



ENCATC

The European network on cultural management and policy



ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours

Report 2013-2023



The ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours are an initiative of ENCATC, the leading European network on cultural management and policy.

Launched in February 2013, these cultural evenings bring together representatives from the cultural, business, and educational sectors to enjoy an informal occasion to network and exchange ideas in different cultural settings.

The ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours are done in partnership with the Creative Europe Desks Wallonie-Bruxelles and Vlaanderen and with the support of the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. More than 70 organisations, among them arts, cultural, educational, business and political institutions, have also partnered as Friends of the ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours.

2018 was a special year. The ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours were also proud to be a partner of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and the opportunity it brought to celebrate and raise awareness about heritage and key players bringing it to the fore.

For the first time in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ENCATC organised its first online edition of the Cultural Happy Hour and thus to ensure the continuity of this initiative exploring new ways to meet and exchange with other professionals.



72

From 2013 until December 2023, 72 ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours have been organised

6



ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours have been hosted in 6 European cities: Brussels, Barcelona, Maastricht, Paris, Prague, and Venice

99

partnerships established



In **2022** several ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours were organised with the European Year of Cultural Heritage label



1,900+

ENCATC Cultural Happy Hour guests



45

countries represented



In **2022** ENCATC organized its first in-person edition after the Covid-19 pandemic

2013

Sex, Money & Power

CONTEMPORARY ART



The inaugural ENCATC Cultural Happy Hour was held at the [Maison Particulière](#) – Arts Center in Brussels. A group of invited cultural professionals, policy makers, educators, and artists were welcomed by the Maison's founders, Myriam and Amaury de Solages, to visit the "Sex, Money and Power" exhibition. ENCATC member, art historian, Claire Giraud-Labelle from the Université Catholique de l'Ouest (France), gave a selected commentary, weaving her knowledge of art history and stories from her research to raise questions and provoked critical thinking to look beyond contemporary art work and question mankind's relationships with sex, money and power.

Brussels Philharmonic

MUSIC



This was an evening to celebrate to Flagey's 75th Anniversary and its historic importance in radio and television in Europe. It began with a special behind-the-scenes tour of the award winning [Brussels Philharmonic](#) that included a meeting with the Concertmaster and violin soloist, Otto Derolez. Next, our guests attended the reception and opening of the exhibition "75 years: Sound factory – between technique and architecture" followed by a classical music concert in the iconic Flagey symphony hall.

CPAS Museum

MUSEUM & HERITAGE



The CPAS (Public Centre for Social Welfare) has a wonderful [collection of cultural heritage](#). Christophe Pourtois, Member of the Conseil de l'Action Sociale de Bruxelles welcomed our guests for a private tour led by David Guillardian, the museum's curator. The visit shed light on the profound impact the CPAS Brussels has had on the city's residents and its valuable artistic and heritage collection reflects not only its rich cultural history, but also is a visual and informative journey showing how it has cared for the Brussels community and centuries of fighting poverty and disease.

CAB Art Centre

CONTEMPORARY ART



The [CAB Art Center](#) hosted this debate on "Brussels & the contemporary art field". Sonia Dermience, curator at Komplot, began with an introduction to Brussels' contemporary art scene. Our Cultural Happy Hour guests learned how Brussels is becoming a leading hub for contemporary art, the factors that have led to its actual positioning, and trends for further development. To discover more of the CAB as an emerging contemporary art centre, a private tour of its temporary exhibition "The Fold" was led by CAB Director, Eléonore De Sadeleer.

Le Corbusier & Photography

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Celebrating the anniversary of Le Corbusier's 125th birthday in 2012, we had a private visit to the "Le Corbusier and Photography" exhibition. Guided by Christophe Pourtois, Director of the [CIVA - International Center for City, Architecture & Landscape](#), our guests went on a journey to investigate Le Corbusier's deep relationship with photography, not only as representation, but also as a means of artistic research. They toured works of one of the most influential figures of XX century architecture and were introduced to the CIVA, a vibrant cultural landmark.

Wonderland

POLITICAL CONFLICT IN ART



The "WONDERLAND" exhibition presented works of political conflict in art by Israeli and Palestinian artists. We invited our guests to attend the opening at the [European Parliament](#). The exhibition, organised with the support of the GUE/NGL and the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Brussels, featured more than 40 photographs, montages, paintings, and videos. Curator, Ms. Shirley Meshulam along with the exhibition's producer, Mr. Yossi Ben Bassat, and the German MP Wolfgang Gehrcke presented the project and their visions for peace and the importance of the artist voice.

Europe Refresh

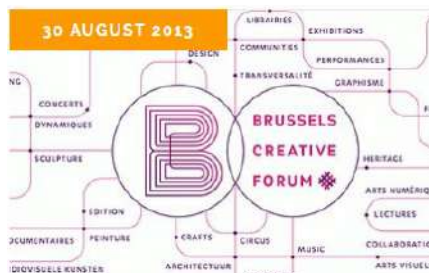
CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP & CROWDFUNDING



Our Cultural Happy Hours were invited to attend and discover the first-ever [Europe Refresh](#), a European gathering for crowdfunding. This initiative was organised by Les Halles de Schaerbeek in partnership with KissKissBankBank, the European leader of crowdfunding. Dozens of projects were selected from citizens across Europe (and India, the guest country of this first edition). The visit included a tour of 50 projects about art, ecology, new energies, new technologies, education, research, health, agriculture, and humanitarian issues.

