

FONDATION FOLON

2020

20 years - 20 events

In 2020, the Fondation Folon is celebrating its 20th birthday. 20 exciting years showcasing the life and career of a leading Belgian artist: Jean-Michel Folon. To mark this anniversary, 2020 will be a year of amazing events with one simple and obvious concept: 20 years, 20 events!

MARCH

- ***Folon. L'Etica della poesia***

Exhibition at the **Vatican Museums** - 18 March – 20 June 2020

An **unprecedented exhibition**, including more than 80 works (drawings, watercolours and sculptures) by the Belgian artist, will be held at the heart of the Vatican Museums, on the Sistine Chapel route.

The exhibition revolves around Jean-Michel Folon's civic engagement. An engagement of which man is the measure, for a world in tune with a just and lasting humanity, for civil rights and against war. It was to many topics such as this that the Belgian artist devoted part of his career.

- ***Folon. L'Etica della poesia***

The catalogue. Due for publication 17 March 2020

A **catalogue**, a joint publication by the Vatican Museums and the Fondation Folon, will feature the works on display in the exhibition, along with explanatory texts by three great Italian art historians: Micol Forti, Claudio Strinati and Marilena Pasquali. With English and Italian versions of the texts. Published separately in French and Dutch. 160 full-colour pages.

- **Fondation Folon/intergenerational guided tours**

First guided tour on Sunday 15 March (advance booking required)

Visit the museum as a family, the young and the not so young, grandparents and grandchildren - this is now possible for individuals. Once a month, on a Sunday afternoon, a guide will take you on a Fondation Folon tour with a difference - with your nearest and dearest.

APRIL

- **Folon. A poet in the city**

April will see the publication of a fun-packed and brightly illustrated book which will enable children between the ages of 6 and 11 to learn about Jean-Michel Folon's life and work. It will be designed and published by a unique French publishing house, *Minus*, which specialises in art books for children. It will help to enrich the Fondation Folon's educational provision for a target audience to whom it has always devoted particular attention.

- **Ceremony to mark the relocation of the sculpture
"The sea, that great sculptor" in Knokke-Heist**

In 1998, Folon installed one of his favourite sculptures, *The sea, that great sculptor*, on the beach in Knokke. Regularly covered by the tide, Folon's figure found himself thrust into the constantly changing environment that is the sea, boasting an endless succession of patinas created by water, salt and sand. Due to the replenishment of sand along the Belgian Coast, it will be placed on a new breakwater during the spring. It promises to be a moving event.

- **Explore the Solvay Estate**

A new guided tour!

As part of Nature in Wallonia year.

The Solvay Estate is one of the most beautiful landscaped estates in Belgium. It has some wonderful stories associated with it. So head out and learn all about them with one of the Fondation's guides, and then end your walk with a self-guided visit to the Folon Museum. 1 hr 30 min guided tour and admission to the Folon Museum.

MAY

- **Jean-Michel Folon-themed study day in Rome
Academia Belgica, Rome. 12 May 2020**

To complement the exhibition at the Vatican Museums, a **study day** on the theme of *Folon, the ethics of poetry* will be held on 12 May 2020 at the Academia Belgica in Rome. The event will be led by Sabine Van Sprang. The day will bring together a broad spectrum of Belgian and Italian scholars. From Italy, we will have the pleasure of listening to the art historians Claudio Strinati, former curator of the Museums of Rome, Marilena Pasquali, honorary curator of the Morandi Museum in Bologna, and Micol Forti, Curator of the modern and contemporary art collections at the Vatican Museums. Representing Belgium, Michel Draguet will talk about Folon's place in Belgian art, and Gabriel Ringlet, honorary professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain, will speak on one of his favourite subjects: the links between art and ethics, between thought and action, between artists and civil society.

- *Let's go fly a kite!*

A day of fun and creativity with the wind and kites - Thursday 21 May (Ascension Day) at the Fondation Folon/Solvay Estate

The day is a celebration of the air, birds and the wind. Between the 1960s and his death, Jean-Michel Folon collected kites from around the world and made many himself. In the 2000s, he designed two hot-air balloons. This lively and creative day for all the family offers an opportunity to rediscover the delights of the air and sky. Kite-making and kite-painting workshops; demonstrations by kite-flyers; an opportunity to learn how to fly a kite; environment-themed guided tours of the museum, storytelling walks, musical entertainment...

- *Folon's posters*

Exhibition at the Fondation Folon - 30 May - 29 November

Folon established himself as one of the great poster artists of the 20th century. Over the course of his career, he designed more than 500 posters - scathing denunciations, ethical ideals, publicity, advertisements for cultural events or personal exhibitions. The message is conveyed quickly and forcefully thanks to the powerful brushstrokes, perfect composition and power of the colour. His services were soon called upon by the private sector, and he regularly answered the call of many organisations such as Amnesty International, UNICEF, Greenpeace, etc. to lend his support to the humanitarian or ecological causes which were close to his heart. This major exhibition showcases one of the most fascinating aspects of the artist's work.

