





Clairvoyance, 1936, © Collection of Mr. and Mrs Wilbur Ross, USA

LET RENÉ MAGRITTE AND THE ATOMIUM, TWO MONUMENTAL EXAMPLES OF BELGIUM'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, LAUNCH YOU INTO AN ALL-SENSORY EXPERIENCE, AN UNMISSABLE EVENT FOR ALL. THIS IS MAGRITTE AS YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE - A MUST FOR VISITORS!

Fifty years after René Magritte's death, the Atomium pays a unique tribute to one of the great figures of the Belgian Surrealist movement.

From 21 September 2017, the Atomium invites both the young and the not-so-young to discover René Magritte through a fun experience full of surprises. Certain key works by the major Belgian Surrealist artist will be displayed in an innovative scenography. Visitors will be immersed in the Surrealist universe of René Magritte, whose paintings will be transformed into exhibition sets, split into sections for close examination. Enter the magical world of Belgium's greatest artist. Weave your way around his bowler-hatted figures, his clouds and birds. Discover the secret messages hidden in his paintings, explore the extraordinary and captivating settings depicted in his masterpieces.



The dominion of lights, 1954, © Musée Magritte, Brussels

The aim behind the exhibition is to acquaint visitors with the world of René Magritte and, in this way, to introduce them to Surrealism. With this in view, the experience will unfold as follows: firstly, visitors will quite literally penetrate Magritte's world, as they are plunged into the renowned artist's Surrealist realm. Some works will be presented in 3D in actual size, as elements forming part of the exhibition scenography, and visitors will walk through the set like characters in a play, soaking up the atmosphere.

This will bring them face to face with the key elements in Magritte's paintings: they will be able to linger awhile among the clouds, the famous birds will be suspended above their heads, and they will have green apples to use as seats. Music to suit the setting and theatrical lighting will provide the finishing touches to the overall ambience, reflecting the intention of making these artistic works of genius accessible to everyone. A fun yet educational experience, the exhibition brings to light certain details that have rarely been discussed, but which will be revealed through this particular way of perceiving Magritte's work. Our aim is to show visitors the conceptual world between image, pictorial art, speech and reality. The carefully selected key works present Magritte's world and the iconic elements that embody it in all its forms.



## THE LOVERS (1928)

There is a strong link between the enshrouded face and Magritte's own life story, but this is also an example of the double meaning so favoured by the renowned artist, as the faces are veiled by cloth.



## THE SON OF MAN (1964)

Here we see the easily identifiable motifs so closely associated with Magritte: the bowler hat, the apple, the hidden face and the clouds.