Brussels Creative Forum

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Under a marquee on the Palace Square, in the heart of Brussels' arts district, our Cultural Happy Hours guests attended the "Network of Networks" drink at the first-ever [Brussels Creative Forum](#). The Forum aims to bring greater attention to the uniqueness and abundance of Brussels' cultural and creative offers. The event was an opportunity to grasp Brussels' creativity, richness, diversity, expertise, relevance and originality in music, performing arts, visual arts, architecture and heritage, museums, festivals, cultural centres, and exhibitions.

France's Cultural Policy in the Middle East & North Africa

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



For the last Cultural Happy Hours of 2013, we invited our guests to a special talk on "France's Cultural Policy in the Middle East & North Africa" by S.E.M. Bernard Valero, French Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium. Organised by ENCATC at the [CIVA - International Center for City, Architecture & Landscape](#), after the talk, guests were invited to a private guided tour of the CIVA's temporary exhibition "XDGA_160_EXPO Xaveer De Geyter Architects".

Brussels Art Factory

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



The [Brussels Art Factory](#) is bustling hub of creativity, a unique centre for contemporary artistic production and distribution in Brussels supported by SMartBe. Opened in July 2011, the BAF offers spaces and ateliers to its residential artists, fostering their creativity, interaction and exchange. It also regularly organises exhibitions to showcase the promote their work. Cultural Happy Hours guests were given an after hours tour of more than 20 ateliers to meet and speak with the artists and creators who were more than happy to share and present their work and artistic inspiration.



"This initiative is exactly what all cultural people in Brussels need. Informal meetings in informal settings such as arts centres, museums, arts galleries etc. are just great to get to know better people active in the same field and other sectors."

Frédéric Meseeuw
Institutional adviser at BOZAR,
Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels

2014

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



Our visit to the [BRAFA](#), one of the world's oldest and most prestigious art fairs, began with a conference entitled "Sociologie et psychologie du marché de l'art contemporain: témoignages de collectionneurs". Through an intimate discussion with art collectors and experts, invited guests gained a better understanding of the sociology and psychology of today's contemporary art market. Afterwards, guests were treated to a guided visit highlighting the most prized collections among the hundreds of galleries represented from around the globe.

As Sweet as it Gets

CONTEMPORARY ART



ENCATC member, [BOZAR](#), Centre for Fine Arts hosted this Cultural Happy Hour where our guests entered into the world and artistic imagination of contemporary Belgian artist Michaël Borremans. The visit included a guided tour of the exhibition "[As sweet as it gets](#)" and cocktail reception. Borremans made his international breakthrough in the late 1990s with a varied body of work (including drawings, paintings, and films) that laid bare the deceptive nature of representation and the absurdity of existence in a suggestive, ironic way. His focus on the power of the imagination makes his subversive visual idiom especially engaging.

Influences plurielles

CONTEMPORARY ART



Our after hours visit to the exhibition "Influences plurielles" was a visual experience into the creation of contemporary Belgian painter [Emmanuel Beyens](#). Cultural Happy Hour guests were welcomed by the artist himself who shared his creative inspiration and gave a tour of the works on display. Hosted at the [Banca Monte Paschi Belgi](#), this was also an opportunity to learn how the banking sector supports the careers of Belgian artists thanks to the intervention from the bank's director

Europe Refresh II

CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP & CROWDFUNDING



Following the first successful edition, a second visit to [Europe Refresh](#), the European crowdfunding fair was highly anticipated. Our guests toured Les Halles de Schaerbeek which housed more than 40 projects from Europe and Canada selected for their artistic qualities as well as efforts to address social issues and solidarity in the economy. Supported by KissKissBankBank, the European leader of crowdfunding, the selection of projects displayed innovative ideas and concepts from enthusiastic entrepreneurs.

Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain

CONTEMPORARY ART



In a first for the Cultural Happy Hours, ENCATC and its guests went to Paris for an organised guided tour of the [Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain](#) (FIAC) at the Grand Palais. Our guests were received by Eric Le Maillot, the FIAC's Deputy Director who presented the Foire's background and aims, Amandine Milosiss, an Art Market Expert at [Groupe EAC](#), a member of ENCATC, guided our guests through fair's most renowned works and some of the hidden treasures displayed by the world's most prestigious art galleries.

TAG bxl, the Accessible Art Gallery

ART & NEW AUDIENCES



TAG bxl is a fresh player in Brussels' art scene with a unique focus on emerging artists. Our guests listened to a debate on "Access to art, democratisation process and finding new audiences" Speakers included Monica Urian de Sousa, Programme Manager, Audience Development, European Commission; Dorian Van Der Brempt, Managing Director, deBuren; Johanna Suo, Partner, Art&Communication, TAG bxl; Mahir Namur, President European Cultural Association, Strategy Consultant in Culture and Communication; and Savina Tarsitano, Artist. They also had a private tour of works by artists [Savina Tarsitano](#), [Fabian Vogler](#), and [Emmanuel Beyens](#).

"I have attended a number of Cultural Happy Hours hosted by ENCATC, and whether it was a behind the scenes tour of an international art exhibition, or front row seats at the opening of a Brussels fashion week event, the events have all been interesting, thought-provoking and fun. The initiative has created opportunities for lasting cross-sectorial connections and strengthened ties towards collaborations within the cultural and creative industries."

