



Festival vijf eeuwen
Arenberg — Blauw bloed
in Leuven en Europa

THE ARENBERG FESTIVAL IN LEUVEN

Inside the rarefied world of an aristocratic family

This autumn Leuven is shining a light on a part of its rich history by bringing back to life the grandiose world of the noble Arenberg family. KU[N]ST Leuven and M-Museum Leuven are mounting two prestigious exhibitions and a varied programme of events which provide a modern-day look at the Arenberg dynasty's fascinating legacy.

M-Museum Leuven's exhibition Power and Beauty. The Arenbergs from October 26th 2018 to January 20th 2019 brings together disbanded treasures from the Arenberg family collection. As real swordsmen, the Arenbergs were a prominent presence in the European theatre of war. As driven entrepreneurs, the Arenbergs amassed huge wealth. As important political and economic heavyweights, they moved in the highest cultural circles and they built up an impressive art collection which was eventually scattered across the world. Masterpieces from the former Arenberg collection are now coming to Leuven for a once-in-a-lifetime reunion, including paintings and engravings by Rubens, Veronese, Dürer and Jordaens.

Furthermore, the exhibition takes a look at the lavish lifestyle, pomp and splendour enjoyed by this notable family. As well as a portrait gallery there is a collection of rare books and prints. But you can also admire authentic period ball gowns and masked ball costumes presented on a catwalk. So a total of seven galleries filled with grandeur and beauty.

A second exhibition Noble Living. The castle at Heverlee, from Croÿ to Arenberg in the University Library illustrates the architectural history of Arenberg Castle in Heverlee and the fascinating lives of the Arenberg family. This architectural showpiece was one of the family's favourite residences. Visitors also make the acquaintance of the occupants of the castle and of the servants. And all this is brought to life with the help of technologies like 3D, while original visual material and objects from the castle provide an inside look at aristocratic life at Arenberg Castle and on the estate.

The Arenberg Festival will open with a festive weekend on October 20th and 21st. Kasteelpark Arenberg - nowadays the vibrant campus of Leuven university's Faculty of Engineering - will provide the setting for a novel mix of historical and futuristic activities. These include the launch of the spaceship Seeker (LVN6), a project by the Flemish artist Angelo Vermeulen. Visitors can also roll up their sleeves and set to work in the VR lounge or choreograph drones, explore the castle grounds on horseback or sit back and have their portrait painted in noble style or sample some of the dishes the Arenbergs would have been served. This packed weekend will culminate in a spectacular video mapping projection on the façade of Arenberg Castle by video artist Nele Fack. Projections at 20.00, 21.00 and 22.00 hrs on Saturday and Sunday.

www.arenbergleuven.be

An initiative of KU[N]ST Leuven, a partnership between the City of Leuven and the University of Leuven

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Address

Arenberg Castle
Kasteelpark Arenberg 1
3001 Heverlee

M-Museum Leuven
L. Vanderkelenstraat 28
3000 Leuven

University Library
Mgr. Ladeuzeplein 21
3000 Leuven

Dates

20.10.2018 – 20.01.2019

Opening weekend: 20.10.2018 – 21.10.2018 (video mapping projection Nele Fack on Saturday and Sunday at 20.00, 21.00 and 22.00 hrs)

Exhibitions 'Power and Beauty. The Arenbergs' and 'Noble Living. The castle at Heverlee, from Croÿ to Arenberg', M-Museum Leuven and University Library: 26.10.2018 – 20.01.2019

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