

International Conference in Brussels

13-15 March 2009

[between the opening of the TEFAF Fair at Maastricht and the CODART conference]

Seventeenth-century sculpture of the Low Countries from Hendrick de Keyser to Jean Del Cour

organised by:

Université Libre de Bruxelles
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Université de Liège
Onderzoeksschool Kunstgeschiedenis, the Netherlands
Universiteit Utrecht
The Low Countries Sculpture Society

with the support of:

Royal Academy of Belgium (KVAB)
Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium
FRS-FNRS
FWO-Vlaanderen
Onderzoeksschool Kunstgeschiedenis, the Netherlands
and other partners to be confirmed



FRS



The present conference wishes to discuss sculpture produced in the Low Countries and/or by sculptors from the Low Countries in the 17th century. It will constitute a follow-up from the conference on sculpture from the previous century held at Mons in March 2008. 16th-century sculptural production laid many of the foundations for the development of large-scale sculptural production in the 17th century (particularly with the models of Jacques Du Broeucq and Cornelis Floris), culminating in Antwerpen in the second half of the 17th century and allowing the development of a near-monopoly situation by one consortium of artists, the Quellinus-Verbruggen-Scheemaekers-Willemsens dynasty.

The principal artists concerned have biographies in the seminal Brussels 1977 exhibition catalogue, to which may be added those of the Northern Netherlands (Hendrick de Keyser, Rombout Verhulst, Bartolomeus Eggers, Jan Blommendael, etc.) as well as those active in the region of Lille.

Issues to be addressed (non-limitative list):

- Post-Tridentine sculpture: new and renewed iconographies and typologies
- Migration towards the main centres of training and production, such as Antwerpen
- The institutional context: guilds, academies and the training of sculptors
- New and renewed materials: marble, bronze, etc.
- Patterns in the development of taste
- Relations court artists – sculptors
- Kunstkamer, foreign patronage and collecting
- Emigration to foreign courts
- Exports vs. subsidiary workshops vs. emigration
- Relations painters and architects – sculptors
- Collaborations with other disciplines
- Architectural sculpture
- Initiators and followers : the concept applied to the context studied here and its limitations
- The concept of schools: localism vs. Italianism
- French Revolutionary destructions, displacements and conservation

- European comparisons on methodological level (France, Spain, Germany,...)

The conference wishes to discuss the pertinence of this state of knowledge and create links that might lead to a less fragmented overall view than the one we have today. Our current view is not so much the fruit of a lack of archival material, as the consequence of the traditional methods of art history, that still condition much of our perception of 17th-century sculpture.

Since the seminal 1977 Brussels exhibition and the exhibitions in 2000 of the Charles Van Herck collection, a number of students of sculpture, however, has recently attempted to tackle this subject. These studies may form a starting point for an integrated reappraisal of sculptural production in the Low Countries in the 17th century.

The history of Low Countries sculpture of the 17th century, like that of the 16th, has principally been written in the form of important artists' monographs. This history was mostly written in-between the two World Wars. These writings created a system of paradigms (notably about "Italianism" and "Flemishness"), rooted in stylistic analysis that today we have great difficulty in understanding, let alone accepting. We could call this system the « discourse of influence ».

The conference offers a critical review of this discourse, which is sorely needed in a field dominated by literature written over sixty years ago and which did not grasp the importance of the field of sculpture. Appropriately, this field has recently been termed the greatest unknown product of Low Countries art history, a tradition that had a deep and powerful impact throughout Europe.

The presence of many internationally reputed scholars, combined with a series of scholars from the new generation, promises to bring together an array of studies in this hitherto unjustly neglected area. The number and quality of the proposals received in response to the call for papers clearly indicates that the time is ripe to reassess 17th-century sculpture of the Low Countries and to address this subject on a par with that of Italy. High-level discussions are anticipated due to the topicality and relevance of current research on major 17th-century artists of the Low Countries, in any media.

Organising Committee

Prof Dr Dominique Allart, Université de Liège

Prof Dr Arnout Balis, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Geneviève Bresc-Bautier, Musée du Louvre, Paris

Dr Helena Bussers, formerly Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Brussels

Prof Dr Manuel Couvreur, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Prof Dr Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, Princeton University

Prof Dr ir arch Krista De Jonge, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Eymert-Jan Goossens, Stichting Koninklijk Paleis, Amsterdam

Dr Valérie Herremans, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten Antwerpen

Dr Alain Jacobs, Royal Library, Brussels

Dr Léon Lock, formerly University of London

Michel Maupoix, Association Rencontre avec le Patrimoine religieux, Orléans

Prof Dr Jeffrey Muller, Brown University, Providence, RI (USA) /

Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, NY

Prof Dr Konrad Ottenheim, Universiteit Utrecht

Wim Roels, The Low Countries Sculpture Society

Dr Frits Scholten, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Myriam Serck, Institut royal du Patrimoine artistique, Brussels