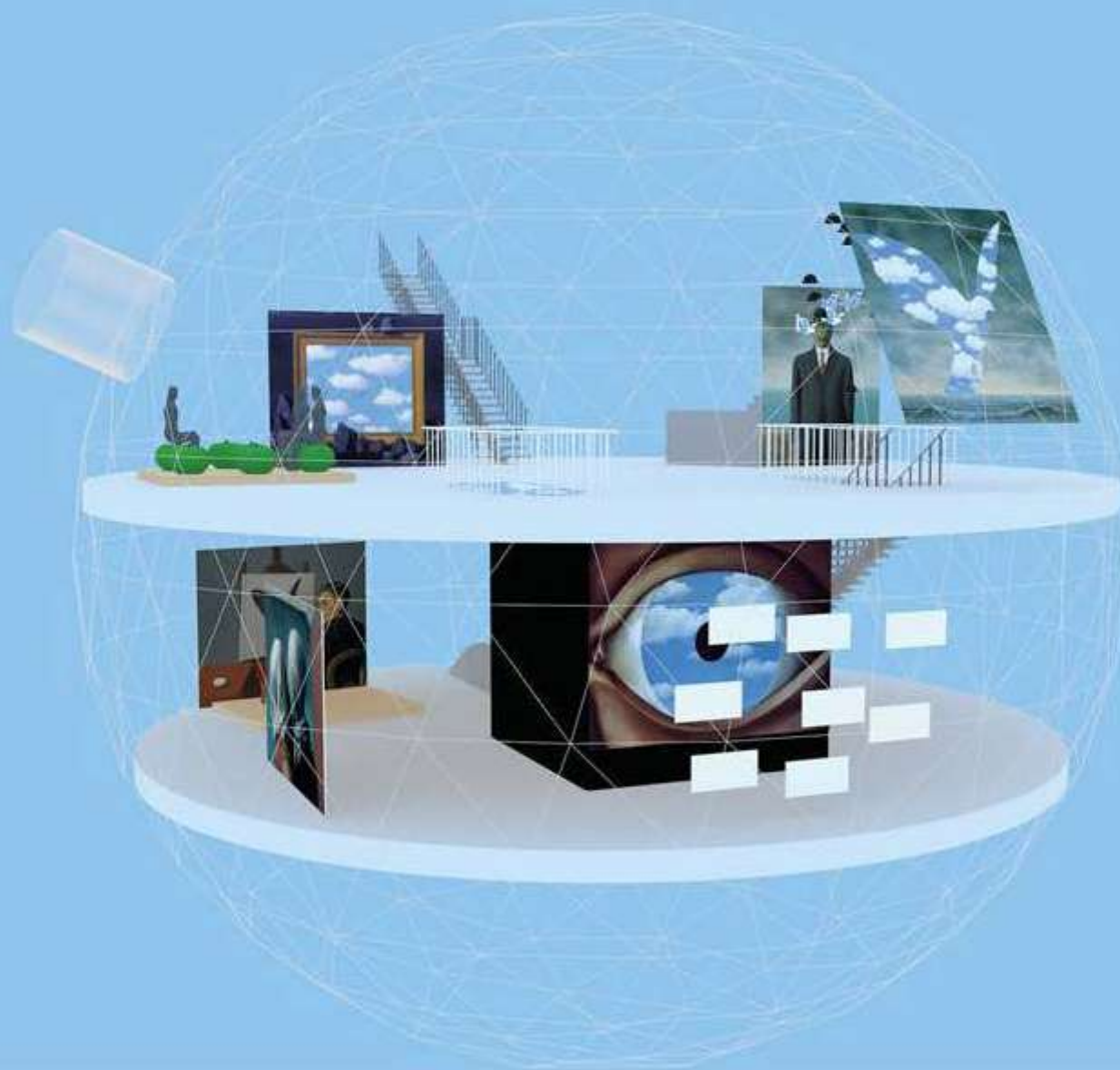


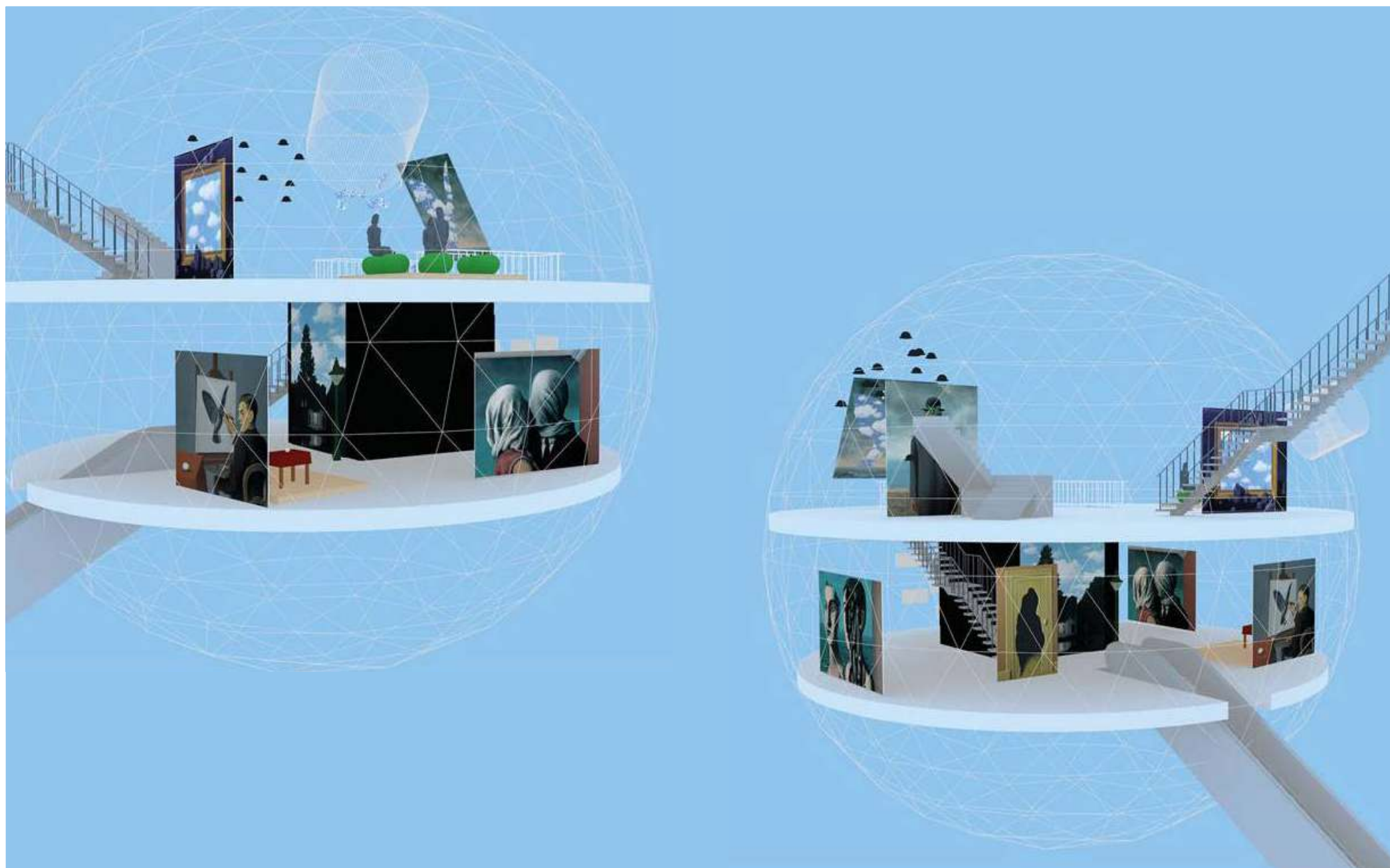
## THE DOUBLE SECRET (1929)

