

Events 2021 in Flanders & Brussels*

Art & Heritage

Event	Location	DATES	More info	description
Kleureyck	Ghent: Design Museum	18/05/2020 - 21/02/2021	https://www.designmuseumgent.be/en/events/vaneyck	The starting premise of the exhibition is Jan van Eyck's skilful use of colour, which is fully revealed in all its glory during the restoration of the Ghent Altarpiece. Using oil paint and transparent, coloured glazes, Van Eyck was able to achieve an innovative variety of colour nuances, clarity and saturation in his paintings. His inspiring use of colour is the starting point for a selection of national and international designers. They all share an affinity with 'colour'.
Lights on Van Eyck	Ghent	08/06/2020 - 30/06/2021	https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/lights-van-eyck	The exhibition is conceived as a walk through the seven primary colours and the universe of pigment which Jan van Eyck and his contemporaries explored, with knowledge, inspiration and mystery serving as the underlayers. Projects by designers in various design disciplines (product design, crafts, textile design, graphic design, jewellery design, architecture...) will be exhibited in diverse colour ensembles. Some designers prefer to research colour, focussing on its materiality for example, while others are more interested in colour and perception, or the impact of colour in a spatial context.
Memling Now: Hans Memling in contemporary Art	Bruges: Sint-Jans hospitaal	01/10/2020 - 01/02/2021	https://www.museabrugge.be/en/calendar/exhibitions/memling-now-hans-memling-in-de-hedendaagse-kunst	exhibition
Thomas Demand, German artist	Leuven: Museum M	09/10/2020 - 18/04/2021	https://www.mleuven.be/en/demand	exhibition contemporary art
Light festival	Gent	27/ - 31/01/2021	https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/ghent-light-festival?context=tourist&from_category=3387	
Marcel Broodthaers: Open Letters , Public Poems	Brussels: Museum Wiels	30/01/ - 01/05/2021	https://www.vrt.be/vrtnu/a-z/het-abc-van-marcel-broodthaers/2019/het-abc-van-marcel-broodthaers/	
POP ART. From Warhol to Panamarenko	Gent	20/03/2021 - 22/08/2021	https://smak.be/en	Popart spreekt tot ieders verbeelding. Kunstenaars zoals Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein en Panamarenko zijn hedendaags wereldwijd. S.M.A.K. brengt met een evenwichtige selectie werken uit de Amerikaanse en Europese popart een kunststroming in beeld die actueler is dan ooit. Aan de hand van een 40-tal topwerken wordt je wegwijs gemaakt in een sleutelperiode van de naoorlogse kunstgeschiedenis. In de tentoonstelling komen kunstwerken samen uit de privécollectie Matthys-Colle, die S.M.A.K. sinds kort in langdurige bruikleen kreeg, en de museumcollectie van S.M.A.K. Met werk van onder meer Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Tom Wesselmann, Panamarenko, Martial Raysse, Christo, Jean Tinguely, Marcel Broodthaers, Konrad Klapheck, Yves Klein, Claes Oldenburg, Arman en Gerhard Richter.
Opening Sint Baafs Lam Gods	Ghent: Saint-Bavo's Cathedral	25.03.2021	https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/new-visitors-centre-st-bavos-cathedral	Opening of the new visitor's centre in the St-Bavo's cathedral
Children of the Renaissance	Mechelen: Hof van Busleyden	26/03/2021 - 04/07/2021	https://www.hofvanbusleyden.be/renaissance-children	For the Burgundian and the early Habsburg princes, Mechelen was not only an important political and cultural hub but also an educational centre. Three consecutive generations of Habsburg princes and princesses, including Philip the Fair, Margaret of Austria and Charles V, spent part of their childhood here. The exhibition Renaissance Children will gather a unique selection of children's portraits, which were commissioned for the court at Mechelen, for the very first time, as well as tell the historical, educational and artistic story behind them. Portraits by such prominent painters as the Master of the Mechelen Guild of St. George and Jan Gossart will be exhibited alongside valuable manuscripts that were used to teach children to read and write, as well as treatises on education by Desiderius Erasmus and Juan Luis Vives, sixteenth-century children's toys and rare jewellery that was said to protect the wearer against illness and death. Renaissance Children highlights the instrumental role that the court at Mechelen played in the evolution of children's portraiture and the humanistic ideas that have continued to influence the way in which we raise children today.
Beaufort	Küste	03/04/ - 08/11/2021		
Bruegel-Ensor exhibition	Brussels	spring 2021	https://www.fine-arts-museum.be/en	In 2021 the RMFAB celebrates its 200th anniversary with an exhibition about Bruegel to Ensor. Much from the permanent collection and 30 new drawings by Ensor.
And Leuven	Leuven	21/ - 25/04/2021	https://www.andleuven.com/en	
Triennale	Bruges: different venues	08/05-26/09/2021	https://triennalebrugge.be/en/	contemporary art Triennial
500 anniversary of our Lady's Cathedral	Antwerp	13/05/2021 - 16/05/2021	www.visitantwerpen.be/en/sightseeing/churches/cathedralofourlady	
Congoville	Antwerpen	Sommer 2021	https://www.middelheimmuseum.be/en/page/polyphony-and-inclusion	
MODE 2021	Antwerp: MOMU Fashion Museum	Re-opening : 4/5 September 2021	https://www.momu.be/en/news/momu-reopening-postponed-until-2021?locale=en	re-opening of the fashion Museum in Antwerp & fashion/cultural programme
BIG BANG	Leuven: Museum M	16/10/2021 - 30/01/2022	https://www.kunstleuven.be/en/projects/origins	
EUROPALIA 2021	Brussels & other cities & venues	Autumn 2021	https://europalia.eu/en/about-europalia	The theme of 2021: trains. To investigate if this theme is interesting for the promotion of our destination