Pier Terwen, independent conservator and historian of sculpture, Leiden

Dr Francis Tourneur, Pierres et Marbres de Wallonie asbl

Programme

Wednesday 11 March 2009

9.45-18.00 Pre-conference excursion to marble quarries and museums at Namur and Rance (start and finish at Namur station)

Visits to include the only two marble quarries of Belgium still in operation, by special permission of the owner, Merbes-Sprimont SA: the famous **black marble** at Mazy/Golzinne and **grey/red marble** at Vodelée. The Musée de Groesbeeck de Croix and the Musée du Marbre, Rance will conclude the day, led by geologist Dr Francis Tourneur.

[Thursday 12 March, 12.00-21.00: official opening of the TEFAF Fair at Maastricht]

[Friday 11.00-19.00: first public day of the TEFAF]

Friday 13 March 2009

[15.07-16.35 train (every hour) Maastricht-Brussels Central]

[15.30-16.45 Maastricht TEFAF-Brussels by car]

Royal Academy, Brussels rue Ducale/Hertogstraat 1

17.00-18.30 Welcome reception

18.30-18.45 Opening speeches (Rubens Hall)

Chair: **Prof Dr Krista De Jonge**, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Keynote Lecture

18.45-19.30 **Prof Dr Jeffrey Muller**, Brown University, Providence, RI (USA) / Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, NY

Counter Reformation in sculpture: new frameworks for Catholic worship in 17th-century Flanders

19.30-19.45 Discussion

[20.00 Royal Academy closes]

[Free evening]

Saturday 14 March 2009

Royal Museums of Fine-Arts, Brussels

[between 9.00 and 10.00, entry only via Museum Street 9, the service entrance]

9.00-9.15 Registration

Session One

Paradigms

9.20-9.50 **Dr Kristoffer Neville**, University of California Riverside, Los Angeles

The invisibility of Netherlandish sculpture

[10.00 Museum opens to the public]

9.55-10.25 **Dr Guido Hinterkeuser**, Berlin

17th century Netherlandish sculpture and sculptors in Brandenburg-Prussia. Reflections on a paradigm and its limitations

10.30-11.00 **Dr Léon Lock**, formerly University of London

Bronze sculpture in the Low Countries in the late 17th century: Quellinus, Del Cour, Grupello. Art historical dustbin or historic reality?

11.05-11.35 **Luis Luna Moreno**, former director of the Museo Nacional de Escultura, Valladolid

Joseph Aerts, José De Arce, sculpteur à Sevilla

11.35-11.50 Discussion

11.50-12.45 Lunch in the cafeteria [level -1, take the main staircase adjacent to the Forum]

Session Two

Patronage and potential of sculpture for glorification

12.50-13.35 **Dr Frits Scholten**, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Keynote Lecture: *Sculpture and republicanism in the Northern Netherlands*

13.40-14.10 **Jean-Philippe Huys**, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Le prince électeur Max Emmanuel de Bavière et l'art de la sculpture dans les Pays-Bas méridionaux, de 1692 à 1715

14.15-14.45 **Dr Nancy Kay**, Merrimack College, North Andover, MA (USA)

The Virgin of the Antwerp fish market: Sanctifying the city through public works

14.45-15.00 Discussion

15.00-15.25 Coffee

Session Three

Sculptors' practices

15.30-16.00 **Dr Valérie Herremans**, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerpen

Contestation & aspiration. Calvinist iconoclasm and guild regulations: determining factors of Antwerp sculpture at the dawn of the baroque era

16.05-16.35 **Dr Aleksandra Lipińska**, University of Wrocław, Poland

Decline, break or continuation? Southern Netherlandish alabaster sculpture in the 17th century

16.40-17.10 **Dr Alain Jacobs**, Royal Library, Brussels

Les Verbrugghen et le dessin de sculpteur

[17.00 Museum closes to the public]
17.15-17.30 Discussion
17.30 Close of first day
[18.00 Museum closes for all]
[between 17.00 and 18.00, exit only via Museum Street 9, the service entrance]
18.30-21.00 Optional Conference Dinner

Sunday 15 March 2009

Visit of the Tour et Tassis chapel dedicated to St Ursula, Notre-Dame du Sablon / OLV ten Zavel, Brussels

[Church open 9.00-18.00, mass at 17.00]

NB Exceptional access before the forthcoming conservation project !

Due to the limited size of the chapel, groups of maximum 20 participants. Registration: first come first served.