Stefanie Thomas
Head of Strategy & Projects at CUMEDIAE



2015

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



Not surprisingly, another trip to the [BRAFA](#) was in high demand following the success in 2014. For this visit, our guests enjoyed the finest examples of archaeology, tribal art, furniture, paintings, drawings, sculpture, design, jewellery and other art objects and curiosities put on display by 126 exhibitors from a dozen countries. To celebrate the BRAFA's 60th anniversary, a special exhibition curated by the King Baudouin Foundation paid tribute to collectors and showcased works gathered exclusively from private Belgian collections.

Body Talk

CONTEMPORARY ART



[WIELS](#) is housed in one of the rare examples of modernist industrial architecture in Brussels. A former beer brewery originally designed in 1931, today it is an historically classified building. It's vast and open spaces make it ideal to host artist residencies and put on ambitious exhibitions by national and international artists. On this visit we toured "[Body Talk](#)" aimed at addressing issues of feminism, sexuality and the body, as they play themselves out in the work of a generation of women artists from Africa active since the early 1990s.

Institut Supérieur de Peinture Van Der Kelen - Logelain

DECORATIVE PAINTING



The [Institut Supérieur de Peinture Van Der Kelen - Logelain](#) is one of the world's most prestigious schools in the field of wood and marble imitations and other decorative painting techniques. Sylvie Van der Kelen, granddaughter of the School's founder, delighted our Cultural Happy Hour guests with a history of this unique artistic practice and provided a better understanding of the school's values as well as the special techniques developed and perfected within its walls for over 130 years. In addition to visiting the school, we were also treated to a practical atelier of decorative painting for a special hands-on experience.

Summer of Fashion

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



ENCATC member, [BOZAR](#), Centre for Fine Arts hosted this lively debate with internationally renowned fashion designer Diane von Fürstenberg on the ["Empowerment of Women in Fashion"](#). She was joined by panelists Veerle Windels, Anne Chapelle, Rosario Dawson and Abrima Erwia. After the talks and a cocktail reception, our guests toured four exhibitions on the history of Belgian fashion design, fashion photography, and prominent influencers and designers.

Art Brussels

CONTEMPORARY ART



For our first Cultural happy Hour visit to [Art Brussels](#), we were welcomed by Katerina Gregos, the fair's Artistic Director. She shared her experience managing the international art fair and how she overcomes challenges faced by artists trying to enter the commercial sector and international stage. Having set the scene, next we toured works on display in 191 galleries from 34 countries, represented in three main sections: PRIME presenting established artists, YOUNG presenting emerging artists and a new section, DISCOVERY, featuring 14 galleries representing lesser-known and emerging artists.

Mexican Art & Culture

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



The [Mexican Embassy in Brussels](#) opened its doors to our Cultural Happy Hour guests for an evening of immersion in Mexican art, culture, and cuisine. We received a warm welcome from Ambassador, Mr Juan Jose Ignacio Gomez Camacho. He was joined by Cultural Attachée, Marina Castañeda who gave a short presentation on Mexican cultural policy and soft power. Guests toured paintings by celebrated Oaxacan artist, Sergio Hernández and watched a screening of a classic Mexican film, *Arráncame la Vida* (Tear This Heart Out, 2008), based on the best-selling novel by Angeles Mastretta.

Fashion Atelier of Nina Meert

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



One of Belgium's most prominent fashion designers, [Nina Meert](#) opened her atelier and private showroom for this Cultural Happy Hour. In her beautiful store and atelier in Ixelles, Ms. Meert shared her design philosophy, explained her innovative business model, and presented the challenges she overcame to become an internationally renowned Belgian fashion designer. She also unveiled her current and upcoming collections during an intimate tour of her workspace filled with sketches, fabrics, patterns, garments and more.

Portraits of Artists

CONTEMPORARY ART



This was an exception visit to "Portraits of Artists", the complete art collection of [SMart](#), never before exhibited to the public. Bringing together works from the 1960s onwards, the collection includes more than 300 pieces by 50 artists from seven countries coming from various disciplines. As a special treat, the after hours visit included a guided tour by two of the collectors: Alain de Wasseige, art dealer and collector for over thirty years and Judith Verhoeven, who have step by step built the collection along with Julek Jurowicz, a member of ENCATC.

Espronceda Art and Culture Center

CONTEMPORARY ART



The first Cultural Happy Hour in Spain was a visit to [Espronceda](#), new innovative and contemporary space, platform, and multi-disciplinary environment for artists, curators, and educators. Guests were introduced to the centre by its co-founders: Henrik Sprengel, Holger Sprengel and Elia Sabato. They learned about the momentum behind this project, why it was erected in Barcelona, and what's new about its business model. An international panel discussion on "Managing Independent Art Centres: Towards new management, business and leadership models" was moderated by ENCATC member, Lluís Bonet, from the [University of Barcelona](#).