Gardens & Flowers

Event	Location	Dates	More info	description
FLORALIA BRUSSELS	Brussels: Groot-Bijgaarden	03.04.-02.05.2021	www.floralia-brussels.be/en/	Floralia Brussels is one of the most popular flower trips in Belgium. Each year the Spring Flower Show attracts more than 35 000 visitors. Everyone can enjoy the flower beauty in the 14 ha park, greenhouse, Donjon and chapel of the castle of Groot-Bijgaarden.
Floralien	Ghent: historical city	01/05/2021 - 09/05/2021	www.floralien2020.be/en/welcome	"OMG Van Eyck was here" programm

Flower Time	Brussels: City Hall	12 -15/8/2021	www.brussels.be/flowertime	Flower festival in Brussels City Hall. Summery flower magic in the City Hall of Brussels, by the creators of the Brussels Flower Carpet and Floraliën; Entry fee: 8€ pp (free for guide and children under 10y). Ticketsales for public starts May 2021, but travel agents with groups over 15 people can mail already now: info@flowercarpet.be in order to reserve a time slot. This reservation can be cancelled without costs until 15/07/2021
Fleuramour	Alden Biesen - Bilzen	24/ - 27/09/2021	https://en.fleuramour.be/?noredirect=en_US	

Music & Festivals

Event	Location	Dates	More info	
Bach Academie Brugge (Concert Gebouw Brugge)	Brugge	20.-24.01.2021	https://www.concertgebouw.be/en/programme/keywords=Bach+Academy	At the height of his powers Bach composed a series of compositions and collections that would become his musical testament. Hundreds of years later, works such as the Mass in B minor continue to dazzle, and Bach's published keyboard music has inspired every subsequent generation. This 11th Bach Academy Bruges is focussed on completeness: the complete Well-Tempered Clavier, performed by four young harpsichordists; all six of Bach's motets, performed by the English ensemble Solomon's Knot; Reinoud Van Mechelen singing the most beautiful tenor arias ... Regular festival guest Philippe Herreweghe and his Collegium Vocale Gent underline the message: Bruges is completely Bach!
December Dance (Concertgebouw Brugge)	Brugge	03/03/ - 03/05/2021	https://www.concertgebouw.be	
Voices of Passion	Leuven	29.04.-09.05.2021	https://www.visitleuven.be/en/travel-press/events/voices-passion	Various ensembles bring enchanting polyphonic music back to life during Voices of Passion. The setting for this unique festival is the Park Abbey Baroque church. An oasis of tranquility just outside the city with music to quiet the soul.
Koningin Elisabethwedstrijd (Flagey & Bozar): Final	Brussel	24.05.2021	https://koninginelisabethwedstrijd.be/nl/home	These are unprecedented times that are turning our lives upside down. The Queen Elisabeth Competition has not been spared: the piano session scheduled for May 2020 could obviously not take place on the planned dates. However, we are pleased to announce that we can postpone the piano competition to May 2021.
Couleur Café Festival	Brussel	25.-27.06.2021	https://www.couleurcafe.be	A colourfully mixed, altruistic, tropical and spicy festival! A cocktail of music from here and elsewhere with more than 50 concerts in 3 marquees. Couleur Café is, above all, a gigantic fiesta with all the brass bands, dance competitions, creative workshops, themed exhibitions, souks, restaurants and exotic cocktails you could wish for. A multicultural and off-the-wall ambience, just like Brussels itself. We'll "zouk" until the morning.
