



FOTOFESTIVAL GENT 2015



80
DAYS OF
SUMMER

12 JUNI - 30 AUGUSTUS

www.80daysofsummer.be

STORIES OF IDENTITY



PRESS RELEASE

80 Days of Summer. Stories of Identity – Ghent Photo Festival 2015

12 June – 30 August 2015

Organized by *Historische Huizen Gent*

in association with: Amsab-ISH, City Library *Bibliotheek Zuid*, Museum Dr. Guislain and STAM City Museum

In the summer of 2015 – from June 12 to August 30 – photography will be everywhere in Ghent. On 10 wonderful historical places, 20 exhibitions will show work of more than 30 photographers. An ideal way to (re)discover the city, with photography as a guide.

Ghent has a great tradition of festivals: Flanders Festival, Film Fest, Ghent Light Festival, Ghent Jazz and Ghent Festival. A photo festival could no longer be absent. That was the opinion of Historische Huizen Gent. We have a strong commitment to photography and have been organizing photo exhibitions in St Peter's Abbey for several years now. But there are also museums, organizations and galleries in Ghent that deal with photography, and many talented photographers graduate in the city's quality art schools. Photography is very much alive in Ghent.

For the first edition of the photo festival, *Historische Huizen Gent* has collaborated with Amsab-ISH, the City Library, the Museum Dr. Guislain and the STAM City Museum. Together, we present 20 exhibitions on the theme of identity, with work of national and international photographers. In unexpected and evocative places, in gardens and buildings to discover. We exhibit in a nomad way and create a trail of encounters of all kinds. Photography and heritage meet each other in a refreshing way.

Photography in St Peter's Abbey

In St Peter's Abbey, *Historische Huizen Gent* has given since several years a place to photography next to its programme of cultural-historical exhibitions. We intend to be a platform for photography in Ghent. Until now, our photo exhibitions were organized only in St Peter's Abbey, but *Historische Huizen Gent* is in charge of many other monuments. The time has come for more stories, also in the other historical monuments of the city, in the town itself and in collaboration with other partners.

We especially programme documentary photography and photojournalistic work. For the festival, our focus is again on photo series with a documentary character, even though we took the opportunity to explore the boundaries with art photography. The social or socially critical nature of the photographs, in addition to the technical aspects and quality, was nevertheless determining during the selection process. In the subjects chosen, visitors will find food for reflection, signs of recognition, pure poetry ... or forgotten memories. In any case, it's always about topical, controversial or historical stories.

Not only stories about being “different”, but also about “being”

The theme of the photo summer is Identity, in all its forms. Not all the photo series present portraits, but all of them reflect on the notion of identity, its construction or the quest for it. To what extent do personal, social, genetic, sexual, geographical or cultural components determine our identity? It may be a bit rough sometimes and even hurt a little. The eye of a photographer, be it an upcoming name or an established value, leaves no one indifferent, especially when met in houses pregnant with history. They open a window and pull their viewers into stories which didn't affect them until then.

Historische huizen Gent, a cluster full of history

The festival is organized by *Historische Huizen Gent*. Since 2012, *Historische Huizen Gent* is in charge of Ghent's most beautiful monuments: St Peter's Abbey, St Bavo's Abbey, the Castle of the Counts, the Belfry. Since 2013, they also run the Hotel d'Hane Steenhuyse, the Museum Arnold Vander Haegen and the Town Hall. This is a great asset to the festival. It allows visitors to discover Ghent in a different way, with unknown gems being temporarily accessible. At the same time, photography can be displayed in beautiful historical settings and be shown to advantage. In addition to the exhibitions of *Historische Huizen*, more photography exhibitions on the theme of identity are presented in the Museum Dr. Guislain, the STAM City Museum, Amsab-ISH and the City library.

