

# THE METAMORPHOSIS

With 300 major events out of one thousand or so cultural and artistic activities, Mons 2015 is going to invent another way of conceptualising culture. As well as all the wonders of heritage and creation, you'll also experience unexpected events and activities in the public space, new types of civil participation and innovative digital opportunities. This programme is part of an infrastructure deployment without precedent and a global project of socio-economic conversion. This is metamorphosis!

We will open new venues, sample their distinctive atmospheres together, experience long-term urban adventures. The musicians are backstage, the actors are treading the boards, the poets have put pen to paper and the sculptors are wielding hammer and chisel. In the streets of the city, strange characters are running amok, pursued by a strange machine that films them from every angle. The noises of a city in transformation carry right up to the tree-tops. We will devise fantastic festivals, kindle the fires of celebration, set up the bright lights. To quote Léo Ferré's vision of the Golden Age, "We shall have

bread, brown as girls under the golden sun. We shall have wine, wine that sparkles even in sleep. We shall have blood in our white veins, and Monday will usually be Sunday." (\*)

The invitations have been sent out: to the people of Mons, Belgium, Europe, the world. To young, old, students, teachers, children, parents allowed. At Café Europa, they are already meeting. Different generations, different nations, all together. Mons is now on the map of the world, enriched by its partners who are joyfully creating an amazing profusion of projects, almost all of which, like ours, relate to our main theme of the encounter between culture and technology as a guarantee of a productive future. Mons is a new and open city, emboldened by the large-scale support of its citizens for the adventure of 2015 : Transformation. Artists are already pouring into the construction sites before the concrete has even dried. Cranes are lifting in the roof-beams, painters are splashing colour around, and above all, people are talking, eager to discover, share and create. Because a European year of culture means more dialogue, more mutual support and respect, and more togetherness. 2015 looks set to be an exceptional year, but it represents but a step towards a transfigured future. A Golden Age?

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- 2 All right reserved
- 3 Mairie de Dunkerque
- 4 Collection Hainaut Vigilance Sanitaire
- 5 Kröller Müller Museum
- 6 Café Europa
- 7 Café Europa
- 8 All right reserved
- 9 Gigogne - L'Escaut
- 10 Arabeschi di Latte
- 11 Elisa Levecot
- 12 Benoît Platéus
- 13 Marc Siret
- 14 Liu Shantong
- 15 Art Point M
- 16 Le goût et les couleurs
- 17 Daniel Cordova / Valentin Demarcin
- 18 illé3000
- 19 Isabelle Françaix
- 20 Gregory Mathelot
- 21 All right reserved
- 22 BPK Berlin / Archivio Penone
- 23 Design and photography by Maria Blaisse
- 24 Quentin Top
- 25 Mairie de Dunkerque

(\*)L'âge d'or – Léo Ferré.

# 4 SEASONS

24.01.15  
>31.03.15

## THE DAZZLING

In the beginning there was the dazzling. With the Opening Ceremony and 18,000 ponchos transformed into disco balls, plus the series of urban installations, like the Phrase around the walls, this is a regular happening at Mons. A city and a whole region already known for having inspired Van Gogh and the career he embraced right here, along with a thousand-and-one other creative souls. Major exhibitions like *Van Gogh in the Borinage* and *Mons Superstar* are a reminder of this. But Mons is also looking into the future thanks to *Café Europa*, our lab for technology and new creative economy, and the *VIA Festival*, which is investing in the power of the image in order to reinvent performing arts. Dazzled? This is just the beginning!

28.06.15  
>25.09.15

## THE BLAZING SUMMER

The summer is blazing with a field of real 7,500 sunflowers at Grand-Place, a nod to Van Gogh, and a myriad of open-air activities in the partner institutions and cities of Mons 2015, like Mr Zo's 400 coups in Picard Wallonia (Tournai). Here, all the senses are called upon, particularly at the *Festival au Carré* where Seven Tragedies of Sophocles with the poignant voice of Bertrand Cantat will be presented. Even China will make an appearance with monumental avant-garde sculptures. It's also springtime for contemporary artists and their diverse and connected city *Atopolis*. All this surely deserves a *Festin* festival: and this is to be the very first for all the artists from Mons coming together, and the sixth edition of the urban barbecue *Dimanche Toqué*. Made-in-Mons guaranteed.

01.04.15  
>27.06.15

## THE GREAT REVEAL

It's the great reveal, with surprising urban installations (a stream of books cascading from a window!) and a horde of performers wreaking havoc with *Ville en Jeu(x)*. Mons is also offering five new interconnected museums to help showcase its rich artistic heritage, and investing in its cultural heritage tourism to help highlight its three gems that received official classification from UNESCO. This is the chance to rediscover the Neolithic, flint mines of Spiennes, the only baroque belfry in Europe and the *Doudou*. Plus there's the opening of *Arsonic*, a music center including a meditation chapel, and of the literary open-air café in the gardens of the gorgeous *Maison Losseau*! Thrilling!

26.09.15  
>24.01.16

## THE RENAISSANCE

The Renaissance is not only Mons 2015's objective for the region; it's also paying tribute to the golden era of Orlando di Lasso and Jacques Du Brœucq. This musician and architect, both from Mons, had kings and princes of the 16th century at their feet, such as Charles V. Now it's the people's turn, all 800 of them, gathered at St Waudru's church to sing *La Grande Clameur* to Lasso. At the same time, *Lille 3000* and *Nuit Blanche* in Brussels are also celebrating their 'Renaissance' with this same approach of opening up culture to everyone. Is that not the objective of *Mons Ideal, My Ideal*? After simmering all year round, young people are taking things into their own hands: the keys to the city as well as their destiny! Saint-Georges, revisited by MAC's contemporary artists, is with them! What would Verlaine think of this?

## 300 EVENTS

to discover in the press file.

Press release

Mons 2015 reveals its programme



