



JUVENILIA

100 ans de typographie et de livres à La Cambre

Exhibition

16.10.26 > 14.02.27

Co-production : Wittockiana, ENSAV La Cambre

Wittockiana, Museum of Book Arts and Bookbinding

Bemelstraat 23– 1150 Brussels

To mark its centenary, La Cambre is returning to the roots of one of its most emblematic traditions: the study of books, letters and printed matter. Borrowing its title from the term used to describe an artist's early works, *Juvenilia* brings together a century of work produced in the typography, visual communication and bookbinding studios. Bringing together the creations of several generations of students, some of whom went on to become leading figures in graphic design, bookbinding and contemporary art, the exhibition is a unique journey through a century of experimentation, learning and creativity at La Cambre.

Founded in 1926 by Henry van de Velde, La Cambre made books, typography and printed matter a key field for experimentation where formal rigour, technical mastery and the considered gesture converge. From its earliest years, the school invested in exceptional studios dedicated to printing and bookmaking, which remain very active today. For the past century, these facilities have continuously kept pace with developments in graphic design while maintaining close links with the craft of publishing and book

production.

The Wittockiana, Museum of Book Arts and Bookbinding, has a long-standing connection with La Cambre. Its founder, Michel Wittock, has, over the years, collected many works by the school's students, which are now preserved in the museum's collections. This dialogue between a collection and an institution made the Wittockiana the ideal setting to host this anniversary exhibition.

The *Juvenilia* exhibition brings together works by several generations of artists from La Cambre created during their early years: from Pierre Alechinsky to Sophie Alouf-Bertot via Micheline de Bellefroid, Hélène Denis-Bohy, Lucien De Roeck, Elisabeth Ivanovsky, Hugo Liesen and Michel Olyff. Pamphlets, posters, typographic specimens, artist books, letterheads, typefaces and book covers, as well as large-format photographic reproductions of the studios showing students and teachers at work make up an exhibition that reveals a diverse legacy.

In the spirit of transmission that has underpinned La Cambre for a century, the scenography and visual identity of *Juvenilia* have been created by students currently in training. From the opening of the event, a mural by Elliot Thomas will adorn the museum's stained-glass windows. This monumental typographic work will extend the exhibition into the public space.

Curator: Sara De Bondt

Scenography: Romane Girardeau, Luna-Carmen Hamamid, Joachim Rossi, Manon Stonska

Graphic design: Elliot Thomas

La Cambre teaching staff: Pierre Lhoas & Marie Douel (Interior Design Studio) – Nicolas Rome (Visual and Graphic Communication Studio) – Tatsuya Inuikawa (Book and Paper Design Studio) – Pierre Huyghebaert (Typography Studio) – Guest lecturer: Adriaan Van Leuven

Interior Design students: Adrien Briday, Manon Charlier, Mengjie Li, Joachim Rossi, Luna-Carmen Hamamid, Manon Stonska, Tom Dumont, Romane Girardeau, Bérénice Desquesnes – Visual and Graphic Communication student: Hugo Gentinne – Typography students: Iris Maubille, Elliot Thomas

100! La Cambre

Benoît Hennaut, director – Kevin Saladé, deputy director – Hélène Perreau, administrator – Sabrina Lefrançois, communications manager – Hélène Ruttiens, Centenary coordinator Régine Carpentier, research and archival work – Sophie Carrée PR, press relations – Tom Burgering, graphic design – Zélie Dierckx, web design