

IMAGINE!

100 Years of International Surrealism

21.02>21.07.2024

I. Press release

The Royal Museums of Fine Arts Belgium are inaugurating *IMAGINE!*, an extraordinary international touring exhibition conceived in close collaboration with the Centre Pompidou (Paris).

An immersion in surrealist poetry, dream, the labyrinth, metamorphosis, the unknown and the subconscious, led by the great names of surrealists, from MAX ERNST to GIORGIO DE CHIRICO, not forgetting SALVADOR DALÍ, JOAN MIRÓ, JANE GRAVEROL, DOROTHEA TANNING, MAN RAY, LEONOR FINI, ETC.



Salvador Dalí, *Soft Construction with Boiled Beans [Premonition of Civil War]* (1936), Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Louise and Walter Arensberg Collection © Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, Figueres / Sabam

Each partner museum houses the core of the travelling exhibition and enriches it by emphasising its own heritage. In Brussels, the RMFAB will explore surrealism from a **symbolist perspective**, through **more than 130 works of art** (paintings, works on paper, sculptures, objects, assemblages, and photographs).

IMAGINE! focuses on the connections and similarities, but also the fracture lines between surrealism and symbolism, one of its precursors. From 1880 onwards, Brussels was an exceptional forum for the arts and the avant-garde, as demonstrated by the exhibitions of the circles “Les XX” and “La Libre Esthétique”. Symbolism, embodied in particular by Rops, Spilliaert, Khnopff, Delville and Minne, saw rapid development in Brussels and largely anticipated the emergence of the surrealist movement. A few decades later, Brussels became a centre for Belgian surrealism.

Despite the cultural rupture caused by World War I, the older symbolists and the emerging youth were never fundamentally alienated from each other.

From January to July 2024, Belgium will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. **What better year to celebrate surrealism, the movement which put Belgium on the map, and found meaning within a European context?** What's more, 2024 also marks the hundredth anniversary of the publication of the 'Surrealist Manifesto' [1924]. With **IMAGINE!**, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium wish to **celebrate the centenary of the birth of surrealism** in an optimal European context.

After Brussels and Paris, the exhibition will travel to the **Hamburger Kunsthalle** and the **Fundación Mapfre Madrid**, before closing at the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**.



II. Press Pictures

High resolution images can be downloaded here: [**IMAGINE!**](#)

III. Curators

- Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium: **Francisca Vandepitte**, Curator of Modern Art
- Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'Art Moderne: **Didier Ottinger**, Deputy Director in charge of cultural programming at the Musée national d'Art moderne - Centre de création industrielle [MNAM/CCI] & **Marie Sarré**, Curatorial Attaché at the Modern Collections Department

IV. Practical information

ACCESS

Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, rue de la Régence, 3, 1000 Brussels.

Exhibition circuit -4

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday > Friday: 10:00 > 17:00 & Saturday > Sunday: 11:00 > 18:00

Closed on Mondays, 1 May and 27 June.

PRESS RELATIONS

International press : BE CULTURE - Sophie Moffat & Florian Doms - info@beculture.be

National press : H el ene Lebailly - helene.lebailly@fine-arts-museum.be - M + 32 476 79 04 50

ADMISSION FEE

IMAGINE ! 100 Years of International Surrealism	Price
Adults aged [25-64]	18
Seniors 65+	15
Adults in groups	15
Children, young people aged 6-25 on presentation of an ID card	10
Belgian teaching staff, City of Brussels guides (excluding school groups)	10
One accompanying adult per group of schoolchildren, young people or disadvantaged people	10
Disabled person / 1 accompanying adult (price per person)	10
Belgian jobseekers and minimum wage earners	10
Children and young people in groups [school groups]	6
Children aged 0-6, ICOM, BELSPO staff, press	0
Members of the Friends of the RMBAB Association	0

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The celebration of the surrealist movement will extend throughout the Mont des Arts district through a collaboration with Bozar, which will focus on Belgian surrealism with the exhibition 'Histoire de ne pas rire. Surrealism in Belgium'. This [exceptional collaboration](#) will see the sale of combined tickets giving access to the 2 exhibitions: [IMAGINE! 100 years of International Surrealism](#) and [Histoire de ne pas rire. Surrealism in Belgium](#).