

Benefit Auction of Fine Arts during OB Congress Dinner

Work from top Belgian Artists



The OB Congress Dinner has become a great tradition in the context of the OB Congress.

This year **the OB Congress Dinner** is being organised on **Wednesday November 28th** in the beautifully restored Atomium, in collaboration with cbm Belgium. Cbm Belgium is an international development organisation whose primary purpose is to improve the quality of life for the world's poorest people with disabilities. Cbm focuses on prevention and medical care for the blind. Several of the main projects of cbm Belgium will be presented in the OB exhibition.

Special guest at the OB Congress Dinner is **Prof. Dr. Volker Klauss, cbm Medical Advisor for eye care**. He will speak about VISION 2020, a worldwide programme aiming to ban all avoidable blindness by 2020. In 2006 the first results of the campaign were published, and they were promising: for the first time, the number of blind people having decreased from 45 million to 35 million. While the efforts of VISION 2020 are aimed mostly at the poorest countries of the world, it remains a very interesting exercise to see what the situation is in Europe. Prof. Dr. Volker Klauss will give some insights.

During the dinner, art work will be sold by auction. We were able to invite **the top of the Belgian art scene** to donate their work for this **Benefit Auction of Fine Arts**.

Luc Tuymans hardly needs an introduction, being Belgium's best-known artist. The content of most of Tuymans' intriguing images is often based on historical facts or material and upon already represented imagery, ranging from drawings, photographs, found images, film-stills, Polaroid's, etc. His paintings have been on show and are included in the collections of the world's most famous museums, among which MOMA, New York, Georges Pompidou, Paris and Tate Modern in London. View http://www.zeno-x.com/artists/luc_tuymans.htm

Marie-Jo Lafontaine uses texts, photography and video as a means to express her love and concern for the world in which people, their environment and nature are always the centre of attention. She is well-known for her Sky Arena Project "**I Love the World**" for the Opening of the World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany in 2006. View <http://www.marie-jo-lafontaine.com/>

Koen Vanmechelen has made the chicken his prime subject. His Cosmopolitan Chicken Project addresses an intricate mix of both artistic, scientific, political and philosophical issues. Through it's attention for crossing borders and the importance of the bastard, it celebrates the the interest for the other, the importance of dialogue and collaboration. The Cosmopolitan Chicken Project has been exhibited worldwide. For the realisation of the project so far there have been collaborations with top specialists, both in science and art. View <http://www.koen-vanmechelen.be/>

Philip Aguirre's work is typified by very self-willed dealing with classical sculpture for which he seeks inspiration in current affairs and political themes. The human figure is not surprisingly a constant. Much of his work can be found in public spaces and in important public collections, such as his 'Man with matress' in the Brussels Airport. View <http://www.philipaguirre.be/>

Berlinde De Bruyckere has a varied oeuvre in which her famous horses and women under blankets play an important role. Her central question can be defined as "What bears and what is bearable?" Her work has been on show in various international venues like the Venice Biennale, Maison Rouge in Paris and Hauser and Wirth, London. View http://www.hauserwirth.com/artists/portrait.php?findexisting=1&artist_id=63

Jeanine Cohen carefully deconstructs the structure of her canvas frame to investigate our way of looking. Although her work has a sculptural feel to it, she is definitely a painter as her use of a broad palet of colours demonstrates. Cohen has designed an artwork for the façade of the new Museum of Photography in Charleroi that will be inaugurated in 2008. View <http://www.jeaninecohen.net/>

Pieter Vermeersch has created a special edition for this event. His work is an extensive research in colour and the creative act of painting. He was one of last year's laureates for the Jeune Peinture Belges and one of Belgium's most exciting and important young talents. View <http://www.pietervermeersch.be/index.htm>

The artists will join us at dinner.

The profits from this auction will go to the eye care hospital of Kabgayi in Rwanda. In the summer of 2007 cbm Belgium started the construction of an extension to the hospital, giving the necessary space for more and better service.

Programme

- 19u00 Arrival of guests at the Atomium for the guided tour of the Atomium
- 19u30: Welcome drink
- 20u00: Speech by Prof. Dr. Volker Klauss on "VISION 2020: What does it mean in Europe?"
- 20u10: First course
- 20u30: Part 1 of the Benefit Auction of Fine Arts
- 20u45: Main course
- 21u30: Part 2 of the Auction
- 21u45: Dessert