

LA BOVERIE

FINE ARTS • EXHIBITION • LIEGE



PRESS FILE

JANUARY 2016



Liège, strengthened by an ambitious redeployment, has devoted ten years to providing the most modern infrastructures in terms of mobility and of culture: an HST station, opera, theatre, the River Meuse quays, walkways, museums, cinemas... investments that are redrawing the metropolis for the benefit of its inhabitants and guests.

Liège Metropolis has undertaken with its candidacy for the 2017 International Expo a European and global repositioning. This is driven today by the « LIÈGETOGETHER » project, which is the new signature of Liège Metropolis.

In 2016, a new space, both museum for Fine Arts and international exhibition centre of international standards, will punctuate this dynamic of urban redeployment : LA BOVERIE. It undoubtedly represents the next asset of a qualitative, accessible and diverse cultural offer.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

LA BOVERIE AT THE HEART OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF LIÈGE METROPOLIS	4
• A site in the heart of the Guillemins-LA BOVERIE-Mediacité axis, marked by the greatest architects	5
• Orchestra, opera, theatres, cinemas, museums, atypical places and emerging scenes : a bountiful creativity	6
• Culture and international accessibility as motor to development	6
• Liège, an open, creative and connected metropolis	7
LA BOVERIE A MUSEUM FOR FINE ARTS AND EXHIBITION CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD	9
• Permanent collections of the Museum for Fine Arts, a showcase Liège's treasures	10
• Major temporary exhibitions of multiple dimensions	11
LA BOVERIE AN ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT DESIGNED BY RUDY RICCIOTTI	12
• A project which lies within a strategy of urban development	12
• A project selected according to an international procedure	13
• An ambitious project serving a preserved identity	14

AT THE HEART OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF LIÈGE METROPOLIS

Liège was the capital of a sovereign state, the **principality of Liège**, for eight-hundred years (985-1789). This State occupied a quarter of present-day Belgium and extended to the French, Dutch and German borders. City-crossroads, at the intersection of the Germanic and Latin worlds, Liège then took up a leading position in the Industrial Revolution, which enabled it to develop cultural tools and major works of art. Today, Liège remains the economic capital of Wallonia. As a logistics and cultural centre, a place for events, research and exchanges, since 2000, Liège has been to implementing a genuine strategy of redeployment of its infrastructures.

The set of new facilities in Liege is the result of a strategic plan gathering together priority actions and large urban projects axes around culture and mobility in particular. This strategy aims to make Liege a truly **creative and connected city** which is open to the world.



A SITE IN THE HEART OF THE GUILLEMINS-LA BOVERIE-MEDIACITÉ AXIS, MARKED BY THE GREATEST ARCHITECTS

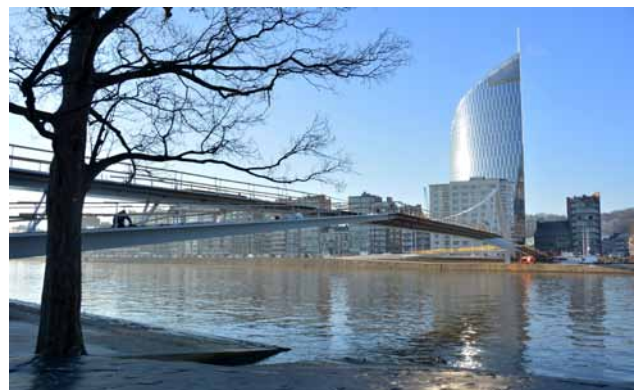
Running from the HST station **1** designed by Santiago Calatrava up to the Mediacité **3**, a work by Ron Arad, a new urban axis is in the process of changing the image of Liège: The Guillemins-LA BOVERIE-Mediacité axis. The two banks of the River Meuse and the island of la BOVERIE, slightly downstream from the Fragnée bridge, are connected by a footbridge/cycletrack **4**. This bridge makes the museum accessible in a few minutes from the train station and its new esplanade.

It is accessible in a few minutes from the train station and its new esplanade, littered with the new "Paradis" Tower, the "Design Centre" and the new River Meuse quays.

