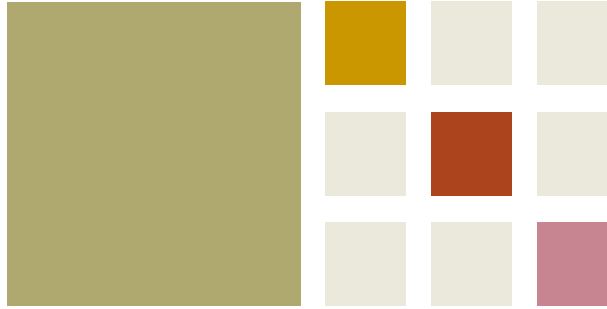




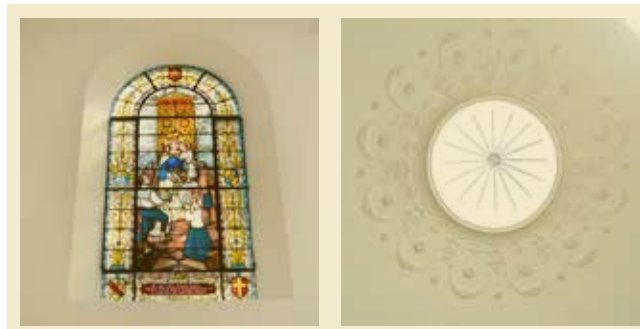
LES BATELIERS



Les Bateliers, located at the heart of Namur, is home to two municipal museums, the Archaeological Museum and the Museum of Decorative Arts with its garden in the French style. This museum complex connects the Félicien Rops provincial museum, the *Maison de la Poésie* (Poetry centre) and the *Maison du Conte* (Storytelling centre) through the new public gardens, the *Jardin des Bateliers* and the *Jardin des Poètes* (Poets' Garden). The site is also to include educational rooms, an auditorium, a restaurant and a shop.



A brand-new exhibition space has been custom-made to house the Archaeological Museum of Namur. This is linked by an impressive glazed gallery to the old Les Bateliers chapel, a listed 19th-century building and future reception of the municipal museums. The complete overhaul of the museography currently underway aims to allow visitors to rediscover the archaeological collections relating to the Namur region, from the Palaeolithic Period to the Middle Ages – but also to put into perspective the knowledge acquired through archaeology to understand the present and serve the future.



NAMUR
CAPITALE



NAMUR
CONFLUENT
CULTURE

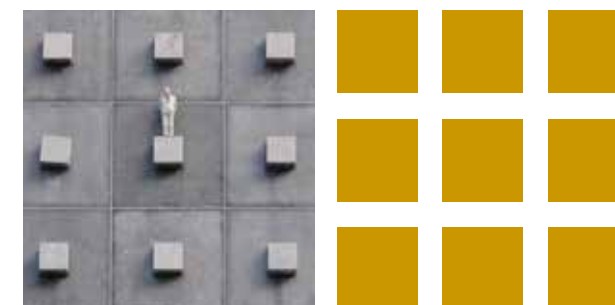


FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES



The former private mansion of the Counts de Groesbeeck and the Marquesses de Croix, which now houses the Museum of Decorative Arts, is an 18th-century building listed as belonging to the exceptional heritage of Wallonia. It evokes the atmosphere of an aristocratic residence in the Age of Enlightenment. The mansion is linked to the *Les Bateliers* chapel by a covered courtyard. The area accessible to the public is gradually to be doubled by converting the stables into a shop, the hayloft into an educational room/auditorium, the ground floor of the north wing, the service courtyard and the coach house into new exhibition rooms, and the kitchen garden as well as the garden pavilion into a restaurant. Its newly renovated French garden has become home to contemporary art and to events.

However, the City of Namur did not wait for the official inauguration to open up to the general public as a whole and to forms of art other than archaeology and the decorative arts, in accordance with the recommendations of Namur Confluent Culture, the City's cultural project scheduled to run until 2022. Since 2014, Les Bateliers complex has hosted the *Journées du Patrimoine* or heritage days, the biennial *Chambre avec Vues*, a fascinating artistic trail in Namur, *Namur en Mai*, a festival of fairground arts, the *Fête de la Musique* music festival, classical music concerts, plays, exhibitions, fashion shows and artistic workshops, not to mention the many programmes, televised series and films that are shot here, including 'The Visitors 3', 'The Young Karl Marx', 'The Comic Adventures of Max and Leon' and the series 'Thieves in the Wood'.



Green havens in the heart of Namur, the public gardens also serve as exhibition areas, providing a permanent home for the poem chairs of the Quebec sculptor Michel Goulet, the fresco *Vegetal Chaos* by Tamar Kasparian and miniature sculptures by the Spanish artist Isaac Cordal.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM AND THE MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS ARE INSTITUTIONS MANAGED BY THE CITY OF NAMUR CULTURE SERVICE.

BESIDES THE CITY'S COLLECTIONS, THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUMS ALSO EXHIBIT A CONSIDERABLE SHARE OF THE COLLECTIONS OF THE SOCIÉTÉ ARCHÉOLOGIQUE DE NAMUR (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NAMUR) AND LES AMIS DE L'HÔTEL DE GROESBEECK-DE-CROIX (FRIENDS OF THE HÔTEL DE GROESBEECK-DE-CROIX).

In short, the challenge of continuing to breathe life into the municipal museum institutions by giving them a modern, dynamic and open face while completing their renovation seems to have been met!

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