Anatolia. Home of eternity

ART FESTIVAL



[Europalia](#) is a biennial festival using art to connect people by inviting a guest country to put on a four-month programme with hundreds of artistic events to open dialogue between cultures. Our guests were welcomed at Europalia's headquarters for a talk with its Director of International Affairs and Communications, Pablo Fernandez. The meeting was followed by a guided visit to the exhibition "[Anatolia. Home of Eternity](#)" at the BOZAR, a member of ENCATC for a discovery of one of the greatest cradles of cultures in the world with an extraordinarily rich heritage thanks to an uninterrupted and twelve millennia-long succession of civilisations



"We are very happy at Espronceda to host Cultural Happy Hours as they prove to bring together extremely interesting and exciting people. There are always enriching conversations and fantastic exchanges of ideas."

Holger Sprengel
Co-founder of Espronceda Art and Culture Center

2016

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



Becoming an annual gathering for our Cultural Happy Hour guests, we started off a new year with another visit to the [BRAFA](#) Art Fair. To learn about the place in today's art market we invited researcher, aesthetico-political theorist, critic and strategist, Denis Maksimov, to share his insight and his favourite pieces on display. He introduced our guests to the notion of "the art world" and ignited reflections on the importance of questioning narratives in art history and contemporary art, the actuality of connoisseurship and expertise, and the strategies of art collection

Passa Porta

LITERATURE



Held in the framework of [Passa Porta's](#) seminar series "Needs & Necessity", the event was opened by Ilke Froyen, Passa Porta's Director who presented the aims and activities of this unique gateway to contemporary world literature. Ukrainian author, Andrey Kurkov (Death and the Penguin, The Milkman in the Night, Ukraine Diaries...) read from his work and discussed his views on the tensions between writing fiction and being a close observer of the recent turmoil in his country.

Art Brussels

CONTEMPORARY ART



Following the success of last year's visit, ENCATC was pleased to offer Cultural Happy Hour guests an enjoyable evening of networking and a guided visit of [Art Brussels](#). Taking place for the first time at Tour & Taxis, this edition of Art Brussels included 141 galleries (including 31 newcomers) from 28 countries, represented in three main sections: PRIME, DISCOVERY and a new section, REDISCOVERY, with works by important artists, living and deceased, from the historic to the avant-garde, who have been under-estimated, overlooked, or unduly forgotten.

Espronceda Art and Culture Center

CONTEMPORARY ART



Returning to [Espronceda](#), this time ENCATC was honoured to have among its guests American members from the Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE). Guests heard from Manuel Aramendia Zuazu, Associate Dean of the Fine Arts Faculty, [University of Barcelona](#), a member of ENCATC and had a talk with the artist [Fabian Vogler](#) whose works were on display in the exhibition *Liquid Gender*. Guests also toured the sound installation *Emotional Decrypter* by Francesco Giannico.

Atelier Marcel Hastir

HERITAGE & CULTURAL
ENTREPRENEURHIP



This Cultural Happy Hour was a way into the world and creative place of [Marcel Hastir](#), painter, theosoph and member of the wartime Resistance. An inconspicuous building situated in the heart of the European quarter is not widely known to the public as an open space for visitors to see the artist's works, atelier, and living space as well as for enjoying an exciting cultural programme. Following the guided visit, our guests met the founders of [OneHouseStand](#), an online platform helping to context venues with clients. Its listings of offer exclusively private homes and cultural spaces, including the Atelier Marcel Hastir.

Moi Vasarely

CONTEMPORARY ART & CULTURAL
DIPLOMACY



The [Balassi Cultural Institute](#) in Brussels, Cultural Service of the Hungarian Embassy, welcomed our guests with an introduction by Zsófia Villegas-Vitézy, the Institute's Cultural Counsellor. She presented activities and cultural events organised in the space, its connection to Brussels' cultural heritage within its walls, as well as the current exhibition "[Moi Vasarely](#)". The exhibition included posters, paintings and videos by contemporary artists inspired by Victor Vasarely (1906-1997) as well as original works by the artist himself.

LaVallée's cultural space

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



A project of ENCATC member, [SmartBe, LaVallée](#) brings together a diversity of creatives with varied skills to encourage the emulation of ideas. Pierre Pevée, LaVallée's manager, led the tour of the premises, explained how it functions, and introduced members of its community. It was a moment to visit behind-the-scenes of a dynamic creative space, speak with artists, learn about their artistic mediums, and watched them work. Our guests were also treated to a sneak peek of the selected work of students by a special jury of the Académie des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles, which was hosted by LaVallée.



"ENCATC's Cultural Happy Hours concept is a unique platform for creation of knowledge, promotion of cross-cultural understanding and respect, sharing ideas among its members about cultural and creative domains of Brussels, Belgium, as well as beyond it."

Yelena Kharitonova
Founder of Caravan Cultura
CreAcademy

2017

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



To kick off a new year, we were honoured once again to invite our Cultural Happy Hours guests to discover the 62nd edition of the [BRAFA](#) Art Fair. BRAFA 2017 brought together 132 galleries and art dealers from 16 countries, including 13 new names. Archaeology, jewellery, paintings, sculptures, furniture, design, ceramics, porcelain, clocks, objets d'art, glassware, antique frames, original cartoon plates and other contemporary creations on display retraced more than four millennia of art history from across the continents.