This bridge is an invitation to go onto the island and its beautiful park, a bucolic place with, at its heart, a centenary place for art and exhibitions, LA BOVERIE **2**, revamped by the architect Rudi Ricciotti (MUCEM of Marseille, cf. infra). Mediacité, the Olympic ice rink and Mediarives, the RTBF studios (French speaking television broadcast) are also within easy reach of this enchanting site.



Guillemins HST station (arch. Calatrava) © JP Ers, Ville de Liège



Footbridge/cycletrack © JP Ers, Ville de Liège



ORCHESTRA, OPERA, THEATRES, CINEMAS,
MUSEUMS, ATYPICAL PLACES AND EMERGING
SCENES : A BOUNTIFUL CREATIVITY

Liège is undoubtedly a city of culture, with an opera, the recently-renovated **Royal Opera of Wallonia**, an orchestra, the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Liège** of international renown, and the Theatre of Liège, which recently set place in its critically acclaimed new quarter. The Liège scene is also rich in having newly-emerging creative people in many disciplines. Among the high places of culture, let us mention the **Curtius Museum** (History of Liège, Glass, Weapons, Arts of the Middle Ages etc.), the **"Musée de la Vie Wallonne"** (Museum of Walloon Life – specialized in ethnology), the **"Cité Miroir"** (a place dedicated to citizenship, memory and cultures dialogue) or even the **Sauvènière cinemas**, dedicated especially to auteur cinema.

This city has seen the birth and success of Georges Simenon, Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Bouli Lanners, Marie Gillain, and so on. Moreover, many cultural facilities have been recently build or renovated combining both the enhancement of heritage and daring architectural innovations which deserve to be seen.

CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY
AS MOTOR TO DEVELOPMENT

Liège Metropolis has fully entered the 21st century by putting in place a genuine development strategy based in particular on **international accessibility and culture**, supported by large architectural projects. Liège has integrated in this sense the prospect of 75% of the world's population living in a city by 2050 : a real challenge for European metropolis.

The momentum of this re-equipment plan is the comeback of the **tramway** in Liège, with a track that will run across the city from north to south. With the high speed train station, the creation of a **park and ride station** and miles of **new bicycle paths and walkways**, mobility becomes both effective and sustainable.



Royal Opera of Wallonia



2008

2009

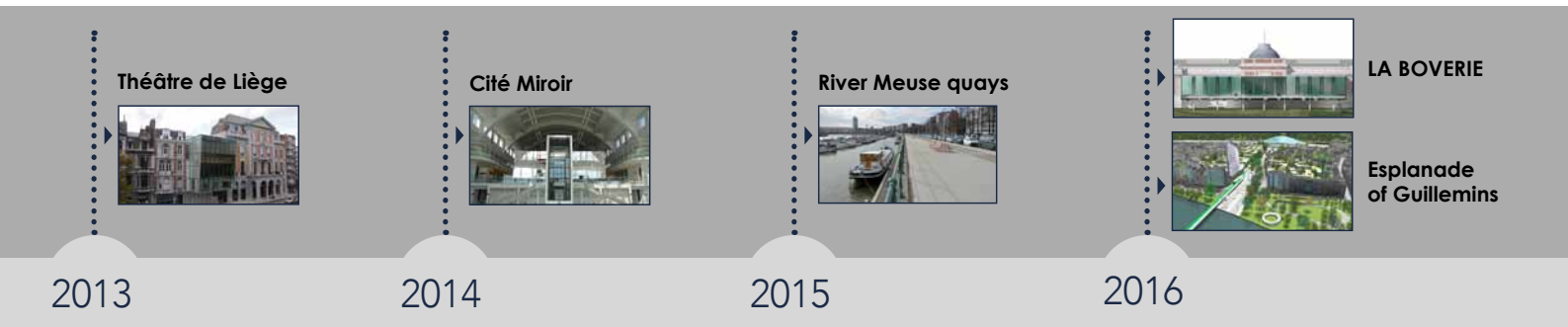
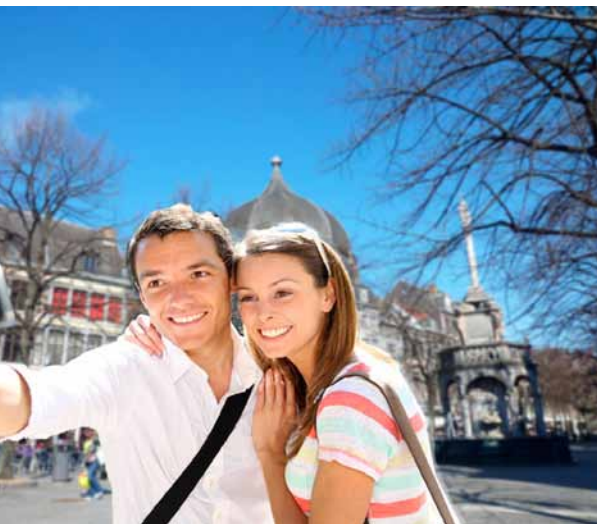
2012