The image is nothing more than a layer, a 'film' that may be cut out and repositioned, thereby covering a totally different, obscure image.

Alongside these paintings, displayed in sections, the exhibition will feature memorable quotes by Magritte – in relation to his art and to Surrealism – as well as screenings of a range of his paintings, illustrating other elements of his artistic realm. This original exhibition was proposed by the Atomium and will also be held there. It will take account of the striking architecture of this building, a symbol of Brussels and part of its heritage.

Just like Magritte's work, the Atomium presents us something that seems impossible, yet there it stands before us, its nine spheres hovering in the air. Magritte and the Atomium; what could be more typically Belgian than this particular union?





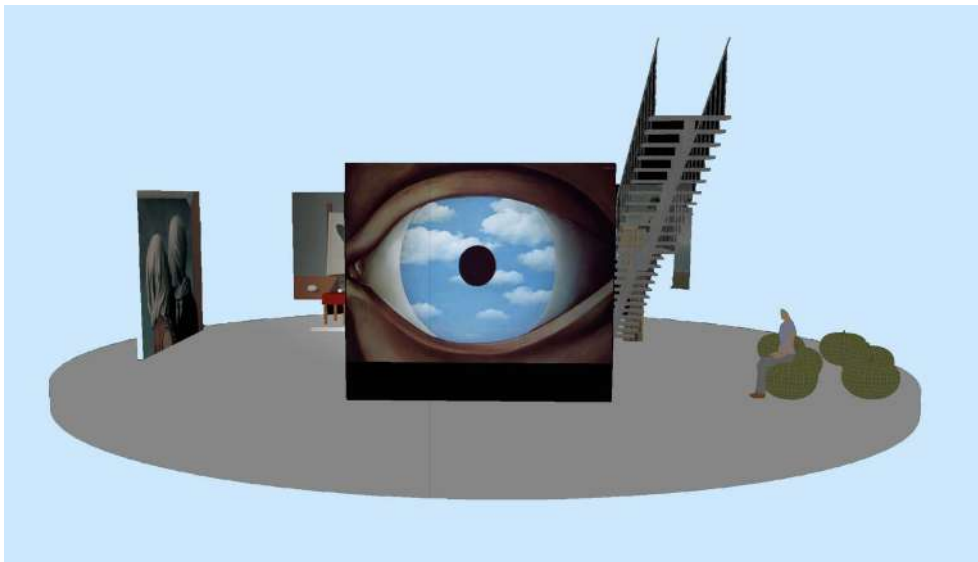




## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Educational workshops for schoolchildren will be held in conjunction with the exhibition. During the school holidays, courses for 6 to 12 year olds will conduct their own particular exploration into the world of Surrealism and Magritte's iconic works. And for the adults, guided lectures and cultural activities are also included in the programme.