Bulgarian Haute Couture

FASHION & CONTEMPORARY ART



In his first solo exhibition in Belgium presented by [Inspiring Culture](#), Bulgarian born artist [Zhivko Sedlarski](#), has put on display a collection of sculptures in brass and steel, celebrating the world of Haute Couture and some of his favourite creations. Our guests also learned about the events that inspired the artists shown work, his participation ["Dialogue With Emperor Qin"](#) (a current touring exhibition by Inspiring Culture), and his artistic collaboration with a refugee from Afghanistan, Sami Nouri. Now living in France, Nouri is working under the tutelage of Jean-Paul Gaultier at the famous designer's studio.

Art Brussels

CONTEMPORARY ART



On this evening, we discovered the world of [Art Brussels](#), which continues to build on its profile and track record as one of "Europe's foremost discovery fairs". Welcomed with an introduction by the fair's Head of VIP Relations, Marie Vander Elst, guests learned how the fair privileges solid artistic content and profiling surprising artistic practices which one does not see at other art fairs. To see first hand, we had a guided tour to discover the highlights among the more than 140 internationally established galleries coming from around the globe.

Venice Art Biennale

Walking Tour

CONTEMPORARY ART



Brussels, Paris, Barcelona and now Venice! In a Cultural Happy Hour first, an evening of cultural discovery and networking was organised as a walking tour through the city's public installations displayed for the 57th edition of the [Venice Art Biennale](#). Among the many installations by renowned international artists our guests toured, the highlight was seeing "Support" by the Italian artist Lorenzo Quinn. Emerging from the grand canal, it features two large hands appearing to prop up the Ca' Sagredo Hotel.

Ethno Tendance Fashion Week

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



[Ethno Tendance Fashion Week](#) is the largest event of its kind in Belgium around international, multicultural and inclusive fashion. It puts on the latest fashion trends inspired by African art and culture. It includes stunning catwalks, artistic performances, contests for best new talents, a pop up store, a beauty corner, exhibitions, workshops, and debates. ENCATC and our guests had a special project presentation by Farah Ridane and Julie Maricq from the management team. They presented the structure, challenges for human resources, fundraising techniques, and audience engagement practices.

BEL:EST

URBAN DESIGN



"BEL:EST. A Laboratory for Europe in Brussels" is a project involving five Estonian and five Belgian architecture firms. During their collaborations, they explored a number of urban design and architecture problems that the city of Brussels faces everyday. The conclusions and proposals stemming from their debates on the European capital's urban planning and architecture are the core of the exhibition hosted by **BOZAR**, Centre for Fine Arts, a member of ENCATC. Attending the opening, our guests heard from Indrek Saar, Minister of Culture of Estonia and Paul Dujardin, CEO of the Centre for Fine Arts.

Art and Science Lab

ART & CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



Spanish Embassy opened its doors to welcome Cultural Happy Hour guests to learn about the cultural and scientific diplomacy of Spain through its Arts and Science Lab in Belgium that hosts artistic and scientific projects, debates, workshops, and small-size performances within its walls. Presentations were given by Sergi Farré, Scientific and Cultural Counsellor at the embassy, Felipe Santos, Director of Instituto Cervantes in Brussels, and Guadalupe Melgosa, Spain's Education Counsellor to Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg. Guests enjoyed "It's a trap" by Spanish artist Carolina Tafalla, a duet performance by Hugo Ranilla de Castro (violin) and Adrián Hernández Altelarrea (clarinet).

"The Cultural Happy Hour was the

perfect way to take a moment for connection and engaging dialogue, all in a dynamic fine arts setting. Hearing from a new artist and being able to explore their work with them was also a delight. This is the perfect opportunity to meet new people and enrich one's network while also being energized by wonderful art!"

Katy Coy, Executive Director,
Association of Arts Administration
Educators

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



The year started with a Cultural Happy Hour to the 63rd **BRAFA** Art Fair. It was a unique occasion to see a selection of breath-taking art works, including a recently re-discovered masterpiece by Rubens, and network and create connections with colleagues based in Brussels and beyond. Our guests also had a guided tour to gain a better understanding of the history and stories behind artworks selected from the 134 galleries and art dealers from 16 countries at the fair and offering a panoply of works of art retracing more than four millennia of art history from across the continents.

TEFAF Maastricht

FINE ART, ANTIQUES AND DESIGN



ENCATC held a very exclusive Cultural Happy Hour for its first partnership with the **TEFAF Maastricht**. Guests were treated to a private space for networking time and to get an overview of the art fair. This was followed by a guided tour of some of the most breath-taking pieces on display. Established in 1988, TEFAF is widely regarded as the world's pre-eminent organization of fine art, antiques, and design. TEFAF champions the finest quality art from across the ages by creating a community of the world's top art dealers and experts to inspire lovers and buyers of art everywhere.

2018

Art Brussels

CONTEMPORARY ART



More than 30 guests delved into the contemporary art world of [Art Brussels](#). After her welcome with an introduction to Art Brussels, **Nele Verhaeren**, Head of Galleries, took our guests on a special tour of the fair to see the most exciting pieces on the contemporary art market. She introduced the group to gallery owners and representatives who presented the artists they represent and some of the works on display. Art Brussels is organised around the PRIME, REDISCOVERY, DISCOVERY sections offering a mix between the young and upcoming and the renowned and recognised.

Brussels Gallery Weekend

CONTEMPORARY ART



This visit to the [Brussels Gallery Weekend](#) (BGW) was a first for the ENCATC Cultural Happy Hour. 16 guests for came out to discover the inspiring collections on display and the BGW which celebrates the general reopening of Brussels contemporary art galleries and non profit spaces, gathering together great shows all around the city. We were welcomed by **Sybille du Roy**, Director of the Brussels Gallery Weekend and Belgian curator **Louis-Philippe Van Eeckhoutte** who presented the BGW's concept and gave a guided tour.