LIÈGE, AN OPEN, CREATIVE AND CONNECTED METROPOLIS

Liège is also a **crossroads of cultures** and a place of **knowledge**. It has no less than 160 nationalities and is endowed with a reputable university, **the University of Liège (ULg)**, which will celebrate its bicentennial in 2017. It welcomes more than 20,000 students, including 4,600 of international origin. Liège is also a popular **destination** which hosts several hundreds of thousands of tourist overnight stays per year. Its heritage and its museums attract both Belgian and foreign tourists throughout the year, thanks also to a rich event calendar.

Finally, Liège metropolis, at the heart of a province of a million people, enjoys an **outstanding accessibility** by road, by air and by rail. The high speed train enables to connect Liege from **Brussels, Paris, London, Amsterdam or Frankfurt** in record time. Furthermore, the entire world is at hand, with no less than **12 international airports** in less than two hours from Liège.







A MUSEUM FOR FINE ARTS AND EXHIBITION CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

The park of la Boverie, located between the Meuse and the «Dérivation» canal, is a place for family leisure, open to all and open to the world.

The rose garden, the Nicolas Schöffer Tower, a new pond, make it a lovely place for leisure. The building which was constructed in the framework of the 1905 World Expo has become "La Boverie", the cultural masterpiece of the park.

It will host the museum for Fine Arts of Liège as well as a brand new space dedicated to host temporary exhibitions with multiple dimensions. Each time, they will represent a **unique experience** for visitors.

The museum will be inaugurated on 5 May 2016

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSEUM FOR FINE ARTS, A SHOWCASE LIÈGE'S TREASURES

One storey of the building will host the best from the collections of the Museum for Fine Arts of the City of Liège. **Lambert Lombard**, **Gerard De Lairesse**, **Ingres**, **Gauguin**, **Chagall**, **Picasso**, **Evenepoel**, **Delvaux**, **Magritte**, and others will guarantee the modernity within the arts through history, from the Renaissance to our modern days. The museum's tour, which will be accessible to the greatest number, will be accompanied by a didactic interactive support in four languages.

The ancient art collection is built around the work of **Lambert Lombard**, a local artist from the Renaissance period, and the 17th century painting

Gilles-François-Joseph **Closson** (Liège, 1798-1842) has brought back from Rome, where he stayed between 1825 and 1829, at the same time as **Corot**, more than 600 pieces of art, most of them realized outdoor, in Rome's countryside.

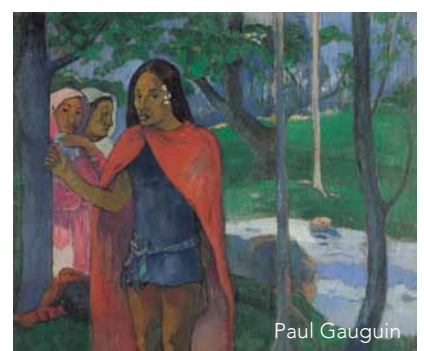
The Collection has been built up from the beginning of the 19th Century: its origin lies in the donation by **Napoleon Bonaparte** of his portrait by **Ingres** to the City of Liège.

This collection has been completed at the end of the 19th century by pieces of art bought during the numerous fine art fairs that took place in Liège and in Belgium. The collection has been expanded by work of **Boudin**, in 1887, and **Monet** in 1900.

