

## Mechelen and early 19th cent. sculpt. (Mechelen, 10–11 Mar 06)

### Call for papers

The Stedelijke Musea Mechelen, The Koninklijke Kring voor Oudheidkunde, Letteren en Kunst van Mechelen and The Low Countries Sculpture Society organise the international conference

« Mechelen and early nineteenth-century sculpture : between tradition and innovation »

on the occasion of the exhibitions « Welgevormd. De Mechelse beeldhouwschool in de negentiende eeuw en haar Europese uitstraling », Mechelen, 18 February – 23 April 2006

Deadline: 15 November 2005

### Aims

Mechelen was a thriving centre for sculpture in the early 19th century, balancing itself between the Ancien Régime traditions and the innovations brought from abroad, especially from Italy and Paris. It played with many new themes and expressions in the neo-classical or romantic veins, unless it was mending or recreating church furniture that had been destroyed during the French Revolution – thereby ensuring a continued tradition of baroque sculpture. Taking the sculptural production at Mechelen in the first half of the 19th century as a starting point, illustrated by the exhibitions presented by the Stedelijke Musea, the conference wishes to explore the interactions between the different national schools at a time of nation formation and the search for national identities, culminating in the creation of the Belgian kingdom in 1830/31. Some of the following questions and issues may form the starting point for the papers, though they are of course not limitative :

### **The sculptor's attempt at getting patronage – new ways since the revolutionary period**

The commissioning process : intentions and expectations

### **Survival or revival ? Style and its implications**

Old and new iconographies

### **The materials involved, their practice, their cost and their relative status**

Political structures and the consumption of sculpture

**The architectural context for sculptural production**

Painting and sculpture : competition and cross-fertilisation

**Academies and the teaching of sculpture**

The export of sculpture vs. emigration

(NB. Thursday 9 March, official opening of TEFAF, Maastricht)

Friday 10 March 2006, 11.00-18.00

Papers interspersed by a visit to the exhibitions (the sculptures at Lamot ; the drawings at the Schepenhuis)

Saturday 11 March 2006, 9.00-17.00

Papers in the morning and early afternoon, followed by a visit of sculpture on squares and in a selection of churches in Mechelen  
Publication Ensured by the Koninklijke Kring voor Oudheidkunde, Letteren en Kunst van Mechelen.

Paper proposals should arrive by 15 November 2005 at the Society's secretariat (see below) in the format of an A4 page abstract and a brief CV, preferably by email. Proposals and papers will be accepted in Dutch, French and English.

Organising Committee:

Dr Raphaël de Smedt, Koninklijke Kring voor Oudheidkunde, Letteren en Kunst van Mechelen

Wim Hüsken, Stedelijke Musea Mechelen

Dr Alain Jacobs, The Low Countries Sculpture Society

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Reference:

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