Prague Creative Center

CREATIVE URBAN LABORATORY



The first ENCATC Cultural Happy Hour in the Czech Republic was held during the 2nd ENCATC [Capacity Building Days and Youth in Action Day](#). 34 guests from 10 countries joined for this unique opportunity to visit the [Prague Creative Centre](#), a new hub established by Prague City Hall. It is intended to be the city's living and creative laboratory that links active inhabitants, representatives of non-governmental organisations and the private sector with representatives of the public sector. The hope is these exchanges of different actors will allow them to discover innovative solutions for a creative city and have the output of their cooperation integrated in the urban development strategy.

Bruno Lussato Institute

CULTURAL HERITAGE,
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



24 ENCATC Cultural Happy Hour guests had an exclusive tour of the [Bruno Lussato Institute](#) which houses an impressive collection of Japanese Mingei folk art with some pieces ranging from the 12th-19th century. With presentation on "Searching for Asia in the Capital of Europe: Introducing ULB-EAST" we learned about Belgium-Japan relations. The event was a moment to learn about Japan's rich cultural heritage and connections between Belgian and Japanese organisations cooperating during the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

House of European History

MUSEUM, CULTURAL HERITAGE



The [House of European History](#) (HEH) opened its doors for a special after-hours visit for our Cultural Happy Hour guests. We were received by **Taja Vovk van Gaal**, Creative Director who also gave a guided visit. She explained the challenges of respecting different experiences and view points held around Europe in different countries, regions, and cultures - not to mention the translations done in all the EU's official languages! The museum strives to construct European identity by using the concept of memory because at the end of the visit, it hopes visitors will come away with more reflections, increased tolerance, and a greater sense of shared European identity.

2019

NEWMUSEUM(S)

DOCUMENTARY FILM



To celebrate the start of a new year, on 30 January in Brussels ENCATC partnered with Museimpresa for an exceptional evening to discover the film "[Newmuseum\(s\). Stories of company archives and museums](#)". The screening at the European Parliament of this documentary film directed by **Francesca Molteni** was a powerful and visual reminder of the commitment of company archives to preserve their heritage and showcasing museums dedicated to telling their stories to benefit the development of the Italian and European cultural identity.

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



In 2019, ENCATC partnered once again with the [BRAFA Art Fair](#). **Beatrix Bourdon**, the fair's Managing Director presented the highlights for the 2019 edition which hosted 133 galleries and art dealers from 16 countries. BRAFA has a rich offer with a panoply of art collections which cover 20 specialities. This year's guests of honour were internationally renowned duo Gilbert & George. Having started out as performance artists, they became famous for their large-scale photo pieces. These are often in very bright colours with superimposed black gridlines evoking the windows of yesteryear.



"The Brafa has an incredible variety of the works exhibited. We admired paintings by old masters and recent ones, furniture of different periods of time, metal works of all sizes, jewellery for princesses, artistic weavings, items for decorations in many styles and materials. As the tour was preceded by a warm welcome with networking time it was a perfect get together."

Marie-Anne Dage, Association Femmes d'Europe, aisbl

Art Brussels

CONTEMPORARY ART



To mark the 50th Cultural Happy Hour it was organised at the 37th [Art Brussels](#). Guests were welcomed and given a tour by **Nele Verhaeren**, Head of Galleries. It is evident the fair is attracting a growing number of collectors, gallerists, curators, art professionals, and art lovers from around the world thanks to its reputation as one of the most renowned contemporary art fairs in Europe. In 2019 it launched a new and diverse "Invited" section to support emerging galleries or art spaces that are transcending the typical gallery format and that have never before participated in the fair.

Maison Frison

CULTURAL HERITAGE



For the first time, ENCATC proposed an exceptional evening at the beautiful [Maison Frison](#) designed by the Belgian architect Victor Horta in 1894. Not only is it the only Horta house in the historical city centre of Brussels, but it's the only Horta house that is lived in and a foundation - a living museum. A special tour was given by the owner **Nupur Tron**. She explained her aims to foster greater understanding and appreciation of rich cultural heritage, *Métiers d'Art* and cultural traditions of the east, particularly of India in Europe and vice versa.

Culture is Carbohydrate of Development

CONFERENCE



To deepen knowledge on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), this [conference](#) welcomed guest speaker **Amitava Bhattacharya**, a social entrepreneur with 30 years of global experience specialising in Culture and Development. Organised by the Foundation Frison Horta and held at the beautiful Maison Frison, it was the ideal setting to learn how investment in ICH directly benefits communities, helps in strengthening identity, cultural diversity, skill development and empowerment.

Brussels Gallery Weekend

CONTEMPORARY ART



To pick up the Cultural Happy Hours after the summer holidays, ENCATC brought its guests to [Brussels Gallery Weekend](#) which celebrates the general reopening of Brussels contemporary art galleries and non profit spaces, gathering together great shows all around the city. After the guided walking tour, the visit continued with the debate **"Do galleries have to re-think their format?"** Welcomed by **Sybille du Roy**, BGW Director, the discussions with an academic from ENCATC and gallery owners highlighted the evolution of galleries, new business models, responding to technological advances, ethical issues, and the new skills and competences in this new challenging working environment.