The purchase in Lucerne, in 1939, of works of «Degenerated Art» strengthened Liège's reputation in terms of museums' collections thanks to exceptional pieces of art by **Picasso**, **Gauguin**, **Chagall**, **Ensor**, **Laurencin**, **Marc**, **Kokoschka**, **Lieberman**, **Pascin**.

During the same year, in 1939, the City of Liège purchased in Paris a second set of paintings composed of works by **Friesz**, **Gromaire**, **Guillaumin**, **Picart-Ledoux**, **Utrillo**, **Van Dongen**, **Signac**, **de Vlaminck**.

Driven by **Fernand Graindorge**, collections expand to "Avant-Garde" movement, to the «New Abstraction» movement (**Magnelli**, **Poliakoff**, **Villon**, **Degottex**), or the «Réalité-Cobra» movement with **Corneille** and **Appel**. Exhibitions follow one another and lead to new purchases.



MAJOR TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS OF MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS

The upper level will host **large-scale temporary exhibitions**, on an area of approximately 3,000 m². These exhibitions will be either organised directly by the City of Liege, or curated in collaboration with the Louvre, or, even, entrusted to other operators.

The Louvre is involved in a partnership with **La Boverie** based primarily on an artistic counseling.

The mission includes the mentoring of La Boverie and of the City of Liege in the organisation of three exhibitions (one exhibition per year between 2016 and 2018). The Louvre also supervises the definition of the scenography concept of the permanent collections.

The theme of the first exhibition, **"En Plein Air"** ("In open Air"), underpins the strong link between the museum and its surrounding park: As a matter of fact, the role that the Boverie island has played in Liege's inhabitants lives is similar to that of the Seine banks in Paris in the beginning of the XXth century.

"En Plein Air" presents around a hundred works by artist such as Corot, Joseph Vernet, Boudin, Monet, Evenepoel, Pissaro, Cezanne, Picasso, Bonnard, Renoir,... coming from the collections of La Boverie, the Louvre, but also from Belgian and foreign prestigious art institutions.

In 2017, the **"Journey to Italy"** could be the theme of the second exhibition.

The partnership between the two institutions also implies a cooperation in terms of public mediation and educational activities. In addition, the teams of both sides collaborate for the programming of the auditorium in La BOVERIE.

Originally, the collaboration between the two institutions stems from strong scientific and cultural links between the Louvre and the museums of Liège, more particularly, between Vincent Pomarède, general-curator at the Louvre, and the cultural staff of Liège.

As regards to the Louvre, the aim is continue its strategy of international cooperation, in particular with the cities and institutions that are dedicated to bring the museum closer to its public.

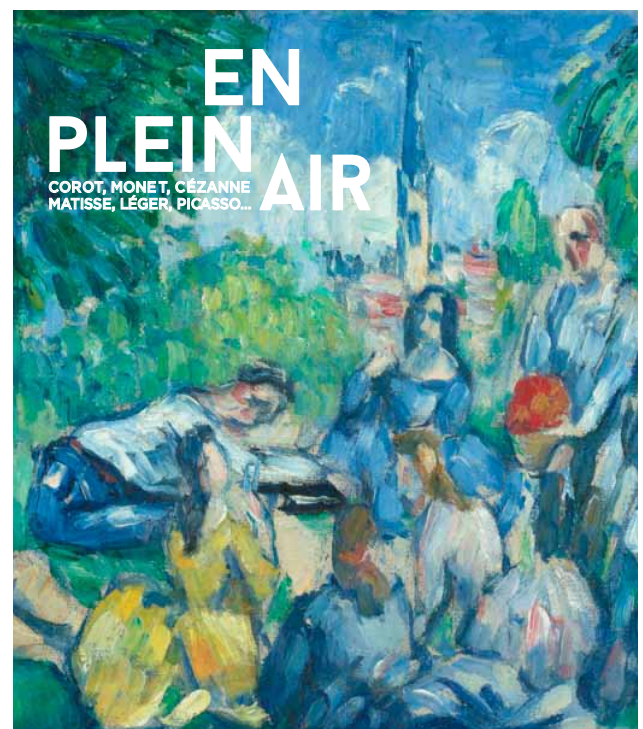
Since its opening in 2012, the Louvre-Lens tallies an

increasing number of regular visitors coming from Belgium making them the first represented nationality in terms of visits.

