

Contemporary Works of Art

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Maurizio Nannucci / *Everything Might Be Different* (1988 - 2024) / Emperor Charles Staircase

Maurizio Nannucci (Florence, 1939) is an established figure in the international art world. He plays with the literal form of words and how this form influences communication. He explores the complex relationship between word and image, language and colour, light and space. His first neon works date as far back as 1967. They appeal to the audience to actively add layers of meaning to the artwork within the context in which it is exhibited. A version of the artwork was created in green neon especially for Gaasbeek Castle. Installed in the Emperor Charles Staircase, the oldest preserved part of this castle, it makes us reflect on its history and reminds us that this place is one of continuous transformation.

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Kati Heck / *Ins Büro* (2015) & *BDC-Mentor mit Bierchen* (2012) / Egmond Staircase

In her works, Kati Heck (Düsseldorf, 1979) combines a broad range of styles that fuse together to form 'collage-like' canvases in which she also incorporates non-traditional, everyday objects. The focus of her (self) portraits is primarily on their imaginary power. 'BDC' refers to 'Babydetectiveclub'; a discussion group Heck set up to bring the people she admires together. In the context of Gaasbeek, we can see this club as an almost absurd version of a salon of like-minded people, a place where the boundaries between fiction and reality are blurred.

Courtesy Tim Van Laere Gallery, Antwerp-Rome

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Rosa Barba / *The Hidden Conference* (2010 - 2015) / Emperor Charles Hall

Rosa Barba (Agrigento, 1972) explores the relationship between historical record, personal anecdotes and cinematic representation. She stages interventions in actual space, creating places of memory that both reassure and represent an unstable reality. *The Hidden Conference* is a three-part series of 35mm films in which she gives the floor to works of art that are stored in museum depots, far away from the public. The images were recorded in the archives of the Capitoline Museums in Rome, the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin and Tate in London. As such, the works of art - despite their isolation - become protagonists in cinematic narratives that quietly unfold before the camera's eye.

With thanks to Ben Borthwick, Franck Bordese, Joachim Jäger, Andrea Lissoni, Cloe Piccoli, Alethea Rockwell, the late Achim Borchardt-Hume and Merten Houfek, 24Frame Kinoprojection.

R.P. Isabel Lowyck, Gaasbeek Castle, Kasteelstraat 40, 1750 Lennik

Advisor contemporary art / Ann Geeraerts
Author letter fragments / Leen Huet
Campaign image / Jim Van Raemdonck, Soon
Film curator / Wouter Hessels
Light / Chris Pype
Music curator / Jeroen D'hoë
Scenographer / Niek Kortekaas, Origin
Scenography - Design realisation / Potteau & Etoile mecanique

Rebel echoes Contemporary Reflections

Gaasbeek Castle is a place of beauty, imagination and connection. The sculpture *Je vous offre une maison* by Philip Aguirre y Otegui welcomes every visitor to the Inner Garden with open arms. It represents both the hospitality of the present and of the past, when exiles such as Giuseppe Arconati Visconti and his wife Costanza Trotti sought refuge in this castle in 1821. Alfred Dreyfus also found a tranquil abode here following his exile.

This season at Gaasbeek Castle, we have invited 8 artists to incorporate their work in and around the castle, as an extension of the permanent collection. Creation, dialogue with the environment, modesty and materiality are the main focal points in this regard. Each work touches on some of the core values of Gaasbeek Castle's mission: present and past, reality and imagination, culture and nature, action and tranquillity and last but not least, the feminine perspective.



Gaasbeek
Castle



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Sophie Whettnall / *Midnight Sun* (2022) & *Ghost Trees* (on 5, 6 & 7 July) / Carletto's Room & lawn in front of the castle

Sophie Whettnall (Brussels, 1973) explores the relationship between the body and the environment through performance, installations, video and drawing. She finds her inspiration in landscape painting in particular. The video *Midnight Sun* literally brings the landscape indoors. Replicating and mirroring themselves, the images intertwine with the patterns of the murals in this 'cursed' room, where Carlo Arconati Visconti died in 1839. At the beginning of July, Whettnall will perform *Ghost Trees* on the lawn in front of the castle. She will paint shadows of trees on the grass. Trees that perhaps once stood in this square and now leave a slowly fading echo from that imaginary past.