Panettone: A made in Italy product to be protected

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE



The final networking event of 2019 was an exceptional evening to learn more about - and taste! - traditional Italian Panettone. This type of sweet bread loaf from Italy is usually prepared and enjoyed for Christmas and the New Year, but with globalisation consumer demand has dramatically increased as have imitations from beyond Italy. On this occasion, a panel of stakeholders led by **Emanuele Giordano**, President of the Made in Italy Association, who has founded the National Panettone and Pandoro Fair, discussed how to protect the traditional Panettone and its contribution to Italy's intangible cultural heritage.

2020

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



A Cultural Happy Hour favorite, this event at the [Brafa Art Fair](#) kicked-off ENCATC's 2020 calendar of cultural discovery events. **Beatrix Bourdon**, BRAFA Managing Director gave a presentation of the 2020 edition which had 133 galleries and art dealers from 14 countries showcasing a panoply of art collections which cover 20 specialities. This year to celebrate its 65th milestone, Brafa had exclusive exhibition and sale of five Berlin Wall segments with proceeds going to cancer research, social integration projects and art heritage preservation.

Art Across Europe

ONLINE ROUND TABLE



Due to the COVID-19 crisis, ENCATC offered its first online Cultural Happy Hour in partnership with Art Across Europe Network. The [round table](#), moderated by ENCATC Secretary General, **GiannaLia Cogliandro Beyens**, welcomed leading cultural thinkers and managers shed light on how galleries, museums and art spaces reinvent themselves in reaction to the pandemic. Discussions focused on the positive changes and new opportunities that came due to the current situation and an outlook for the next months and years.

2021

China and the great changes to come

CULTURAL POLICY



Within the framework of the ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours, ENCATC has established a partnership with the [Bruno Lussato & Marina Fedier Institute](#). The conference-debate was organized to gain a better understanding of the complexity of current issues. To this end, eminent personalities gave answers to initiate the metamorphosis of the world of tomorrow. On the topic the renowned international expert **Guy-Olivier Faure**, an expert in international relations, with a particular interest in action and strategic thinking, applied in particular to conflict resolution and terrorism, gave insight on the challenging changes related to China.

Redefining priorities, re-designing education and training

CULTURAL POLICY



This ENCATC Cultural Happy Hour in partnership with the [Bruno Lussato & Marina Fedier Institute](#) focused on the topic of vital proficiencies needed for the training and education of cultural managers in order to address contemporary issues and future unforeseen challenges. This online gathering was the opportunity to discuss together how to redesign education in the field of cultural management. It was also an occasion to listen to some concrete ideas that could be developed to already start implementing these new protocols.

2022

Kruisherhotel

CULTURAL HERITAGE



On the 30th Anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty, formally known as the Treaty on EU, which was signed in the Dutch city in 1992 and laid down the foundation for the EU, and taking the opportunity of the ENCATC presence in Maastricht for the [2022 ENCATC Academy on Sustainable Cultural Management and Policy](#), a Cultural Happy Hours event was organised to officially kick-off the 30th Anniversary of ENCATC network. ENCATC member **Yelena Kharitonova** introduced the main features of the Kingsday festivities, followed by a guided tour in **Kruisherhotel**, a former monastery turned into a hotel.

Holland House

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Since 2020, [The Holland House](#), no longer serves only for meetings of members and their guests, but also appeals to a wider audience and allows them to participate with a challenging programming on art and culture. The idea is to contribute to the introduction, dialogue and promotion of Dutch art and culture in Belgium, and in Brussels, the seat of the institutions of the European Union. **Yelena Kharitonova**, ENCATC member, provided a guided tour around the premises which also included interventions from the participants on the spot.

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN



BRAFA, one of Europe's leading art and antiques fairs, returned to a prestigious new venue: [Brussels Expo](#) at Heysel. Renowned for the quality and diversity of its offer, the Fair welcomed for its 67th edition 115 galleries from 15 countries that presented exquisite works of ancient, modern & contemporary art and design. The guest of honour, **Arne Quinze**, was the first Belgian artist to enhance the fair with his paintings, sculptures and drawings as well as the design of the carpet. Quinze's art, totally inspired by nature, instils a colourful, friendly and positive atmosphere.

Tool for inclusion

CULTURAL HERITAGE



The event organized at the Italian Cultural Institute in Brussels, together with ENCATC member [Yehudi Menuhin International Foundation](#), was an opportunity to present the European project [UCREATE](#). With this important project coming to an end, ENCATC was proud to offer a platform to 4 European artistic organizations based in Hungary ([MUS-E](#)), Italy ([Big Sur](#)), Portugal ([Hangar](#)) and Belgium ([International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation](#)) to raise awareness on the very important topic migration represents nowadays. The roundtable and discussion was followed by a solo concert of the cellist [Matthieu Saglio](#), IYMF Ambassador.

SRAL and TEFAF Fair

CONSERVATION, FINE ART, ANTIQUES AND DESIGN



A special guided visit for the ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours attendees to **SRAL Institute** was a chance to get to know the heritage knowledge institute founded in 1987 that carries out restoration work, research, and advises public institutions and organizations and individuals. SRAL restores for Limburg museums (including Bonnefantenmuseum, where SRAL is located), corporate collections, ecclesiastical institutions, and other organizations located around the world. Another highlight, the **TEFAF Fine Art Fair Maastricht**, proved to be an exceptional showcase of arts and cultural heritage masterpieces from Europe and beyond.