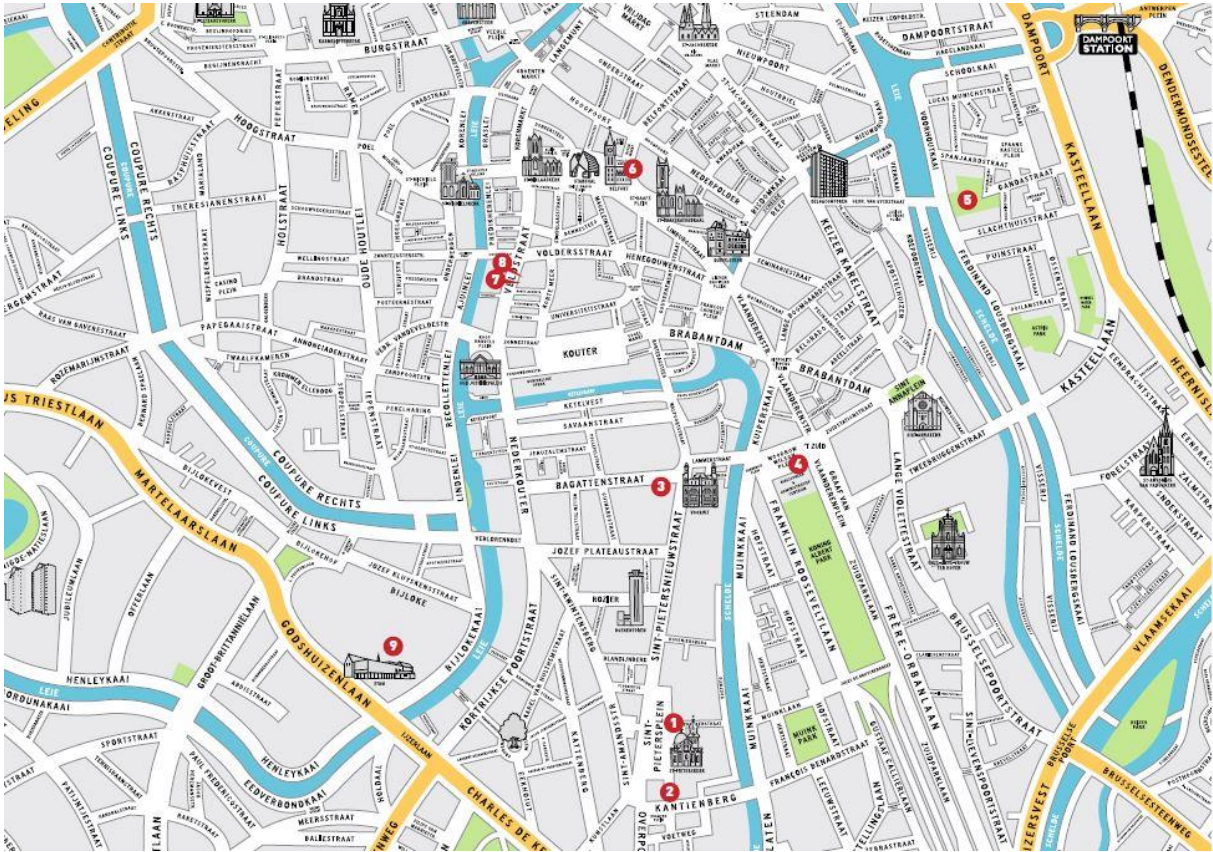
Finally

The summer feeling comes first. Those who, during those eighty days of summer, walk through the city centre, with photography as a guide, will find on their way invitations to imagination and curiosity. More than ever, photography belongs to everyone.

All information on the exhibitions can be found on the website www.80daysofsummer.be from May 22, 2015. For press photos please contact anke.dhaene@stad.gent or geertrui.ryckaert@stad.gent

EXHIBITIONS





1 St Peter's Abbey
 Sint-Pietersplein 9, Gent
 From Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The inner Circle of Europe **Gert Verbelen**
 Hita © Gert Verbelen



Gert Verbelen travels through 18 European countries and takes you into landscapes and into the lives of the people who populate them. Each village is like a mirror and reveals the photographer's identity.

Self Portraits **Jen Davis**
 Jen Davis © Courtesy of the artist and Lee Marks Fine Art, IN and ClampArt, NY

Jen Davis has been making self-portraits for many years. The tension between the way she looks at herself and the way others look at her, conceals the uncertainty about her body and leads to a project in which she observes the transformation of her body from obese to slim after a stomach operation.



Into Oblivion **Maja Daniels**
 © Maja Daniels



Maja Daniels photographs life in a geriatric hospital in France. Loneliness and desolation fill the images. People suffering from dementia forget and are forgotten. The use of soft colors clashes with the chilliness of the surroundings and calls for a better life.