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Philip Aguirre y Otegui / *Je vous offre une maison* (2018) & *The Small Cabinet* (2024) / Inner Garden & Archive Room

Philip Aguirre y Otegui (Schoten, 1961) is best known for his sculptures, installations and monumental works in public spaces. His work always has a distinct socially-engaged dimension, with a specific focus on the position of the individual within migration and refugee phenomena. In addition to the sculpture in the Inner Garden, this theme is reprised in his creations in the Archive Room, where he uses drawings and small sculptures to create his own personal universe that refers to travelling, sensuality and architecture. Through experiments with form and texture, he creates a style of his own which is classical as well as contemporary, creating a timeless archive.

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Nadia Naveau / *Pillar* (2019) & *Knickerbocker Glory* (2019) / Cast Collection & Louis XIV Room

Nadia Naveau (Bruges, 1975,) is a sculptor. She primarily works with clay, and supplements it with a range of different materials. In her 'three-dimensional collages', iconography from the past flows seamlessly with contemporary formal language. She regularly works with plaster; inspired by the temporally character of this materials as is was used in the 'Salons des sculptures' in 19th century Paris. Her *Pillar* stands out among the architectural fragments in the Cast Collection, as if it were also a frivolous preliminary study for this castle.

We Document Art

24

Gülsün Karamustafa / *Double Action Series for Oriental Fantasies (1999-2000)* / Studiolo Giammartino

Gülsün Karamustafa (Ankara, 1946) is a visual artist and film maker. Since the 1970s, she has been mixing personal and historical narratives in her work, which explores themes of sexuality, gender, migration and ethnicity in a distinctive way. In this work, she examines the image of Oriental women as objects of the Western patriarchal gaze, from a contemporary perspective. A critical note in this room devoted to Giammartino Arconati Visconti, who as a wealthy young man in the 19th century - a historical period of global colonisation - made several journeys to faraway lands.

Arter Collection, Istanbul, courtesy Gülsün Karamustafa and BüroSarigedik, © Gülsün Karamustafa

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Kendell Geers / *Wonderland 8683 (2024)* / Marquise's Apartment

Kendell Geers (Johannesburg, 1968) is a multifaceted artist whose objects, video art, installations and performances consequentially call into question the major narratives of power, art and faith in a confrontational and raw way. At the same time, he wants to warn us about the lethargy that can overcome us if we are confronted with disturbing images and situations too often. He calls us to question our value judgements. His new work *Wonderland 8683* prompts us to reflect on ourselves and ponder the meaning of truth and lies. A highly appropriate question in this self-created dream castle of Marquise Marie Arconati Visconti...