Gent Jazz Festival (Bijlokesite)	Gent	08.-18.07.2021	https://gentjazz.com	Since its first edition in 2001, when it was called Blue Note Festival the festival became loved among a great deal of people as it welcomes over 35.000 people each year.
Gentse Feesten	Gent	16.-25.07.2021	https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/ghent-festivities	After more than 175 years of existence, the Ghent Festivities have become one of the best festivals in Europe. Four international festivals take place there over a period of ten days, with free music on 10 squares, children's entertainment at various different locations in the city and hundreds of indoor and outdoor activities. This year, for the first time, the festival will start on Friday evening and end on Sunday evening.
Night of the Proms Summer Edition	Koksijde	29.07.2021	https://www.teleticketservice.com/nl/event/night-of-the-proms-summer-edition-2020-68732e61	Night of the Proms takes the audience on a journey through a rousing and familiar classical repertoire and timeless pop classics backed by a mind-blowing visual and aural setting.
Jazz Middelheim (Park Den Brandt)	Antwerpen	12.-15.08.2021	https://jazzmiddelheim.be	Jazz Middelheim, founded in the late '60, has become an iconic jazz festival. The festival grounds in Antwerp are within walking distance of the famous sculpture park. The green surroundings of the Park den Brandt with a high quality infrastructure, including a playground for children and gourmet catering, attract not only a vast jazz crowd but also a lot of families with children who love to linger in the park and enjoy the great live music.
Brussels Summer Festival - BSF	Brussel	18.-22.08.2021	http://www.bsf.be/	When Manneken-Pis picks up his guitar, everyone starts rocking'n'rolling in Brussels during the BSF! This one-of-a-kind festival takes over the city, which has a great time in all kinds of ways and at great prices. A giant stage beneath the windows of the Royal Palace and another at Mont des Arts as well as more than 30 indoor concerts and after-parties.

In Flanders Fields

Event	Location	Dates	more information	
Show: Risen from the Ashes	Diksmuide	12.05.2021	www.flandersfields.be/en/flanders-fields/show-risen-ashes-diksmuide	The town of Diksmuide organise a large scale event on the Market Square. With music, theatre and humour, scenarist Bart Cafmeyer tells stories great and small from the reconstruction period in a lighthearted manner, complete with live music and spectacular projections.
Born survivors. The flight and return of refugees after the First World War	Koekelare: Fransmansmuseum	19.05.2020-16.04.2021	www.flandersfields.be/en/agenda/born-survivors-flight-and-return-refugees-after-first-world-war	During the First World War, hundreds of thousands of Belgians fled their country. Most of those living near the frontline areas ended up in France. No-one imagined it would take four years before they could think about returning. The complete destruction of their homes and villages confronted many of them with a heart-rending choice. Should we go back or not? And if we go back, what will we live on? 'Born survivors' answers these questions and shows how people picked up the threads of their lives after the Armistice.

