



PRESS RELEASE

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS LE LOCLE PARTICIPATES IN THE 13TH EDITION OF ART GENÈVE

**FROM JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 2, 2025
AT PALEXPO, GENEVA**

The Museum of Fine Arts Le Locle (MBAL) is proud to announce its first participation in Art Genève, a prestigious art fair renowned as a key meeting point for international art collectors and enthusiasts in Switzerland. For the 13th edition of the fair, taking place from January 30 to February 2, 2025, MBAL will join other prominent institutions in presenting a unique exhibition.

MBAL has given *carte blanche* to artist Koenraad Dedobbeleer, who is set to have an exhibition at the museum in October 2025.

Drawing from the museum's extensive collection of approximately 5,000 objects, including paintings, sculptures, applied art objects, as well as prints, posters, drawings, watercolours and photographs, the Belgian artist creates a rich dialogue between his own works and these pieces for Art Genève. Known for his playful reinterpretation of everyday objects, these serve as aesthetic and historical sources of inspiration for the artist.

Intrigued by the world of manufacturing and industry, central to the history of Le Locle, Dedobbeleer has selected three works from the museum's collection. Balancing precision craftsmanship, subtle rebellion and the scenographic prosthetics, the artist crafts a hybrid and captivating installation that reimagines traditional roles of artist and artisan.

As part of this presentation, Federica Chiocchetti, director and curator of the MBAL, and artist Koenraad Dedobbeleer will host a conversation on February 1 (from 16h00 to 17h00) titled *Metamorphosis of a Collection*. Federica Chiocchetti is also a member of the jury for the F.P. Journe Prize, which annually awards the best solo exhibition presented at the fair.

**M B L A MUSÉE DES
BEAUX-ARTS
LE LOCLE**

PRESS CONTACTS

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Koenraad Dedobbeleer, *Underground Disruption*, 2018, Spray painted wood, stainless steel, enamel on wood, 215 x 78 x 50 cm.



Federica Chiocchetti © Anaïs Horn

“The MBAL is delighted to participate in the Art Geneve fair, an unmissable opportunity to share our curatorial research, which brings the museum’s collection into dialogue with contemporary artists. Koenraad Dedobbeleer’s ironic and metaphoric approach, which rethinks everyday objects in surprising ways, has always intrigued me, and I am thrilled to be able to present his work in our booth.”

Federica Chiocchetti,
Director and Curator of the Museum of Fine Arts Le Locle (MBAL)

KOENRAAD DEDOBBELEER

Koenraad Dedobbeleer (born in Halle, Belgium, in 1975, lives and works in Brussels) creates sculptures, objects, site-specific installations and photographs that are full of associations, ironic commentary and references to art history. Winner of the Mies van der Rohe Prize in 2009, he is also a curator and co-editor of the fanzine *UP*.

The artist focuses on everyday objects, which he transforms and recontextualises. He employs techniques such as deconstruction and manipulation to ensure that the changes in context and transformations of these common objects and motifs encourage the viewer to reflect on their fundamental nature and their existence within newly established frameworks. Their approach opens up new perspectives and a range of possible interpretations. Koenraad Dedobbeleer describes his work as a multifaceted, open-ended experience, both in form and content, involving a non-scientific exploration of options.



Portrait *Koenraad* by daughter
© Koenraad Dedobbeleer

The artist's work has gained international recognition through numerous solo exhibitions, included at the Ferdinandeum Museum, Austria (2021), the Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius (2019), the Museum of Fine Arts in Winterthur (2019), the Fundacao Caixa Geral de Depositos, Lisbon (2010), Museum Haus Esters, Krefeld (2009), Frac Bourgogne in Dijon, and the Kunsthalle Bern (with Rita McBride, 2008), as well as Museum Abteiberg, Monchengladbach (2007).

Koenraad Dedobbeleer is represented by the galleries Micheline Szwajcer (Antwerp), ProjecteSD (Barcelona), Reception (Berlin), Mai 26 Galerie (Zurich), and Georg Kargl Fine Arts (Vienna).



Edouard Kaiser, *Polisseuses et guillocheur*, 1896 © Collection Museum of Fine Arts, Le Locle

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THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS LE LOCLE (MBAL)

The Museum of Fine Arts Le Locle (MBAL) is a leading institution in Switzerland with an international reputation, thanks to its innovative and accessible programming. The museum offers monographic and thematic exhibitions that broaden perspectives and bring together art from the past and present, from here and elsewhere, by creating a dialogue between works from its collection and contemporary Swiss and international creations.

Located in the centre of Le Locle and established in 1862, the MBAL, with its beautiful Art Nouveau building renovated in 2014, offers 800 m² of exhibition space and a virtual platform for digital art, ORBIT_E. The collection, which includes around 5,000 pieces ranging from paintings and scriptures to works on paper by Swiss and international artists from the 17th century to the contemporary, features prestigious deposits, such as those from the Swiss Confederation and the Gottfried Keller Foundation.

Since 2022, under the direction of curator and writer Federica Chiocchetti (PhD), the acquisition policy has focused on achieving gender parity, with a strong commitment to equality between men and women.



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COMING IN 2025

Exhibition

MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION, AUGUSTA LARDY MICHELI, JONATHAN LLENSE, SCHOOL CIRCLE OF LE LOCLE

April 12 – September 14, 2025

Exhibition

KOENRAAD DEDOBBELEER, KLODIN ERB, AGNÈS GEOFFRAY & VANESSA DESCLAUX, URS LÜTHI, MBAL COLLECTION

October 11, 2025 – March 1, 2026



ART GENÈVE

Launched in 2012, the Art Genève fair quickly established itself as a key event on the international art scene and now opens the European calendar of art fairs during the winter season in Geneva.

Held at Palexpo, the fair brings together around 80 modern and contemporary art galleries, while also uniting a range of non-commercial national entities, such as private collections, institutions, schools, art centres and museums. Art Genève fosters dialogue between the art market and the institutional world, with an international impact, and enriches the regional cultural landscape by organising offsite events.

The quality of its programming enabled the fair to launch Art Monte-Carlo in 2016, which takes place annually during the summer season on the French Riviera.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Art Genève

January 30 – February 2, 2025

At Palexpo, Genève

Opening hours:

Thursday: 12h00 - 19h00

Friday and Saturday: 12h00 - 20h00

Sunday: 12h00 - 18h00

Museum of Fine Arts Le Locle

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Wednesday - Sunday: 11h00 - 17h00

First Sunday of the month: free entry

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