Courtesy the Artist

Contemporary artworks / Gaasbeek Castle collection

Cindy Wright / *Scarlet Fever* (2020) / Art Cabinet

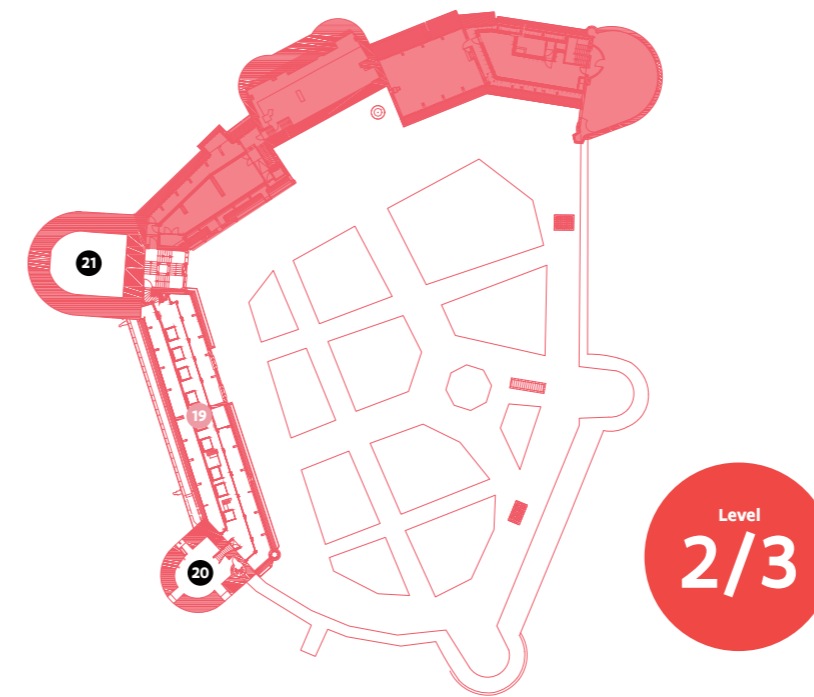
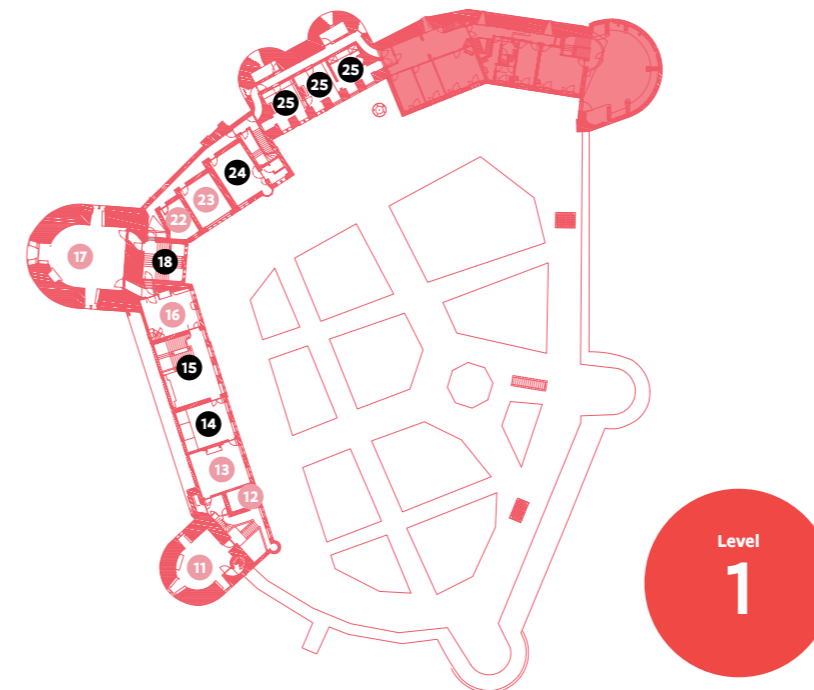
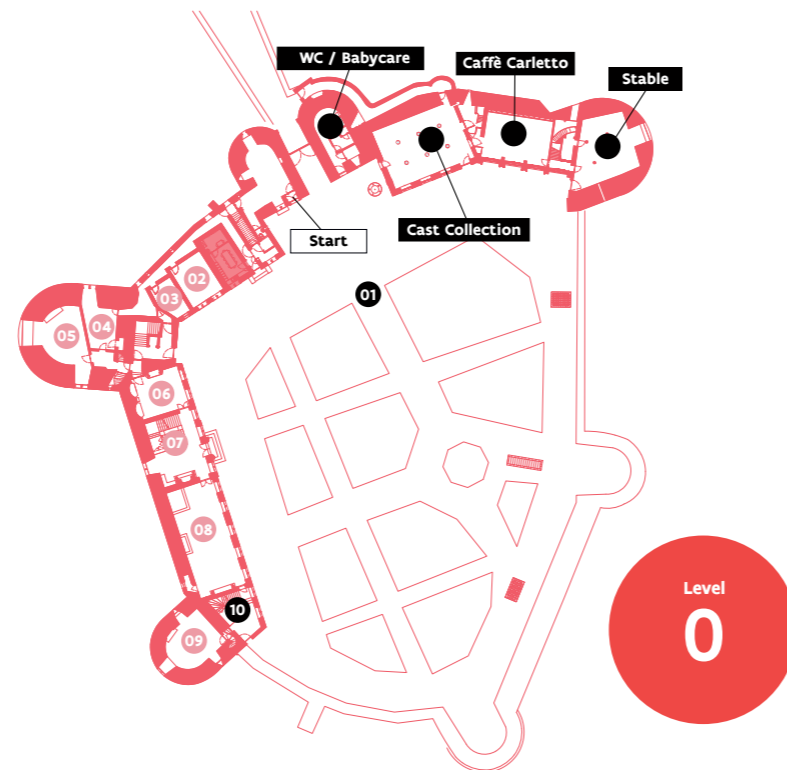
Erwin Olaf / *Serie Exquisite Corpses* (2012) / Egmond Room, Egmond Staircase, Blue Room

