



UCL Université catholique

Plan of the museum

WELCOME dear visitor

You are about to embark on an exploration of the *Musée universitaire de Louvain*. The Musée L is your museum: a space for encounters, experiences and discoveries!

The permanent exhibition is organised around the **five key impulses** that drive each and every one of us, all over the world, since the dawn of mankind. It all starts when we look at something with wonder and admiration – **we feel amazement**. Those feelings give rise to the desire to increase our knowledge and understanding – **we start questioning**. The third impulse pushes us to share what we have learned, how we do things, what we have experienced – **we seek to pass on knowledge and information**, which brings us together. In art, this takes place in different ways and awakens new sensibilities – **we feel emotions**. Some works move and fascinate us so much that they transform appreciation into meditation – **we begin to contemplate**.

Enjoy your journey of discovery through the Musée L!

The museum is arranged on eight levels, five of which house the PERMANENT EXHIBITION (from the 2nd to the 6th floors). The TEMPORARY EXHIBITION can be reached via the walkway on the 3rd floor.

The building was designed by Belgian architect André Jacqmain (1921 – 2014) and was constructed in white concrete, cast into timber formwork. It was one of the first buildings (1969-1975) to be erected in Louvain-la-Neuve when the University was moved there and housed the *Bibliothèque des sciences et technologies* until it was converted into a museum. The original interior was the work of the Belgian designer Jules Wabbes (1919 – 1974): his elegant curved tables, door handles and lighting seamlessly blend in with the overall design of the museum.

1ST FLOOR THIS IS A UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Journey of a work of art Little natural history cabinet

THE FIVE KEY IMPULSES

2ND FLOOR FEELING AMAZEMENT

The world's incredible diversity

Cabinet of curiosities, a place of wonder and amazement. Sundry objects, sometimes mysterious or curious, from both the natural and the cultural world.

Stuffed animals, minerals, shells, fossils, African masks, ancient objects, globes, and much more.

QUESTIONING

The researchers' passion

From the infinitely small to the infinitely large, from the universe to mankind, everything is a voyage of discovery and research.

● Some important researchers from the *Université catholique de Louvain* – Various collections that are part of the University's scientific heritage: clinical anthropology collection, instruments for observation and measurement, entomological, geology, palaeontology and archaeology collections.

PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE

Writing & calculation

Two inventions for formalizing and passing on knowledge.

Manuscripts from different periods and regions in the world to illustrate and understand graphical development and the diversity of content and media – Manual and mechanical calculating instruments that pre-date the advent of electricity.

3RD FLOOR BEING MOVED

Modern art. Creative freedom

Art in the 20th century. An intense period of individual expression and visual quests.

Works by Mig Quinet, Walter Leblanc, Jo Delahaut, Pierre Alechinsky, Erró and Gertrude O'Brady, etc. From abstraction and Figuration narrative to naive painting, outsider art and surrealism.

4TH FLOOR BEING MOVED

Antiquity: three cradles of ancient civilizations

Free flow of ideas, shapes, techniques and beliefs in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and in ancient Egypt.

Glass and ceramic vessels, funerary and votive objects, plaster casts, etc.

Middle Ages & the early modern period. Western religious expression

Examples of artistic creation inspired by Western Christianity over more than a thousand years, with special emphasis on Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque art.

Altarpieces, paintings, sculptures and church furniture variously illustrate the themes of the birth and passion of Jesus, other passages from the Bible and the lives of the saints.

History of engraving. 15th – 20th century

Discover the history of the major stylistic movements through engraving.
Chronological presentation of prints by famous artists such as Dürer, Rembrandt, Goya, Pissarro, Picasso, Miró, etc.

PRINT LAB

Touching, playing, understanding. The engraving.

3D LAB

Touching, playing, understanding. The sculpture.

5TH FLOOR BEING MOVED

European folk art

Presentation of objects (19th – 20th century) that gave expression to faith in daily life.

Crucifixion bottles, reliquaries, show-boxes, holy cards, reverse glass paintings, ex-voto and medallions.

African art. Beliefs and ritual objects

Collection of African art objects (late 19th – early 20th century), manifestations of the sacred and the invisible.

Statuettes with magical powers, objects of divination and healing or inhabited by invisible forces, ritual masks and symbols of power. Collection originates from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

COLOUR LAB

m Touching, playing, understanding. The colour.

6TH FLOOR CONTEMPLATING

Through the eyes of an amateur

Collection of Dr Charles Delsemme, bequeathed as an 'ensemble voulu' to create a dialogue between the works.

A gallery of heads, a drawing by Dodeigne 'conversing' with a statue of Athena, and paintings by Magritte and Delvaux displayed alongside statuettes from near and far are just some of the items on show.