In parallel, the City of Liege is currently engaged in a development process of its infrastructures.

The partnership is managed by the management board of the museums of Liège and by the Culture-Tourism department of the City of Liege, and on the Louvre side, by "Louvre Conseil", dedicated to the promotion and transmission of the Louvre's know-how towards external partners.

These projects, which have been conceived in collaboration with the Louvre, will not be the only ones organised at «**LA BOVERIE**». In fact, there will be a rich programme of artistic or civilisation exhibitions where **all forms of arts will be used to totally immerse the visitor into the theme.**



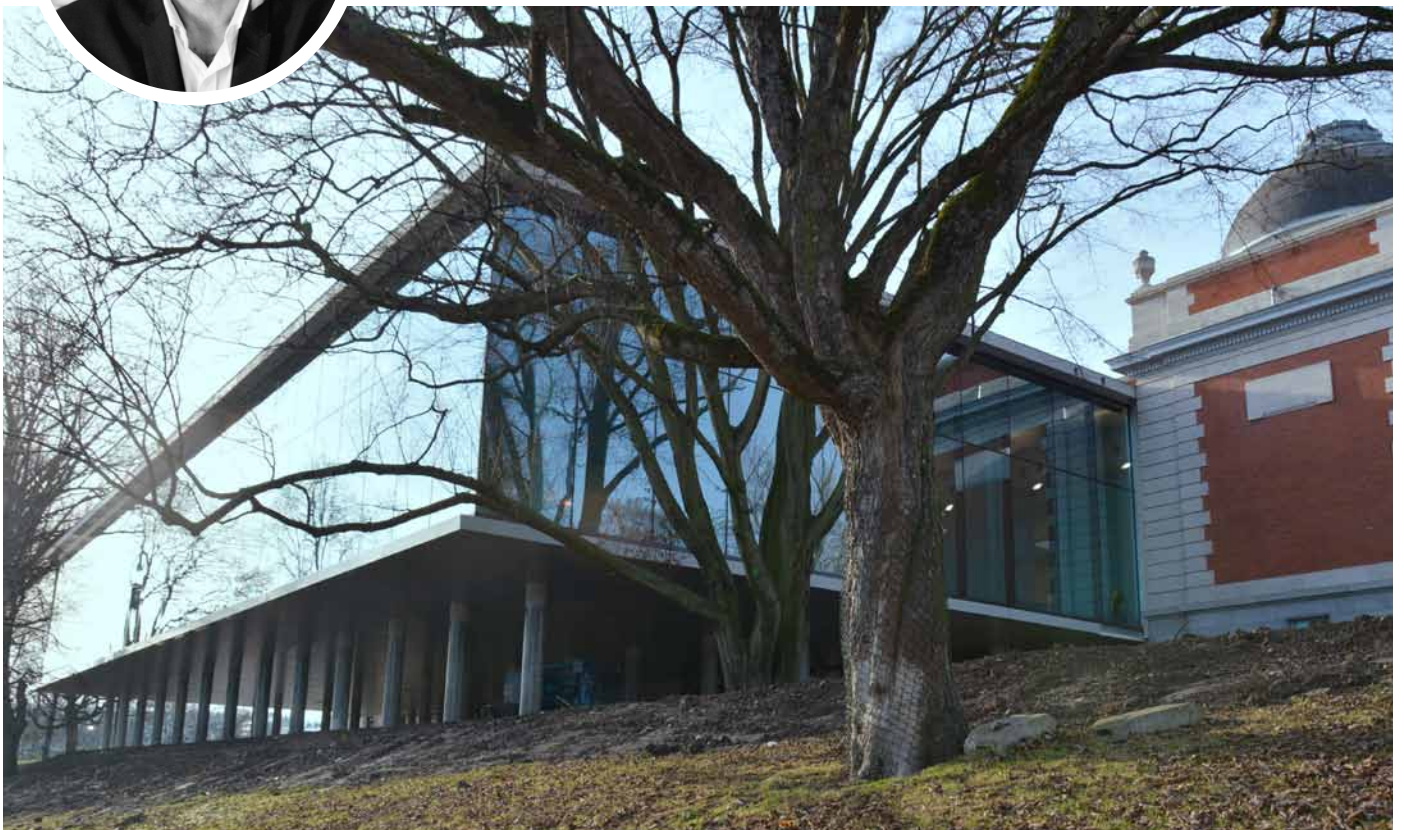
Paul Cézanne (1839-1906), *Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe (détail)*, Paris, Musée de l'Orangerie