Home with

Somewhere on a disappearing path **Iveta Vaivode**

Home works **Joakim Eskilden**

Over the rainbow **Katharine MacDaid**

This place called home **Matt Wilson**

Home Works © Joakim Eskildsen, courtesy Gallery Taik Persons

Over the Rainbow © Katharine MacDaid

Somewhere on a Dissapearring path © Iveta Vaivode

This place called home © Matt Wilson



Four photographers in search of themselves, their childhood, their roots and their place in the world. 'Home' is not so much a place but the feeling of being at home somewhere.

Free from my happiness with

At Night, they walk with me **Sibusiso Bheka**

Nyaope. Everything you give me my Boss, Will do. **Lindokuhle Sobekwa**

Encounters **Tshepiso Mazibuko**

Encounters © Tshepiso Mazibuko, courtesy of the artist and Rubis Mécénat

At night they walk with me © Sibusiso Bheka , Courtesy of the artist and Rubis Mécénat

Nyaope © Lindokuhle Sobekwa, Courtesy of the artist and Rubis Mécénat



Three photographers from South Africa followed workshops with Bieke Depoorter and Tjorven Bruyneel. Born after the apartheid, they portray their seeking fellow men on their way to explore their new freedom or, on the contrary, while they run away from it.

2 Casemate of St Peter's Abbey

Kantienberg, Gent

From Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Survivors **Ken Hermann**

Survivors © Ken Hermann

In Bangladesh, acid attacks are a common act of revenge in case of disputes. 'Survivors' tells the story of strong people, not victims. Courageously, they look to the future.

3 Amsab-ISH

Bagattenstraat 174, Gent

From Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Cartes de Visite

© Collectie Amsab-ISG

Cartes de visite were very popular items in the second half of the 19th century. Sober at first, they became a showcase of social status and wealth. They were donated and collected and ended up into the rich collection of Amsab-ISH.



4 City Library *Bibliotheek Zuid*

Graaf Van Vlaanderenplein, Gent

From Monday to Sunday, continuously

Hallertau. **Thomas Sweertvaegher**

California, 2012 © Thomas Sweertvaegher

Thomas Sweertvaegher is a Belgian photographer and a skate fanatic. From his own perspective, he photographs skaters and friends and grants you an insight into this subculture. Reckless and aggressive but also elegant and dynamic.



5 St Bavo's Abbey

Voorhoutkaai, Gent

From Tuesday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Photographs **Anni Leppälä**

Hand © Anni Leppälä

For Saint Bavo's Abbey, **Anni Leppälä** created a unique composition with her photographs. Poetic still lifes communicate with the silent abbey. Past and present, memories and dreams find here a natural environment.



I hate girls! **Bas Bogaerts**

I hate girls © Bas Bogaerts



'I hate girls, but I wanna be one' says a transgender in Nepal. **Bas Bogaerts** portrays them in raw, brutal images. Despite the recognition as 'third sex', transgenders are marginalized in society and fight for their own identity.

6 Belfry / Cloth Hall
Sint-Baafsplein, Gent
From Monday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Archetypes **Jacques Sonck**

© Jacques Sonck - Courtesy Gallery FIFTY ONE

Jacques Sonck focuses on penetrating street and studio portraits. He looks at eccentric figures from all levels of society without judging them. In refined black-and-white portraits, they stand out because of their appearance or their cloths.



7 Museum Arnold Vanderhaeghen
Veldstraat 82, Gent
From Monday to Sunday, continuously

Arnold was here **Arnold Vander Haeghen**

Arnold Vander Haeghen © Collectie Huis van Alijn



Arnold Vander Haeghen was not only a publisher and a printer but also a passionate amateur photographer. In his former residence in the Veldstraat, the current Museum Arnold Vander Haeghen, his photos embellish the monumental entrance gate and the beautiful courtyard.

8 Hotel d'Hane Steenhuyse
Veldstraat 55, Gent
From Tuesday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pause **Niclas Jessen**

Pause#04 © Niclas Jessen

The pictures of **Niclas Jessen** offer you a break in the quiet interiors of the Hotel d'Hane Steenhuyse. Escape for a while the pressure of work, family, school and home.



Keyhole **Erwin Olaf**

Keyhole © Erwin Olaf



Erwin Olaf's portraits temporarily take the place of paintings that belonged to the wealthy owners of this city palace. Men, women and children avert their faces, avoiding eye contact. A subtle game of looking, looking away and being looked at.