Feniks. Reconstructing Flanders Fields	Yper: In Flanders Fields Museum	30.05.2020-28.02.2021	www.flandersfields.be/en/agenda/feniks-reconstructing-flanders-fields	“Feniks: Reconstructing Flanders Fields” is an ode to the resilience of forgotten men and women who cleared rubble and rebuilt their country after the First World War. In 1918, many thought that it would be impossible to fully restore the devastated regions. According to them, foresting the entire former front zone was a better option. Feniks shows how things turned out in the end. The photo collection of the Ypres photographers Maurice and Robert Antony runs like a thread through the exhibition and offers a surprising view on the different facets of reconstruction. Personal stories and unique objects bring the story of the reconstruction to life. All this in the largest and most iconic monument to reconstruction in the country: the Ypres Cloth Hall. After all, which building better depicts post-war reconstruction than the world’s largest Gothic civil structure?
herSTELLINGEN: Reconstruction and Recovery	Yper: Goliath hall Yper Museum	30.05.2020-17.01.2021	www.flandersfields.be/en/agenda/herstelling-reconstruction-and-recovery-yper-museum	‘herSTELLINGEN’ tells the story of the post-war recovery in the social-cultural sphere. Through eight different themes you will discover how the region picked up the threads of life after the First World War. There is a different theme each month, with related activities. Check the agenda!
From Recovery to Remembrance: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission after the First World War	Yper: CWGC Information centre	30.05.2020-31.03.2021	www.flandersfields.be/en/agenda/recovery-remembrance-commonwealth-war-graves-commission-after-first-world-war	“From Recovery to Remembrance” explores the complexities and controversies of key decisions the IWGC made as it undertook the mammoth task of commemorating 1.1 million casualties, 194.000 from Belgium. With competing creative visions and the pressure to rebuild quickly after the war, we reveal the behind-the-scenes story of how the Commission began to shape the landscapes of remembrance we know today. Alongside a wealth of archive images and never-before-seen documents are displayed artefacts recovered from the former battlefields, giving a powerful insight into the strenuous efforts to bury the dead with dignity.
Café Pax: the return to the West Flanders Hills	Kemmel: Visitor Centre & church Heuveland	08.06.2020-11.11.2021	www.flandersfields.be/nl/node/139967	With Café Pax, the atmosphere of life in the temporary housing of the post-war period is brought back to life. The attic floor of the visitors centre will be transformed into a barrack tavern in which local villagers will guide you through the region as it was in the years immediately after the First World War. It was not just the local community that recovered quickly; tourists also soon found their way back to the hill country in the south-west of
Follow the Feniks (videoshow)	Nieuwpoort	07.-10.04.2021	www.flandersfields.be/nl/feniks2020/follow-feniks-nieuwpoort	‘Follow the Feniks’ promises to be a memorable show with videomapping, theatre and live music on the Market Square in Nieuwpoort. It tells a moving story about letting go, taking back and moving on. Directors Mieke Dobbels and Frieda Vanslembrouck, ably supported by musician Johan Bouterby, highlight the aspects that make Nieuwpoort a typical ‘reconstructed’ town - or how something was made from nothing. An original evening walk, with surprising anecdotes and a dramatic finale that will live long in the memory!
Concert Symphony of Trees	Ypres	23./24.10.2021	www.flandersfields.be/nl/feniks2020/symphony-trees	Especially for the 2014-2018 centenary, Composer Piet Swerts created ‘A Symphony of Trees’ as homage to the City of Ypres and to Poet and Composer Ivor Gurney. This magnificent work, which concludes the Feniks project, will be performed by ‘Koninklijke Harmonie Ypriana’ (Royal Wind Band), which will be celebrating its own centenary in 2020.