Info et reservations: + 32 2 642 24 89 ; [kids@civa.brussels](mailto:kids@civa.brussels)



## WPG UITGEVERS BELGIË & ARRANO

## ATOMIUM EXPO

A CENTRE OF ART  
THE JOY OF CULTURE  
THE MAGIC OF ARCHITECTURE

WPG Uitgevers België and Arrano have joined forces once again to create a strong concept related to the iconic painter René Magritte at the Atomium.

"We want to stimulate visitors' imagination and perception and invite them to discover the life and work of René Magritte in an innovative manner."

WPG Uitgevers is one of the most prominent publishing houses in Belgium. In addition to the worldwide development of Magritte merchandising products and licences, WPG also publishes authoritative books on Magritte.

Arrano puts on large theatre productions and events such as Cats, Cavalia, FC De Kampioenen Expo and Expo Dino Adventure. This summer Arrano and WPG Uitgevers realised the Magritte Experience on the beach of Knokke-Heist. It was a great success.

The exhibition 'Atomium Meets Surrealism' is their second large co-production and an absolute homage to René Magritte.

The Atomium is an important symbol in the skyline of Brussels, she is sublime in both an architectural and technical way. Her astonishing architecture and extraordinary view underlies this famous touristic attraction of the Belgian and European capital. The building is a historical place as well, one of the few remainders of Expo '58, the legendary event in the collective memory of Belgium.

This Belgian monument is since the renovation in 2006 a place for exhibitions about Belgian architecture, design and contemporary creations, led by the department Atomium expo. This initiative contributes to the cultural and creative vitality of Brussels and is supported by many collaborations. Rich, varied, targeted and yet accessible to a broad audience, the temporary exhibitions at the Atomium offer a great cultural agenda. This gives your visit to this place many surprises.

### CONTACTS

> [www.wpg.be](http://www.wpg.be) – Kristine Cuypers  
[www.arrano.be](http://www.arrano.be) – Veerle Hoppenbrouwers



## WHO WAS MAGRITTE?

René Magritte was born on 21 November 1898 in Lessines, a town in the province of Hainaut. His mother, Regina Bertinchamps, was a milliner, but gave up her career when, in early 1898, she married Léopold Magritte, a tailor-sales representative and businessman. His father was rarely at home, while his mother suffered from bouts of depression so severe that she ultimately committed suicide in 1912, a traumatic experience that profoundly influenced René's painting.

## MAGRITTE AND GEORGETTE

In 1913, Magritte visited a fair in Charleroi and met the girl who would later become his wife, model and muse: Georgette Berger, a butcher's daughter, born in Marcinelle in 1901.

However, they soon lost sight of one another – until, in January 1920, they met once again in the Botanical Garden in Brussels. It was the beginning of a lifelong love story.

Georgette would often model for him, either clothed or naked.

In the house in Jette, where they lived the longest, she would play the piano in the drawing room while he painted in the living room.

## RENÉ MAGRITTE AND BRUSSELS

Brussels is the city where René spent most of his life. He was a real stay-at-home and rarely left the Belgian capital, except for three years spent living in Paris between 1927 and 1930.

Magritte liked to surround himself with like-minded friends and acquaintances, and preferred staying in a familiar environment. He loved a "nice, steady bourgeois life" and an inconspicuous lifestyle. He died in Brussels in 1967.



Thanks to its players, the Belgian National Lottery provides support for culture, sport, scientific research, the fight against poverty, development cooperation and solidarity campaigns. And every stake placed by our players, no matter how small, makes a world of difference. The Atomium is opting for the Belgian National Lottery as a reliable partner to make its projects a reality, which also means a big thank you to all players for their support!

#eachonecounts



LE SOIR

DeMorgen.



BRUZZ

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## AN INITIATIVE OF THE ATOMIUM

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SCENARIO Eric Rinckhout

SCENOGRAPHY Frank van Retingen

GRAPHIC DESIGN Nancy Smets

GRAPHIC CONCEPT Jirka De Preter

LIGHT, SOUND & SPECIAL EFFECTS Wietse De Puyseleir

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MAGRITTE. Atomium meets Surrealism.

Temporary exhibition on 2 floors / temporary exhibition Sphere (levels 3 & 4 )

DATES 21.09.2017 - 10.09.2018

ADDRESS ATOMIUM

Atomiumsquare, 1020 Brussels

OPENING HOURS Daily from 10am – 6pm (ticket office closes at 5.30pm)

## CONTACTS

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