9 STAM City Museum
Godshuizenlaan 2, Gent
From Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Samoa Kekea, Snow White, Citybooks Gent **Sanne De Wilde**

Snow White © Sanne De Wilde
Citybooks Ghent © Sanne De Wilde
Samoa Kekea © Sanne De Wilde



Sanne De Wilde captures the delicate and unique beauty of albinos in Samoa, Belgium and the Netherlands. The complete surrender to the camera shows them as people with a conscious identity. Closer to home, Sanne captured Ghent in a series of remarkable night shots.

10 Museum Dr. Guislain
Joseph Guislain 43, Gent
From Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

(Photo)sensitive. Psychiatrists Patients Portraits 1865-2015

© Nouvelle Iconographie de la Salpêtrière, 1893, Tome VI, Planche XXX. Museum Dr. Guislain Gent



The worlds of psychiatry and photography touch each other. The kaleidoscope shifts from **patient portraits** to document diseases to an indictment of abuses. Until the patient ultimately takes it over and grants us a glance into his world.

Condemned **Robin Hammond**
Condemned © Robin Hammond, Panos Pictures



Robin Hammond gives an insight into the care of the mentally ill in Africa, south of the Sahara. The heavy crises of the last fifty years have left deep marks. The stigma is enormous. The

resources are limited. Suffering and traumas are silently hidden in forgotten places.

Facing Japan **Marleen Daniëls, Nick Hannes, Michiel Hendryckx, Jimmy Kets, Maroesjka Lavigne, Tony Leduc, Charlotte Lybeer, Stephan Vanfleteren, Sarah Van Marcke and Rob Walbers**

Facing Japan © Stephan Vanfleteren

Ten Flemish top photographers travelled to Japan. This country on the boundary between mystical imagination and constraint invited them to translate their impressions towards their own imagery.



Het Huis Karin Borghouts

The House **Karin Borghouts**

Het huis © Karin Borghouts



A fire destroyed the parental house of photographer **Karin Borghouts**. The blackened interior communicates chaos and destruction. But surprising beauty emerges from the intuitive images of the devastation that was left behind.

▲ **FACEBOOK**

www.facebook.com/historischehuizengent

Humans of Ghent **Lisa Van Damme**

Humans of Ghent © Lisa Van Damme



Following the example of *Humans of New*

York, photographer Lisa Van Damme scours the streets of Ghent in search of distinctive identities. She speaks to them, captures a moment with her camera and tells us an interesting anecdote from the life of the portrayed person. On the FB page of *Historische Huizen Gent*, she treats us daily to a picture, 80 days long.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The festival runs for 10 weeks, from June 12 to August 30, 2015.

With their ticket, visitors will receive a city map on which they can find the festival's sites as

well as concise explanations on the exhibitions. All galleries and organizations presenting exhibitions on photography and identity this summer are included.

Opening hours:

St Peter's Abbey (incl Casemate): Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

St Bavo's Abbey: Tuesday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Hotel d'Hane Steenhuyse: Tuesday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Museum Arnold Vander Haeghen: Monday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

City Library *Bibliotheek Zuid*: Monday to Sunday (continuously)

Amsab-ISH: Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

STAM City Museum: Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Museum Dr. Guislain: Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Belfry - Cloth Hall: Monday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Prices:

Festival Pass: for all the festival's sites and valid for 80 days

Individual visitor: € 22

Discounted price 1: € 17

Discounted price 2: € 9

Discounted price 3: € 4

DISCOUNTED PRICE 1: groups of at least 15 people, senior citizens 65+, members of the association *In Monte Blandinio*, inhabitants of Ghent, teachers with teacher card, *Uitpas*

DISCOUNTED PRICE 2: 19-25 years

DISCOUNTED PRICE 3: leisure pass holders entitled to discounts for people in poverty, *Steunpunt Vakantieparticipatie*

FREE: -18 years

Meeting point St. Peter's Abbey



The meeting point of the festival is at Saint Peter's Abbey. You can relax in our **café**, in the courtyard or in the garden.

The **event program** of workshops, lectures, artist talks, book signings and other activities can be found on www.80daysofsummer.be

The festival's **bookshop** presents a nice selection of photo books by participating photographers as well as interesting new publications.



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