

**THE  
WORD**

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Belgium**



Brussels

MEESSEN DE CLERQ

Known for its consistent program of museum-quality exhibitions, Meessen De Clercq was founded in 2007 by economist Jan De Clercq and art historian Olivier Meessen in a three-story town house that used to be a medical laboratory. Beyond its two floors dedicated to both solo and group shows, its basement, called 'Wunderkammer,' is used to showcase works by artists not necessarily represented by the gallery whilst its winter garden is used for video-based works. With a roster of artists that includes a sizeable Belgian selection – Lieven De Boek, Fabrice Samyn and Filip Gilissen – the gallery's shows are, for the most part, shaped by its conceptual leanings. A stunning space whose 58 solo shows, 11 group shows and 25 Wunderkammer projects to date attest to its commitment.

⇒ Rue de l'Abbaye 2A Abdijstraat (1000)  
∞ [meessendeclercq.com](http://meessendeclercq.com)

→ OFFICE BAROQUE

Having made their debut in Antwerp in 2007 by opening a space in their apartment, Office Baroque founders Wim Peeters, former director at Extra City, and Marie Denkens moved their gallery to Brussels in 2013, setting up shop in a Paul Hamesse-designed art nouveau former brewery in downtown's Dansaert area. Representing a program of mostly international artists such as Leigh Ledare, Michel Auder and Daniel Sinsel, the gallery also works with the undisputed enfant terrible of Belgian art Jan De Cock, who curated Office Baroque's booth at Independent Brussels' debut in 2016. Having opened a second space right across the road from Bozar, next to Etablissement d'en Face, the gallery, which director Louis-Philippe Van Eeckhoutte likens to "a platform to communicate across media and disciplines, and between different generations," has made a name for itself for hosting memorable exhibitions that go beyond its own roster, most notably its '8 Femmes' group show that ran for a month earlier in 2016. An essential player on the local scene.

⇒ Place du Jardin aux Fleurs 5 Bloemenhofplein (1000)  
⇒ 44 Rue Ravensteinstraat (1000)  
∞ [officebaroque.com](http://officebaroque.com)

ROSSICONTEMPORARY

Nestled in the Rivoli building, the former shopping centre turned contemporary art gallery cluster that also includes Xavier Hufkens and Almine Rech, Rossicontemporary gallery is that pioneering type of imprint that doesn't shy away from taking the odd risk or two. Founded by art historian Francesco Rossi, the gallery presents a tightly-curated selection of promising young artists, giving them a platform from which to exhibit their work with a view to taking their first steps in the world of contemporary art. Making a point of shying away from the gallery as pretentious, Rossi sees his work as aiming for a "a closer relationship with artists and live amongst art... and act as an interlocutor, a sort of ally." And, having exhibited the works of emerging artists Eric Croes, Sarah van Marcke and Pauline Miko to name a few, there's no denying he sticks to his line. A crucial gallery space for the artists of tomorrow.

⇒ Rivoli Building, Ground Floor # 17  
⇒ 690 Chaussée de Waterlooesteenweg (1180)  
∞ [rossicontemporary.be](http://rossicontemporary.be)

SORRY WE'RE CLOSED

Launched in 2005 by brothers Sébastien and Rodolphe Janssen (the latter of the gallery by the same name), Sorry We're Closed has evolved from pioneering project room to full-blown gallery space with both a daring and highly personal series of shows. Indeed, begun as a window project overlooking Rue de la Régence / Regentschapstraat, the gallery extended, in 2008, to the backroom in order to allow for more a little more wall space, finally moving to a new space on the ground floor of the 67 Rue de la Régence / Regentschapstraat cluster of galleries. With a program of exhibitions that, for the most part, shows artists that operate on the fringes of contemporary art, Sorry We're Closed is more laboratory than mere gallery, with Sébastien Janssen, who now runs the gallery by himself, consistently keeping exhibition goes on their toes. With one of its most recent exhibitions – 'Me - Vernacular Photography,' presenting collector Thierry Struvay's fascinating collection of found imagery – earning it top marks, the gallery's move to bigger pastures hasn't diminished its resolve to push the boundaries of what we consider contemporary art.

⇒ Rue de la Régence 67 Regentschapsstraat (1000)  
∞ [sorryweclosed.com](http://sorryweclosed.com)