9.00-9.10 Group One, *in French*
9.15-9.25 Group Two, *in English*
9.30-9.40 Group Three, *in French*
9.45-9.55 Group Four, *in Dutch*

Royal Museums of Fine-Arts, Brussels

[Museum opens at 10.00: please enter via the main entrance on Rue de la Régence/Regentschapsstraat; conference in the same Auditorium adjacent to the Forum]

10.00-10.10 Registration

Session Four

Relations with the other arts

10.15-10.45 **Géraldine Patigny**, Université Libre de Bruxelles/Institut royal du Patrimoine artistique
Le sculpteur, le peintre et l'architecte. Le cas de Bruxelles au XVIIe siècle
10.50-11.20 **Jan Van Damme**, Monumentenzorg Gent
The role of cabinet makers in the production of sculpture
11.25-11.55 **Wim Nys**, Zilvermuseum Sterckshof, Antwerpen-Deurne
Sculptors modelling Antwerp silver
11.55-12.10 Discussion

12.10-12.55 Lunch in the cafeteria [level -1, take the main staircase adjacent to the Forum]

Session Five

Sculpture and its architectural context

13.00-13.30 **Dr Francis Tourneur**, Pierres et Marbres de Wallonie asbl
Les marbres jaspés de Wallonie : les débuts de leur utilisation avant les grandes commandes pour Versailles
13.35-14.05 **Fabrice Giot**, Université Catholique de Louvain
Pistes et réflexions pour une meilleure connaissance du stuc dans les Pays-Bas méridionaux au tournant des XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles
14.10-14.40 **Geneviève Bresc-Bautier**, Musée du Louvre, Paris
Adam Lottman et le retable de Notre-Dame de Calais
14.40-14.55 Discussion
14.55-15.20 Coffee
15.25-15.55 **Prof Dr Arnout Balis**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Conclusions
15.55-16.25 Final discussion
16.25-16.30 Closing remarks
[17.00 Museum closes for all]
[7-minute walk to Brussels Central station]
[16.40-17.50 Brussels-Maastricht by car]
[17.01-18.46 Brussels Central station-Maastricht by train]
[17.00-19.00 CODART welcome reception at the Maastricht town hall]
[Monday 16 March 2009-Tuesday 17 March 2009: CODART conference]

(programme version 5/3/2009)

Registration Form

for the International Conference in Brussels, 13-15 March 2009

Closing date for registrations: 7 March

(NB we prefer online registrations on www.lowcountriessculpture.org)

Title, family name, first name :

Institution (if any, for the badge) :

Email or Tel. No.:

Postal address :

I wish to register for :

Pre-Conference excursion:

Marble quarries programme on 11 March (€ 42, including all entrance fees and lunch with drinks)

Conference registration:

the Conference Reception on 13 March (€ 16)

the Inaugural Lecture on 13 March (free)

the Conference on Saturday 14 March (€ 25 for both days/ € 18 for Saturday only/ € 14 for Sunday only/ students and unemployed for both days € 12 (proof of status required))

Lunch on Saturday 14 March (€ 15)

the Conference Dinner on Saturday 14 March (€ 45, three courses, drinks included,

tick here if vegetarian: diet:.....)

the Conference on Sunday 15 March (pricing as above)

Lunch on Sunday 15 March (€ 15)

Tour et Tassis chapel on Sunday 15 March (free but registration compulsory). Please indicate order of preference (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th):

_ Group 1 (F)/ _ Group 2 (En)/ _ Group 3 (F)/ _ Group 4 (NL)

Society membership (optional but highly appreciated!):

I wish to become a member/renew my LCS membership: single online membership 2009 at € 15 p.a.

We wish to become members/renew our LCS membership: double online membership 2009 at € 25 p.a.

I wish to become a member/renew my LCS membership: single membership with postal communications 2009 at € 30 p.a.

We wish to become members/renew our LCS membership: double membership with postal communications 2009 at € 40 p.a.

I/We wish to become a member/renew my/our LCS membership: supporting/institutional membership 2009 at € 150 p.a.

Total : € _ _ _ .00 **NB We prefer payment by credit card !**

Payment by credit card (Visa or Mastercard)

No. _ _ _ _ _

Expiry _ _ / _ _ ; Security No. : _ _ _

Signature _____

alternatively you may pay into our Belgian bank account, bearing in mind that the payment will take several days before arriving:
979-9814912-69 IBAN BE71 9799 8149 1269 BIC ARSPBE22

A contingency of hotel rooms is provisionally reserved by Resotel. Please contact them directly with your request, stating that you are attending our conference. This is a free reservation service. **Call Resotel on tel 0032.2.779.39.39**, fax 0032.2.779.39.00, www.resotel.be/lcs. Please note that this contingency is guaranteed **until 20 February 2009**. Thereafter Resotel can book you a room in any hotel with availability.

Any comments or requests ?

**Registrations are closed on 7 March 2009:
your payment must be received at the latest on that day.**

Please send your Registration Form to :
LCS, POBox 1304, B-1000 Brussels 1, Belgium