The exhibition is accompanied by a wealth of educational resources: guided tours and creative workshops, suitable for different audiences.

- *Folon's posters*

A coffee table book published by *Cahiers dessinés*. Produced to accompany the exhibition. Due for publication May 2020.

To promote the Fondation's upcoming exhibition, a coffee table book will take a look at Folon the poster artist with various insights from poster historians (texts by Alain Weill and Karl Scheerlinck), and will also include an inventory of all the artist's posters. This reference book will be published in French by *Cahiers dessinés*, part of the Libella group, under the supervision of Frédéric Pajak. 208 full-colour pages.

JUNE

- *Neighbours' Day*

FRIDAY 19 JUNE

On a beautiful June evening, the residents of La Hulpe are invited to come and (re)discover the Folon Museum, on a guided tour led by the Fondation team.

- **Botanical stroll around the Solvay Estate**

A new guided tour for groups!

For those who can spot them, nature offers a wealth of aromatic, edible and medicinal plants. This new workshop offers an opportunity to head off, sketchbook in hand, in search of plants during a tasty tour of the Solvay Estate. An indulgent and creative experience.

JULY-AUGUST

- **Travel journal**

Weeks of 30 June - 3 July & 4 - 7 August

Summer is a time for looking at things differently, and experiencing different emotions. So, at the height of the summer, the Fondation is organising watercolour days in the Solvay Estate. Participants will head out, sketchbook in hand, to explore this extremely challenging technique. For adults, beginners or advanced.

- **Let's get intergenerational!**

Every Friday during the summer months, a guided tour followed by an art workshop will provide an opportunity to explore the museum and find out about Folon's favourite techniques. People of all ages are welcome to come along and share knowledge and creative skills.

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SEPTEMBER

- **Heritage Days in Wallonia**

12 and 13 September

The Fondation Folon will be participating in the 32nd European Heritage Days in Wallonia which, this year, will have as their theme "Heritage and Nature - parks, gardens, natural green spaces". There will be unrestricted access to the Fondation Folon and environment-themed guided tours will be available.

OCTOBER

- ***Folon. The sculptures***

A coffee table book.

Folon devoted the last 15 years of his life to sculpture. A coffee table book, richly illustrated and including texts written by experts, explores this extraordinary aspect of his career, from found objects to monumental bronzes. It will be published by *Fonds Mercator*. French, Dutch and English versions will be available. 208 pages.

- **Folon/Manneken Pis**

Tuesday 27 October.

On 27 October, the anniversary of its founding, the Fondation Folon will dress the most famous child in Brussels in a Folon-inspired outfit. Based on Folon's blue man, the costume will create a unique and charming bond between the little bronze man and the artist. Discussions are under way with Brussels City Council.

- **20th anniversary celebration and preview screening of the documentary film *Jean-Michel Folon***

29 October 2020

The Château de La Hulpe will be throwing open its doors for an evening devoted to Folon. It will offer an opportunity to see a preview of the new documentary about the artist and to celebrate the Fondation's 20th anniversary in a delightful setting.

- **A documentary**

October 2020

A 52-minute documentary on the life and work of Jean-Michel Folon is due for release in October 2020. Created by the producer Gaétan Saint-Remy, and co-produced by the RTBF and Clair-Obscur in close collaboration with the Fondation Folon, this is the first documentary made since the artist's death. A poignant and poetic story.

NOVEMBER

- *Topsy-turvy museum*

15 November 2020, at the Fondation Folon

To mark World Children's Day, the museum will be offering free admission to teachers, under-18s and art students. The unusual tours on offer will turn the traditional perception of the works on its head and will engage all the senses: Tiny Tots Tour, Topsy-turvy tour, Folon at your fingertips, the Essentials tour, etc.

Insets

The Fondation

A conservation and knowledge policy

Thanks to a bequest in 2015 from the artist's widow, Paola Ghiringhelli-Folon, the Fondation Folon inherited thousands of Folon's works. Since that time, the Fondation's teams have organised, classified, catalogued and digitised this extraordinary gift, so as to promote his work through exhibitions, make it accessible to researchers and pass on this legacy in a good condition for future generations.

The Fondation

Focus on services for its audience

The Fondation has always been committed to offering top-quality services to its audience, or rather its audiences. It achieves this through its collaboration with around twenty freelance activity leaders and mediators.

From simple guided tours for groups of adults to creative workshops, the Fondation offers a vast and comprehensive range of services for anyone aged 2 to 102. Given the Fondation's very social purpose, special provision is made for people with disabilities.

See our website: fondationfolon.be