genius.

“Tout da Vinci” in Brussels

Covering an area of 3,000 m², the exhibition gathers original paintings and drawings, codices, models, as well as inventions derived from his research in all the fields of scientific knowledge. It is designed around 4 themes: the man, the artist, the engineer, the humanist.

This is the most important and most complete exhibition in the world ever organised about this European genius

Description of the Exhibition

The man



The exhibition opens with a presentation of the Man and the stages of his life. In the tracks of Leonardo, the visitor discovers his native village of Vinci, his childhood in Tuscany and his nascent interest in the sciences and nature. This is followed by a depiction of his training as a painter under the greatest masters in Florence. The route then brings us to the rich patrons such as the Medici and the Sforza of Milan and gives us a taste of Leonardo’s journeys to Rome, Venice and to the coasts of the Adriatic. The visitor finally follows the last tracks of the Master leaving Italy for the Loire Valley where, protected by the King of France, he can devote himself freely to his research in Clos Lucé.

The artist



Leonardo da Vinci is at one and the same time a painter, a sculptor and an architect. The exhibition approaches the work of the Artist and his many masterpieces, in particular through the artifice of many previously unseen films. The visitor discovers the architectural projects and the treatises of Leonardo. As for the famous “Vitruvian Man”, this it makes it possible to illuminate the quality of his drawings and his research into the proportions of the human body.

The engineer



In spite of the legacy from his predecessors, the technological work of Leonardo da Vinci remains unique in its breadth and empirical dimension. The extraordinary machines of Leonardo are practical applications created starting from the elementary principles and very few obtained by observing nature. The prodigious genius of Leonardo invents mechanisms for the transformation or the use of movement. The applications of his research relate to fields as various as hydraulics and civil engineering. This survey of the anatomy of the machines makes it possible to understand the operation of the principal inventions of Leonardo.

The humanist



The section on Leonardo da Vinci as a Humanist gives a glimpse of the exceptional documents that he left us with a particular emphasis on his extraordinary sketches of anatomy and his reversed writing. The visitor discovers the famous codices of the Master, who, trustful in the progress of Humanity, preaches the quest for and popularisation of knowledge. It is Leonardo’s “testament”, overflowing with drawings, notes, rebuses and mysteries. From Forster to Atlanticus, the exhibition displays for the first time the complete collection of Codices.

Exclusive originals

The Codex on the flight of the birds

The exhibition presents, exclusively, several originals by Leonard da Vinci from public and private collections. The rarity of the documents makes it possible to make this exhibition in Brussels an event without precedent. The original Codex on the flight of the birds will be displayed in a sober scenography in order to reveal all the magic of the document. The Codex on the flight of the birds, written around 1505, is kept in the library in Turin. It concerns a mechanical study of flight, of the functioning of the wing and winds, based on observation.

The only self-portrait of Leonardo da Vinci

The public will be able to discover the celebrated self-portrait of Leonardo da Vinci. Drawn in blood between 1515 and 1516, today this drawing is the only self-portrait drawn by Leonardo.

The mystery of Mary Magdalene

Thanks to Professor Carlo Pedretti, director of the “Armand Hammer” Centre in Los Angeles and international specialist in the works of Leonardo da Vinci, we are proud to present for the first time after Ancône this painting depicting Mary Magdalene nonchalantly holding a transparent veil to cover her naked breast. This oil on panel, discovered about a century ago in a private collection, was painted by Leonardo da Vinci and one of his pupils around 1515. It was only the second “nude” work by the artist. The perfection of the pictorial technique, the mystery that surrounds the character of Mary Magdalene, the obscure journey of this work and the research undertaken recently by Professor Pedretti to authenticate it make this work one of major importance. The Mary Magdalene thus revolutionizes our knowledge of the Master and, according to the specialists, could soon put the Mona Lisa in the shade!

The “Last Supper” of Tongerlo

Contemporary with the artist and painted by one of his disciples imbued with his characteristic manner, the “Last Supper” of the Abbey of Tongerlo belongs to the extremely rare counterparts of time. Created from life by Leonardo on the model of the damaged fresco that decorates the refectory in the monastery in Milan, it is regarded by the most eminent experts as THE undeniable reference. Anxious to preserve one of the flowers of the Belgian artistic heritage, the organisers decided to show a high fidelity fabric reproduction. The risks of deterioration engendered by the transport of the work and its change of environment are truly considerable. The presentation of the reproduction at its real size (8 m x 4 m, dimensions close to those of the Milanese fresco) will not detract anything from the effect created by the work. The development of the Belgian heritage is one of the major concerns of the organizing company.



45 of Leonardo's Machines



Leonardo is a talented precursor to whom we owe the outline of a multitude of revolutionary inventions. From automobile carriage to the parachute, passing by the sailplane and the helicopter rotor, from the hang glider to the sketch of the sailplane, the building site excavator to the mobile floating bridge, the sketches of Leonardo are characterized by an avant-garde technical precision. 45 scale replicas designed by Leonardo from Florence, Rome, Milan and Amboise will be on display, including a 20-meter high bridge.

From Raphaël to Hieronymus Bosch

An important contribution from museums has been assembled to enrich the contents of the exhibition with more than a hundred drawings, cartoons and original sketches by Raphaël, Michelangelo, Canaletto, Albrecht Dürer, and Hieronymus Bosch.

In practice

Info : 02 / 420 55 05

Opening hours

Open every day from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
 Wednesday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm
 Sunday from 01:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Last admission into exhibition at 5:00 pm (Wednesday at 7:00 pm)
Closed on: 25 december and 1 January
Open on 1 november from 1:00 pm
Closed at 7:00 pm on 6 february

Rates

Indiv.	10,00€
Grp. (min. 20)	8,50€
+60 years	8,50€
Student	8,50€
School Group	7,00€
Walkman	2,50€

An Educational file (29 pages) can be downloaded from the website for free

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B excursion train ticket plus admission to the EXPO available in each station. For reservations : 065.58.23.62

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 Bus "De Lijn" (212,213,214, 355) > Basilique
 Metro Simonis > Tram 19 ou Bus 87

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