Writers from Egypt

LITERATURE



In the frame of the 30th ENCATC Congress, Gianna Lia Cogliandro Beyens and Gudrun Heymans had offered a networking opportunity to the participants attending the [2022 ENCATC Congress](#). The Cultural Happy hours guests were invited to a political and poetic evening about the role of authors under repressive regimes. Egyptian poets and philosophers reflect on the living history of ancient Egypt. The event at BOZAR, ENCATC member, took place together with the participation of writers **Lina Attalah, Ahdaf Soueif & Iman Mersal**.

2023

The BRAFA Art Fair

FINE ART, ANTIQUES, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN

29 JANUARY 2023

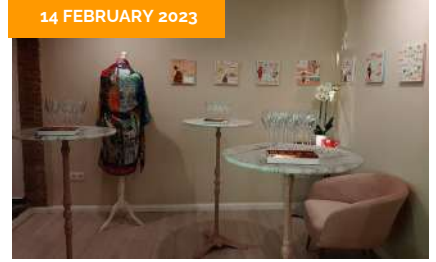


BRAFA, one of Europe's leading art and antiques fairs, for 2023 returned from Sunday 29 January to Sunday 5 February again in the prestigious venue of Brussels Expo at Heysel. For its 68th edition, the Fair welcomed 130 galleries from 15 countries presenting exquisite works of ancient, modern & contemporary art and twentieth-century design. This gathering was the occasion to kick-off 2023 with a fresh intake of inspiration, new ideas and contacts with colleagues from Brussels and beyond.

Atelier of Roseline d'Oreye

FINE ART AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

14 FEBRUARY 2023



Roseline d'Oreye is a professional illustrator who has traveled the world. Today she dedicates her skill in artistic patterns and the use of colour to the world of silk, following in the footsteps of the great painters of the past. Her travel journals have been translated into silk scarves that act as showcases of beauty. On this Cultural Happy Hour we discovered the secrets of this very unique artist's work and her three collections of scarves and silk carrés, delving into a world of beauty, creativity and style.

Art Brussels 2023 and Portraits International Gallery

FINE AND CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN

21 APRIL 2021



Since its foundation, Art Brussels has emerged as one of Europe's leading contemporary art fairs and it is a highlight of the international art calendar. In 2023 it held its 39th edition, returning with an exceptional international programme that offered a unique mix of established artists and emerging talent. After the visit of the Fair, in order to support the Ukrainian art scene, ENCATC invited guests to continue the evening at the Portraits International Gallery to visit the exhibition UKRAINIAN 12.

Korean Cultural Centre Brussels

CULTURAL HERITAGE

24 MAY 2023



At this Cultural Happy Hour, participants had an opportunity to discover the activities of the Korean Cultural Center (KCC) to Belgium & European Union, the communication bridge to promote Korean culture overseas, and learn about the state of the art of EU-Korean cooperation and future perspectives. They also had a chance to discover the exhibition "Liquid Imagination", showcasing the works of five contemporary Korean artists and their various styles, some of which are grounded in Korean painting traditions, while others experiment with book art and illustration techniques.

Royal Library of Belgium

MUSEUM, CULTURAL HERITAGE

29 JUNE 2023



The national scientific library collects all Belgian publications and preserves, manages and studies an extensive cultural and historical heritage. This gathering was also the occasion to host the Talk, "LOST IN TRANSITION?". The unique example of the digital restoration of Notre Dame de Paris, as a symbolic new "cathedral of data and knowledge" guided the conversation and helped the understanding of how humans and digital objects, with their representations, can influence each other to open up new perspectives for the future cultural heritage world.

Planetarium Poetry Fest

POETRY, VISUAL INSTALLATIONS

15 DECEMBER 2023



To seal off the year 2023, ENCATC invited guests to an enchanting evening of poetry and visual creations in the frame of the Creative Europe project the Brussels Planetarium Poetry Fest 2023. Held in the magical premise of the Brussels Planetarium, under the theme "The World Is Your Oyster," we explored the world as a mollusk, as a place where pearls are born, but also beauty. For the evening, the planetarium itself became a safe oyster, away from reality, a soft, pleasant place full of life: an intimate room where the audience could experience poetry in all its aspects. A number of distinguished domestic and foreign artists took part in the event, alongside projections that had purposefully been created to accompany their performances.



"Networking occasions and conferences are very important to find colleagues to work with: thank you ENCATC for these opportunities!"

Mara Cerquetti, Associate Professor at the University of Macerata, Italy

Our partners



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Friends of the ENCATC Cultural Happy Hours



ENCATC IS THE LEADING EUROPEAN NETWORK ON CULTURAL MANAGEMENT AND POLICY.

It is an independent membership organisation gathering over 100 higher education institutions and cultural organisations in over 40 countries. ENCATC was founded in 1992 to represent, advocate and promote cultural management and cultural policy education, professionalize the cultural sector to make it sustainable, and to create a platform of discussion and exchange at the European and international level.

ENCATC holds the status of an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO, of observer to the Steering Committee for Culture of the Council of Europe, and is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

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