



Press release

Art at Ostend-Bruges Airport

Airport

From the start of Easter holidays until the end of 2019, every visitor of Ostend-Bruges Airport can fully enjoy art in the departure hall.

There is the most beautiful animal family “The travelling penguin family” connected within an art installation (by artist Hannes D’Haese – Le Compte) existing of 27 penguins, as well as a series of “pop art” paintings that will be hung on the wall to the left to the check-in desks later this year.

The art installation will be found on the platform above the information desk at the elevator.

Regardless of how subjective art may be, one can objectively state that art connects people. Ostend-Bruges Airport as a location to expose art offers a large foundation and embraces many stakeholders. It serves the common interest.

Marcel Buelens; *“To work at an airport, you need to love people. As strongly as animals. Even the penguins know this and have decided to spend their holidays at our airport. Art and animals at our child-friendly and pleasant regional airport, a wonderful asset.”*

Artist

Hannes D’Haese – Le Compte, an artist with a clear motivation “making the world a better place”. Every single one of his art projects carries love and tolerance. With his art, he wants to make the planet with humans and animals a better place.

He is an artist who has drawn inspiration from Dutch artist Karel Appel. Appel often used lots of colors and became famous by coining the phrase: *“Nowadays, I lay it on thick, I throw the paint with brushes and putty-knives and bear hands, sometimes I throw whole pots of paint.”*

D’Haese – Le Compte (53 years old) was born in an art-loving family. A sculptor’s family. The most famous ones are his mother Begga, his uncles Reinhoud and Roel D’Haese. The latter is one of the greatest Flemish surrealistic sculptors.

Through his art, Hannes D’Haese wants to respond to his obsessive urge to solidarity by making a large number of people (even more) conscious. You find his all-embracing vision about love, passion, sadness and happiness in all his works.

Extra guests

Hannes D'Haese – Le Compte brings 2 special guests from the art world on Saturday 6 April.

Siegfried Vynck (1979), the world famous “spray artist” from Ostend. He gained name and fame with the Crystal Ship, the street art project in Ostend, on which he worked as one of the graffiti artists.

Nicholas van Varenberg (1995), whose artist name is “V la D”, son of world’s most famous musclemans with a golden heart, Jean-Claude Van Damme. Both gentlemen launch their virtuosity at the penguins.

Animal shelter Ostend; The Blue Cross of the Coast

The revenue coming from the sale of the penguins (of which every single one is pièce unique) goes entirely toward the animal shelter of Ostend.

The strong and locally embedded animal shelter could use extra financial resources to guarantee its continued existence.

The reason for this social choice is to be found in the common denominator; both the stakes and the subject of the art have parallel characteristics.

Fabrice Goffin; *“Since its inception in 1929, the Blue Cross of the Coast has had a connection to art. Fellow-founder James Ensor would undoubtedly enjoy this!”*

All airport visitors and passengers won't simply be looking at art, they will also be listening to it. DJ Walt Max (all round DJ with references such as Shōko Barcelona, Los Altos Club Barcelona, Blue Buddha Beach, Knokke, etc.) will get everyone in the right mood from 9am until 12am with rousing beats & vibes, because that too is art!

The press conference will take place on Saturday 6 April at 11am in the departure hall (at the entrance at security control).

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