

<http://archive-be.com/page/43068/2012-06-07/http://www.xioskrant.be/the-spectacular-and-critical-fashion-designer/>

## Spectacular and critical fashion designer

BY [SARA SÁNCHEZ GONZÁLEZ](#) ON 16 DECEMBER 2011 IN [@STUDENTS](#), [JOINT](#), [SPOTLIGHT](#)

Walter Van Beirendonck is a Belgian fashion designer who is not exactly known for being a conformist. In his collections there are masks with such statements as “Blow Job” and fluorescent skirts for men.



Caption

Walter Van Beirendonck, the most inconformist designer in Belgium

PreviousNext

Over the last three decades, [Walter Van Beirendonck](#) has built an impressive international career. As the maverick of Antwerp fashion, he is famous for his colourful collections, his completely unique perception of beauty, his spectacular fashion shows and the socially critical themes touched on in his designs.

This fashion designer was born in Brecht, Belgium, in 1957. He moved to Antwerp, the Belgian fashion city, where he studied fashion at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. In 1980, Van Beirendonck graduated.

Three years later, he began with a collection under his own name. In 1986, he and five of his fellow from the academy presented collections at the British Designer Show in London, where the British press took notice of them and branded them "[The Antwerp Six](#)".

## Collections

Walter Van Beirendonck works, besides the collections, regularly on projects: designing, costumes for theater, ballet and film, curating expositions, designing objects, think-tanking for commercial projects and products, image-making for pop-groups, illustrating books, designing commercial collections...

His most important collaboration was perhaps from 1993 to 1999, with Mustang, the German jeans manufacturers, for whom he designed the W.&L.T. (Wild & Lethal Trash) line for the rapidly developing youth market. For W.&L.T., Van Beirendonck developed a new aesthetic, one in which he could combine his fascination for technology, high-tech materials, multimedia and experimentation with sharp, critical statements.

Van Beirendonck has also been a highly valued asset at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, initially as a and since 2007 as director of the fashion department. Moreover, he has a children collection, called [ZULUPAPUWA](#), for JBC (a Belgian fashion chain of shops).

## U2 PopMart Tour

In 1997 Walter Van Beirendonck designed all costumes for Irish band U2's extravagant PopMart tour. Van Beirendonck created a different character for each band member, like Bono Masn, Muscle Man, Lopsided Man, Hitman an Electric Cowboy, inspired by Action Man characters.

## “Dream The World Awake”

“Dream the World Awake” is the name of his exhibition in Atwerpen. This retrospective exhibition investigates Walter's world and the sources of his inspiration by way of six themes. These themes are:

- Fairtales, based on the use of phrases and slogans.
- Alien Spirits, because of Van Beirendonck's predilection for science fiction, the future, the supernatural and spirituality.
- Techno crafts, characterized by the tension between both technology and techniques.
- Alterations, which reflects how Van Beirendonck questions our accepted ideas about beauty and sets out in search of alternative images of the body
- Rituals, delves more deeply into Van Beirendonck's fascination with ritual, ranging from ethnic initiation rites to fetishism and S&M.
- And Actions/Reactions, focuses on the controversial themes and social statements in Walter Van Beirendonck's oeuvre.

# Tongeren hails Sagalassos

## architecture

BY [SARA SÁNCHEZ GONZÁLEZ](#) ON 2 DECEMBER 2011 IN [@STUDENTS](#) [JOINT](#) | [EDIT](#)

“Sagalassos: city of dreams” is the new Roman Empire exposition in Tongeren. It is the first time a European museum is presenting a retrospective exhibition about this site in Turkey.



Caption

Advertisement poster of the exposition in the beginning of the exhibition

PreviousNext

The exposition in the Gallo-Roman Museum of Tongeren will be able to be accesible from October 19th of this year till June 17th 2012. You will find Roman items just brought from Sagalassos such as prehistoric tools, pottery dishes, oil lamps, photos of the ancient archaleological site, fragments of bronze sculptures and the impressive statue of Roman Emperor Hadrian. Unfortunately it is only the head, right leg and foot of this man who acceded to the throne in 117 AD.

## Dramatic scenery

Further along in the exhibition you will be able to marvel at the impressive remains of quality architecture. The statue of Emperor Marco Aurelius is a foretaste. Next to it, on the wall, there is

a great Greek phrase, which means: "What follows is always intrinsically linked to what went before", said by the Emperor Augustus.

