



photo credit : Stefan Tavernier



## Permanent exhibition

### Press release

Small museums must «first delight and then educate».

Everything in the Erasmus House and the Beguinage appeals to our senses and emotions and gives the impression of being in an otherworldly setting, lost in time. The Erasmus House and Anderlecht Beguinage are two of the oldest municipal museums in Belgium. Together with the Collegiate church of Saints Peter and Guidon, they comprise Anderlecht's exceptional historical ensemble.

### Permanent exhibition

[The Erasmus House](#) is one of the oldest Gothic houses in Brussels. Erasmus, the « Prince of Humanists », resided there from May to October 1521. The exhibition evokes his life and the intellectual universe of the Renaissance through a collection of artworks and precious editions in the rooms which are furnished with Gothic and Renaissance furniture. A rich collection of books from the XVth century, retrace the thought of this exceptional mind, which made a deep impact on European civilisation. A triptych from the workshop of Heironymous Bosch, commissioned for the Collegiate church of Anderlecht, is in the same vein as engravings and paintings by Albrecht Dürer, Hans Holbein the Younger, Cornelis Metsys and Joos van Cleve. With the abundant XVIth century statuary, these works enable us to observe the transition from art of the Middle Ages to that of the Renaissance.

The Erasmus House was inaugurated as a museum on 24th September, 1932. The House and Beguinage were both listed as historical monuments in 1938. The Erasmus house is surrounded by [a garden of medicinal plants](#), designed by landscape gardener René Pechère (1987). Inspired by the medieval enclosed garden, this space presents a genuine botanical portrait of the humanist. Cultivated here are approximately one hundred plants which were known to XVIth century doctors, many of which served to treat the various ailments from which this scholar, a bit of a hypochondriac, suffered.

Beyond lies [a philosophical garden](#), created by architect-landscape gardener, Benoit Fondu (2000). The garden showcases works by various contemporary artists, namely Catherine Beaugrand, Marie-Jo Lafontaine, Perejaume and Bob Verschueren. The garden furniture and lettering has been done by the artist Pierre Portier.

The Anderlecht Beguinage was inaugurated as a museum in 1930 in the smallest beguinage in Belgium, founded in 1252, where eight beguines used to reside. The museum presents various rooms reflecting how life was lived in the pre-industrial age. The collections evoke the history of the commune, the lives of the beguines and their activities. These two buildings surround an enclosed garden which provides a view of the Gothic Collegiate church of Saints Peter and Guidon. The Beguinage is now closed to the public and will be renovated in 2021. A new museum project is under consideration.

## Temporary exhibitions

The Museum organises temporary exhibitions. Historical and literary themes alternate with exhibitions of contemporary art. Our intention is to make pertinent links between the past and the present so that the past continues to find an echo in the present.

## Our museums also means...

— Conferences, concerts, lectures, workshops

Our [programme](#) extends through the year.

— «Erasmusica» concerts

Early music played by students from the Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel.

— Cultural Outreach

Schools, group visits, families, local residents ... The Museum provides a wide range of options (publications, games, guided tours, etc.) and enables history to be seen in the light of current issues, such as censorship or freedom of expression, the role of women in society, the coexistence of religions and questions touching on European or national identity.

- Latin courses

Both beginners and advanced level, weekly from October to June.

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The Erasmus House & Beguinage, an initiative of the Burgomaster and Council of Anderlecht.  
With support from the Brussels-Wallonia Federation.

## Practical information

— The Erasmus House - Rue de Formanoir 31 - 1070 Brussels, Belgium

Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday: 10.00 > 18.00

— Contact information and tariffs

info@erasmushouse.museum - + 32 2 521 13 83 - [www.erasmushouse.museum](http://www.erasmushouse.museum)

Admission 1.25 euro - Free < 6 years old

— The bookshop - Rue de Formanoir 31 - 1070 Brussels, Belgium

A selection of recent editions of the works of Erasmus and other humanists, with a special focus on living Latin, a literary treasure related to the beguine movement and publications by the Erasmus House and Beguinage Museums.

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday : 10.00 > 18.00

## Access

Metro 5 - Saint-Guidon \* Tram81 - Saint-Guidon \* Bus49 - Maison d'Érasme

## Social Media

Facebook: [@maison.erasme](#)

Instagram: [@erasmushouse\\_beguinage](#)

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