

**The homeland or the unknown territory as inspiration
for the Biennial of Painting**
Yoknapatawpha, June 26th - September 25th, 2016

Belgium, region of the Lys (Leie), June 23, 2016: Three art museums in the East Flemish region of the Lys, the Museum Roger Raveel, the Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens (MDD) and the Museum of Deinze and the Leie, combine forces once again to put on the fifth instalment of the Biennial of Painting. Central to this edition of the Biennial is the desire of the unknown, in addition to the exploration of that which is exotic versus that which is familiar in one's own environment. The three museums are collaborating to have exhibitions with both modern and contemporary painting.

All summer long, from June 26 to September 25, 2016, culture lovers can visit the Biennial of Painting in the aforementioned museums, in addition to exploring the Lys region, which provided the ultimate source of inspiration for artists such as Raveel, Van den Abeele and Van de Woestyne.

Yoknapatawpha

The 2016 edition carries the somewhat surprising subtitle Yoknapatawpha. The name's origin can be attributed to American writer William Faulkner's fictional Yoknapatawpha County province, the setting for most of his novels such as *The Sound and the Fury*, and *Absalom, Absalom!* This fictional land bears a striking resemblance to Faulkner's native Mississippi region, Lafayette County, a point he acknowledged during his career:

"I discovered that my own little postage stamp of native soil was worth writing about and that I would never live long enough to exhaust it." (William Faulkner)

The Biennial of Painting's aim is to highlight every two years a topic related to painting but viewed from a specific angle. All three museums take their own collections as a starting point. Nonetheless, contemporary art also plays a prominent role in this project.

At the **Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens**, the work of two artists from the museum's own collection, James Ensor and Albijn van den Abeele, provides the commencement for a painterly discovery that involves numerous artists from different generations and continents.

While Albijn Van den Abeele, from Sint-Martens-Latem, always sublimated his own familiar surroundings into his painting, James Ensor longed for his own exotic world. Additionally, this museum has included several contemporary artists in its exhibition, such as George Condo, Johan Nobell, Tatjana Gerhard and Liam Everett.

Through their 2005 exhibition “ The Village is the World”, the **Museum Roger Raveel** managed to demonstrate that artists with a strictly local condition could produce universal art. Although this notion was exemplified by Roger Raveel (1921-2013, Machelen-aan-de-Leie), it can also be seen in the encyclopaedic works of German photographer August Sander (1876-1964), which were being exhibited at the Museum Roger Raveel. Thus, with globalisation in full swing barely 16 years into the 21st century, Faulkner’s comments could not resonate any more than currently.

As in previous editions of the Biennial, the Museum Roger Raveel will show a selection of works rather than a limited overview of selected artists. This year’s edition includes works by Stijn Ank, Etel Adnan, Farah Attassi, Rachel Baes, Antonio Berni, Tatjana Gerhard, Ernest Mancoba, Constant Permeke and Bart Vandevijvere. Moreover, a separate exhibition will highlight works created by artists living in exile during World War I.

The point of departure for the **Museum of Deinze and the Leie’s** exhibition is through artwork by Gustave Van de Woestyne, Emile Claus and Joe Van Rossem. The journey examines how specific events and situations create opportunities for artists to stay put or move around, both physically and spiritually. For instance, certain circumstances incline an artist to seek security within his or her own studio, whereas others prompt the exploration of new opportunities. This has led to certain artists pointing out the risks and benefits of a rapidly changing society, particularly when it comes to identity formation. As such, the museum delves deeper into this paradox by exhibiting works by Kasper Bosmans, Sanam Khatibi, Carla Klein, Lode Laperre, René Magritte and Colin Waeghe, to name but a few.

Artists:

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens: Ellen Altfest - George Condo - Walter Dahn - James Ensor - Liam Everett - Tatjana Gerhard - Denise Green - Maki Na Kamura - Johan Nobell - Albijn Van den Abeele

Roger Raveelmuseum: Etel Adnan - Stijn Ank - Farah Atassi - Rachel Baes - Antonio Berni - Forrest Bess - Thomas Bogaert - Bram Bogart - Raoul De Keyser - Valerius De Saedeleer - Gust De Smet - Lionel Estève - Henri Evenepoel - Jef Geys - Tatjana Gerhard - Jane Graverol - Fadia Haddad - Le Corbusier - Ernest Mancoba - Constant Permeke - Charlotte Posenenske - Jan Schoonhoven - Frits Van den Berghe - Carole Vanderlinden - Bart Vandevijvere - Vincent Van Gogh - Rik Wouters

Museum van Deinze en de Leiestreek: Silvia Bonotto - Kasper Bosmans - Emile Claus - William Degouve de Nuncques - Sanam Khatibi - Carla Klein - Octave Landuyt - Moshekwa Langa - Lode Lapperre - René Magritte - Gustave Van de Woestyne - Joe Van Rossem - Colin Waeghe

Practical:

Exhibition June 26 through September 25, 2016; [Except Museum Roger Raveel: Exhibition runs through October 9, 2016]
Combined ticket (including visitor's guide): € 9/12

Museums:

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens

Museumlaan 14

9831 Deurle

www.museumdd.be

Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 6pm (closed on Mondays)

Museum Roger Raveel

Gildestraat 2-8

9870 Machelen-Zulte

www.rogerraveelmuseum.be

Open Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 5pm (closed on Mondays)

Museum of Deinze and the Leie

L. Matthyslaan 3-5

9800 Deinze

www.museumdeinze.be

Open Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 6pm (closed on Mondays)

End of press release

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