If you continue and go inside the first room, you will notice that the exhibition is presented with soft lights, which only illuminates the Roman objects. The exposition culminates in a finale based in the city's decline, evoking the fatal earthquake of the beginning of the 7th century with contrasts between lights in red and black, or red flowers guarding a lighted sculpture, as a dramatic event.

## Sagalassos history

The ancient city of Sagalassos in the south of Turkey is one of the most beautiful archaeological sites in the Mediterranean. Augustus, the first Roman emperor, wanted to make Sagalassos part of the Roman Empire, so magnificent monuments, baths, temples, and incredible fountains were built. Years later, the city declined because of an epidemic of plague and two powerful earthquakes, turning the city in a ghost place.

At the beginning of the 18th century some scientists and explorers started to study the site. The excavation work properly in the early 1990s to the point that they have spent the last 20 years uncovering the ancient city in what is one of the largest excavations in the Mediterranean world. The city is very well preserved and nowadays it can be rebuilt stone by stone.

## Why in Tongeren?

Tongeren is the oldest town in Belgium. It was founded in 15 BC as a base and supply station for the Roman troops. The underground of Tongeren is one large archaeological archive. The archaeological site near the Basilica shows the remains of an excavated Roman tower of the 4th century.

One of the most remarkable monuments of Tongeren is the Basilica of Our Lady with the 64 metres high bell tower. This church is built in Gothic style and hosts an enormous collection of precious art objects.

Moreover, the person who made that exposition possible takes place is Marc Waelkens, Belgian archaeologist who has been carrying out excavation work in Turkey for more than 20 years. We must thank him for that opportunity of visiting Sagalassos, but without leaving Belgium, in a museum which has won the EU Museum of the Year Award 2011.

# Belgium, where drinking beer is an art

BY [SARA SÁNCHEZ GONZÁLEZ](#) ON 21 NOVEMBER 2011 IN [ACTUEEL](#) | [EDIT](#)

Belgium is famous because of its high quality and variety of beers, that is estimated in more than 700 types of that liquid. Moreover, you have the possibility to taste every beer in its own special glass.



Duvel beer

When people arrive in Belgium, they think in several stereotypes: chocolate, “frituurs”, bikes... and of course, beer. Thousands of visitors taste every year the magical flavour of Belgian beers, that you can't enjoy equally in other countries, at much discounted prices. Belgians can be proud of their brands like Duvel, Leffe and Grimbergen, which make the difference between good and bad beers.



Some glasses and bottles of Belgian beers

In student parties, for example, beer is almost the only drink you can get. They offer you some bonds of 10 beers for paying 10 euros, which is really cheap. The brands you buy in that type of parties are surely pils beers like Cristal or Jupiler, the most famous and remarkably well in terms of quality/price ratio.

Moreover, if you don't have a lot of money but you are not willing to stop buying beers, in some stores you can find boxes of 24 bottles of beer for less than four euros!

## Brands of beer



Westmaller cup

If you like beer, and are used to drink brands of beer like San Miguel, from Spain, Belgian beers will drive you crazy. If you go inside a bar, you will find a high variety of beers, in flavours as chocolate, strawberry, watermelon or even cherries. There are, of course, blond and black beers, with different alcohol content, and very different prices, between two and thousands euros.



Pages of a newspaper dedicated to Belgian beers

One important advice: you must be careful because the majority of Belgian beers have high alcohol content. If you are not used to drink, you should have a look at the degrees of alcohol that the beer you are drinking has, before you take the decision of taking more than one.

Some brands as Cristal, CaraPils and Jupiler have more or less 5 degrees of alcohol, but other ones as Leffe, Westmaller, Tongerlo, or Gordon can have up to 10 degrees for bottle.

## Free beer



Everyone laughs with a beer in his hands

In Belgium you will be able to go to beer shows, beer museums, and beer parties, and maybe you will get free beers in some bars. For example in Delirium Café of Brussels. It is a building of three floors with different atmospheres. Its list of beers is in the Record Guinness Book as the world's largest. One wonderful thing is that if you go to that bar with one beer that isn't in its list, Delirium Café will pay all you want for drinking all the night!

And remember, everyone laughs when they have a beer in his hands

## **Adrián: “Thanks of Belgium, I am not an unemployee”**

Adrián currently works as a lab technician in the UHasselt. He is working in a project which studies air pollution in cities attending to the health of the urban trees present in them.