François de Coninck / *Le fil prodigue* (2018) / Marie Arconati Visconti Room

Jan De Vlieghe / *Hofburg 1 en 3* (2011) / Salon Giuseppe and Costanza

Floor Plan

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Inner Garden | 13. Gothic Room |
| 2. Marie Arconati Visconti Room | 14. Louis XIV Room |
| 3. Charle-Albert Room | 15. Archive Room |
| 4. Art Cabinet | 16. Library |
| 5. Kitchen | 17. Knights' Hall |
| 6. Dining Room | 18. Emperor Charles Staircase |
| 7. Guard Room | 19. Treasure Attic |
| 8. Gallery | 20. Carletto's Room |
| 9. Egmond Room | 21. Emperor Charles Hall |
| 10. Egmond Staircase | 22. Paul Arconati Studio |
| 11. Blue Room | 23. Salon Giuseppe and Costanza |
| 12. Albaster Cabinet | 24. Studiolo Giammartino |
| | 25. Marquise's Apartment |



Music

Music curator and composer Jeroen D'hoer drew inspiration for the sound scenography from the interior of the castle and the diversity of its spaces, each of which highlights a unique aspect of the multifaceted personality of Marquise Marie Arconati Visconti. Fascinated by her search for personal happiness in Gaasbeek, far from the crowds of Paris, he chose musical styles that resonate today and enter into dialogue with the many works of art, tapestries, and historical documents from the castle's archives. The musical route not only serves as an aural backdrop, but unfolds into a character in its own right, depicting the emotions and rebellious nature of the marquise.



Listen along ...

Film Clips

Marie Peyrat was born and raised in Paris. Two short documentaries from 1900 and 1912 present to the visitor the Paris as Marie must have known it. As a politically engaged salonnière, she witnessed the breakthrough of cinematography, which was especially popular in France. In 1899, French film maker Georges Méliès produced the drama *L'Affaire Dreyfus*. Like Peyrat, Méliès took up the defence of the wrongly convicted Jewish captain Albert Dreyfus in the film.

Il Gattopardo (1963) by Luchino Visconti is a flamboyant fresco about the risorgimento, the downfall of the nobility and the rise of the bourgeoisie. The film clips have been carefully selected by Wouter Hessels, novelist, film historian (RITCS & INSAS) and film curator of Gaasbeek Castle.

L'Affaire Dreyfus (1899) / Georges Méliès / Marie Arconati Visconti Room

Vues de Paris (1900) / Étienne-Jules Marey / Marie Arconati Visconti Room

Paris à vol d'oiseau (1912) / Collection Lobster Films, Paris / Marie Arconati Visconti Room

Il Gattopardo (1963) / Luchino Visconti / Pathé Films, Paris / Salon Giuseppe and Costanza