AN ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT DESIGNED BY RUDY RICCIOTTI

A PROJECT WHICH LIES WITHIN A STRATEGY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Liège has chosen to rely on its **reality and its cultural specificities to ensure its development**. Both Gré-Liège (organization for the economic re-development of Liège area), where the idea emerged, and the City have decided to dedicate an emblematic space for large-scale exhibitions aimed at a new wider audience, which is drawn from the large 400 km radius of the city, where **100 million people live in 6 different countries**.

The site of the **Parc de la Boverie** has been identified to install this new cultural space. Its **positioning is strategic**, at the heart of the new urban axis developed **between the new high speed train station and the Mediacité**. It is unique, nestled in the heart of a green haven, on an island formed by the River Meuse and the «Dérivation» canal. As a venue that hosted the main pavilion of the Universal Exhibition in 1905, it is a space that is both historical and emblematic for Liège.



A PROJECT SELECTED ACCORDING TO AN INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURE

More than the simple construction of a museum, the wish of Liège stakeholders was to enhance the dynamics of urban development and to position itself with the **creative architecture and strong visual identification** of this new cultural tool. The idea was to opt for a project presenting the characteristics of innovation and sustainability, while respecting the existing architectural heritage.

On 29 June 2009, the municipal Council decided to consult external partners, through a public procurement procedure, for the realisation of a comprehensive study report with regards to the creation of an «International Centre for Art and Culture» in the Boverie Park.

28 applications, both national and international, were received. Among those, the selection committee selected 5 projects and invited those applicants to submit a full offer for the construction of the future project and on its interior fittings.

It is on the basis of an offer that combines both a strong architectural proposal and proven expertise in the field of major cultural projects that Liege municipal authorities, upon proposal of the selection committee, have decided to entrust the execution of the project to the French architect **Rudy Ricciotti** associated with a local partner: PhD. Rudy RICCIOTTI, winner of the **national Grand Prix of architecture in 2006**, became famous thanks to the design of several museum projects such as the **Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MUCEM)** in Marseille. MUCEM was constructed as part of «Marseille, European Capital of Culture» and has become one of the main assets of the Mediterranean city. Ricciotti also designed the **Département des Arts de l'Islam (Department of Islamic Art)** at the Louvre.



The MUCEM in Marseille



Département des Arts de l'Islam (Department of Islamic Art) at the Louvre

AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT SERVING A PRESERVED IDENTITY

Committed to respect the existing buildings and park, the architects opted for a measured intervention strongly based on the historic character of the building.

The most visible additional element is made of a mostly glazed extension, «added as a new wing to the East, overlooking the embankment towards the Dérivation canal».

Rudy Ricciotti adds: « *What I think of Liège, is that*

La Boverie is a real territory, a territory which is extraordinarily romantic. The Museum existed and I didn't want to turn this building into a martyr or a hostage. I had a lot of reserve as if respecting an ancestor. There is a lot of effacement, discretion, modesty ».

It is, therefore, an **innovative project**, with a strong visual identity but that enhances the iconic nature of the existing architecture.

The project costs 23.5 million euros.



BEFORE



AFTER



CONTACT

boverie@liege.be
www.laboverie.com



PLUS HAUT ET PLUS PROCHE ↑↑

LES FORCES EUROPÉENNES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT RÉGIONAL, LA WALLONIE
ET LA FÉDÉRATION WALLONNE-BRUXELLOISE INVESTISSENT DANS VOTRE AVENIR



Province
de Liège