Adrián was born in Valladolid (Spain) where studied Chemical Engineering. In February 2010 he arrived in Belgium to learn how to use his knowlegde in the real life and in a real job. He was here for 7 months doing an internship in a spin-off from the University of Hasselt. He says that “the experience was quite good, tough the job was not a propper Chemical Engineering one, it was more related to Biosciences”.

When his internship ended he went back to Spain and a couple of months later, he was phone by the UHasselt offering him the possibility to participate in the selection process for a lab technician. In that moment, Adrián was unemployed, and his hope to find a job in Spain was very low, so he accepted.

### **Differences between both countries**

As he see it, Belgium has a lot of good things and a lot of bad ones. On the one hand, he thinks Belgium is a country that is focused in progress and development. Belgian businesses and people are able to take profit of all the resources they have. He also likes that all the cities are so close to each other, so it is easy to travel.

On the other hand, he doesn't like that Belgian people are sometimes a little bit closed, but “of course, the worse thing of this country is the terrifying weather”, he says while laughing.

The main difference between Belgium and Spain that he emphasizes is the economy, specially the distribution of the money in the country. He sures here it is rare to see really poor people.



Moreover, the unemployment in Belgium is pretty low comparing to the huge amount of unemployed people in Spain, above all just graduated young people. "Another good advantage of living in Belgium are the salaries, which are much more higher than Spain comparing to the prices", he adds.

### **Future**

Adrián can see himself living in Belgium in the near future, because of his job. "My job is analyze the leaves of trees and I am not going to stop until I help the environment", he says, " and I don't want to miss this opportunity, that Spain couldn't give me".

<http://archive-be.com/page/43068/2012-06-07/http://www.xioskrant.be/walloon-parties-have-won-this-time/>

[Print](#) [Email](#) [Shortlink](#)

# “Walloon parties have won this time”

BY [SARA SÁNCHEZ GONZÁLEZ](#) ON 11 DECEMBER 2011 IN [@STUDENTS](#), [JOINT](#)

**After 540 days, Belgian negotiators have reached agreements to finally form a new national government. Newspapers show what the opinions of the political parties and journalists are, but, what do citizens think?**

Evert Van Baelen, a law student, knows that his future may well lie in politics. Therefore, he follows the actions of the politicians quite closely. Evert thinks the biggest problem why it took so long to form a government, is the separation of the Walloon and Flemish political parties. For example, by fusing *Groen!* and *Ecolo*, or *SPA* and *PS*, you could form majorities much easier, because there would be a lot less opinions that have to be considered.



Evert Van Baelen: "A problem is our huge amount of ministers"

“Another problem is our huge amount of ministers”, he assures. “While other countries have perhaps 15 ministers, we have all together! This is completely unnecessary and only slows litigation procedures down.”

As for a party that Evert chooses for, last year Evert voted for *Groen!*. This because of his preference for the environment, but it doesn't mean he agrees with all their opinions. "I wouldn't say that there is a perfect political party in Belgium".



Davy: "At the beginning I was very surprised with the appointment of Di Rupo as Prime Minister"

"At the beginning I was very surprised with the appointment of Di Rupo as Prime Minister of Belgium, because he is an immigrant and homosexual and maybe that is not good for some conservative people", Davy Van Opstal, 25, answers to the question about Belgian politics. Although he claims that later everyone knew he was going to be chosen as the leader.

Nevertheless, this economics student doesn't mind that fact, and he hopes both Wallons and Flemings can work together to avoid the European economic crisis that arrives.

"Maybe Di Rupo will be a good Prime Minister for us, because he's managed to create a government, even without having no idea of Dutch", Davy claims.



Pieter: "Walloon parties have won"

Pieter Schoofs, 36, a Flemish doctor, has followed the process of the new Belgian government formation with interest, because he is Flemish and he is working in the Walloon part, so all decisions affect him.

Despite his neutrality, Pieter thinks Walloon parties have won in the sense that the leader is Walloon, although Flemish parties received more votes. Moreover, the new government is formed by one more Walloon member, which is an advantage for them. "I would like I couldn't talk like that, but every part of Belgium has different purposes", he says.

In general, Belgian people like the idea of having a government finally, but they are sure that discussions among Walloons and Flemish on both politics and progress will continue.