Culinary

Event	Location	DATES	More info	description
Antwerpen Pateekesweek	Antwerp	February 2021	http://www.antwerpenkoekenstad.be/pateekesweek	Een ‘pateeke’ means in Antwerp dialect ‘pastry’. During the ‘pateekesweek’, you’ll be happy to discover the city of Antwerp strolling along the tearooms from internationally praised pâtissiers as well as the pâtissiers only known by the locals. Get ready to eat the most tasty Belgian pastries.
Bruges in Choc	Bruges and Flanders	February 2021	https://www.visitbruges.be/en/bruges-in-choc---chocolate-festival	The Guild of the Bruges Chocolatiers organizes BRUGES in CHOC, the chocolate-inspired event of the year on a specific theme.
Salon du Chocolat	Brussels	February 2021	https://brussels.salon-du-chocolat.com/	Chocolatiers, chefs, pastry chefs and young talents await you at Tour & Taxis for a celebration of Belgian chocolate in all its forms. More than 130 participants will be gathering together on 8,000 sqm entirely dedicated to chocolate and cocoa.
Bruges Beer Festival	Bruges	05-10/02/2021	https://www.brugsbierfestival.be/en/home-230.html	Bruges has earned a reputation with its long tradition of brewing and café culture. The international beer festival brings together over 80 breweries. You can taste over 350 beers at the festival and 15,000 people will join you in sampling this epic range of beers in historic Bruges. Some local restaurants also produce beer inspired menus and the festival organizers have spiced up the event with lectures, debates, and a culinary showcase.
Antwerp Chocolate Week	Antwerp	March 2021	http://www.antwerpenkoekenstad.be/chocolate-week	During this period, the city of Antwerp is all about chocolate. Visiting chocolate lovers will have the opportunity to follow the tasting route. Armed with a chocolate pass and the handy brochure on the chocolatiers taking part, they can stroll around the main sights of the city, stopping off at the best chocolate shops in the city to try their latest creations. What nicer way could there be to explore a city!
Fourchette	Ghent	March 2021	https://fourchettegent.be/	Fourchette is the culinary event of the year in Ghent. The chefs prepare a unique five-course menu in two teams.
Zythos bierfestival	Leuven	17-18/04/2021	https://www.zbf.be/	The Zythos Beer Festival is one of the largest beer tasting festivals of its kind in Europe. You’ll meet more than 100 Belgian brewers who produce 500 different types of beer, all in one location. Beer fans and aficionados travel from all corners of the planet to discover that Belgians really are the best brewers of beer in the world. A giant beer festival that you must not miss!

Tour de Geuze	Pajottenland en Zennevallei (Flemish Brabant)	01-02/05/2021	https://www.horal.be/toer-de-geuze	During this biennial event, the lambic breweries and gueuze blending houses open their doors to the public. There are free guided tours and, of course, a chance to sample lambic, gueuze, kriek and other lambic beers on the premises. The breweries and blending houses can be visited at leisure by car or bike, or a seat can be reserved on a tour bus that takes in various different breweries and blending houses. 2019 is the 12th edition of this event.
Gent Smaakt	Ghent	12 - 16/05/2021	https://visit.gent.be/nl/agenda/gent-smaakt	Are you a foodie? Then treat yourself to a day of culinary treats in the heart of Ghent. Many prominent Ghent-born chefs will treat you to delicious dishes and local producers will allow you to taste the authentic products the city loves to nibble on.
Taste of Antwerp/Antwerpen Proeft	Antwerp	13-16/05/2021	https://www.proeft.be/	The Taste of Antwerp is the biggest culinary festival in Antwerp. The great selection of participating top restaurants, the beautiful location next to the Schelde, and the creative make this festival one of the top culinary festivals in Belgium.
Oostende Voor Anker	Oostende	27-30/05/2021	https://www.oostendevooranker.be/	Matime event : Open for authentic ships who are at least 50 years of age or replica's based on original ships of + 50 years.
6th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism	Bruges	21/ - 23/06/2021		
Bierpassie weekend	Antwerp	25-27/06/2021	www.bierpassieweekend.be	The 'Bierpassieweekend' (Beer Passion weekend) is the ideal occasion for beer connoisseurs and zythologists to discover the beauty of Antwerp and taste the dazzling array of Belgian beers. The Groenplaats, one of Antwerp's most stunning squares, hosts about 40 breweries presenting 200 or more beers, and the festival offers visitors the chance to discover the rich palette of flavours in high-quality Belgian beer.
Hapje tapje	Leuven	01.08.2021	https://www.visitleuven.be/	The first Sunday of August the Leuven city centre is the place to be for foodies. Hapje-Tapje is a not-to-be-missed culinary feast. In the Muntstraat, Tiensestraat and on Hogeschoolplein, Hapje-Tapje allows you to discover some of the many restaurants in Leuven. 'Grand Place Gourmande' on the Grote Markt is the place to be for bon vivants, where the top chefs of Leuven prepare their small signature dishes (1 dish per restaurant) and pair it with a drink. The most delicious specialty beers are expertly served at Oude Markt. Borrow a Hapje-Tapje tasting glass at the central stand for 5 euro and enjoy! In the afternoon bartenders male and female are running the traditional bartender race. At night, excellent entertainment is guaranteed by several musical acts.
BXL Beerfest	Brussels	End of August 2021	http://www.bxlbeerfest.com/	BXLBeerFest has plenty of international ambition. BXLBeerFest brings a number of independent, artisanal brewers closer to the guests. The selection of Brussels breweries will be supplemented by some of the best that Belgium and other countries have to offer, with 60 breweries from ten different nations presenting over 200 beers to the public. BXLBeerFest also pays attention to the culinary aspect, with food trucks and an actual on-site restaurant.
EAT! Brussels, drink! Bordeaux	Brussels	September 2021	https://eat.brussels/en	EAT! Brussels, drink! Bordeaux is the festival of the Brussels Restaurants. Restaurants representing many countries from around the globe, which have been established in Brussels, will double their efforts in creativity in order to surprise and please everyone interested, even the gourmards among us. To increase the enjoyment, the "Wine Pass" tasting passport gives the opportunity to try being a sommelier and learn about the world of Bordeaux wines. In between tastings, we suggest to try the recreational workshops where you can slake your thirst for good food and good wine. Do you have a weakness for all kinds of confectionery? Stroll among our gourmet stands and discover the talents of the best local craftsmen and confectioners. The gourmet route will again be in the Brussels Park, in a very "royal" setting.
Kookeet	Bruges	September 2021	https://www.kookeet.be/pageen	KOOKEET has been on every foodie's calendar for the past nine years. We're offering a surprising journey packed with eating experiences that stimulate the senses , while letting chefs and food producers tell their stories. They will share their passion and actively involve you in their creative process : cooking, steaming, roasting, baking, stewing, braising, grilling ... it's all done on the spot, in different settings and atmospheres.
Beer & Hop festival	Poperinge	17-19/09/2021	https://www.toerismepoperinge.be/nl/25e-bier-en-hoppefeesten-1	As the hop-growing centre of Flanders, every three years Poperinge organizes an original Beer and Hop Festival. Highlight is the Parade in which 65 groups, 1400 extras and 12 floats take part. The Hop Parade tells the history of the development of the hop industry, provides an overview of the various activities in the field through the four seasons and a presentation of the main hop-producing countries in the world. To tie in with the parade, Poperinge Hop Museum will be open throughout the day. You also have the chance to visit a hop company, where you can see a huge picking machine in action. There are also shows, a beer festival à la Munich in the festival marquee and a stunning firework display to round it all off.
Masters of taste - Smaakmeesters	Antwerp	October 2021	https://www.visitantwerpen.be	Enjoy a foretaste during the opening weekend. You can take this literally too! The city centre will be transformed into a huge food market where you will be able to have a nibble and a tippie on offer by participating restaurants especially selected for you by the "Masters of Taste".
Modeste Bierfestival	Antwerp	02-03/10/2021	http://www.antwerpsbiercollege.be/ModesteBierFestival/	The Modeste Beer Festival pays a tribute to Modeste Van den Bogaert. He joined the Brewery De Koninck right after the war and his father untimely death. He led the brewery for more than 50 years. Modeste also means modest. That is why only small Belgian brewers are invited to this festival.

* Update from 08.10.2020. All data without guarantee.