

# HORTA MUSEUM

## PRESS RELEASE

### PUSHING BACK THE WALLS

### FIVE ARTISTS DRESS HORTA'S HOUSE

UNIQUE WALLPAPER BY:

NICOLAS STOLARCZYK, CHRISTOPH HEFTI, PIERRE MARIE AND THE CHEVALIER-MASSON DESIGN DUO

FROM 3 SEPTEMBER TO 14 NOVEMBER 2021

MADE BY THE ATELIER D'OFFARD, TOURS, FRANCE

PART OF BRUSSELS DESIGN SEPTEMBER.



For the first time in the history of the Horta Museum (Saint-Gilles), the museum will be offering its spaces to five artists, whose work will remain there for over two months. The Chevalier-Masson design duo (BE), Pierre Marie (FR), Christoph Hefti (CH) and Nicolas Stolarczyk (FR) will be given free rein to cover the walls of four rooms in the museum with custom-designed wallpaper that harmonises perfectly with Horta's work and home. Visitors will be able to see the results of this project, the first of its kind for the Museum, from 3 September to 14 November, as part of the Brussels Design September events.

*Ornamental wallpaper pushes back the wall, because it nonetheless participates in the outside that it evokes... It suggests life while no longer affirming it.*

Henry van de Velde

In 2020, the Horta Museum launched a theme devoted to ornamentation. This year, five European artists have been selected by the artistic committee to decorate the walls of four rooms in the Museum, using unique, custom-made wallpaper designed to echo the works created by Horta and to harmonise with the house. They are:

- The Chevalier-Masson Design Duo ([www.chevalier-masson.be](http://www.chevalier-masson.be)),
- Pierre Marie ([www.pierremariegalerie.com](http://www.pierremariegalerie.com))
- Christoph Hefti (Instagram [@c\\_hefti\\_2017](https://www.instagram.com/c_hefti_2017))
- Nicolas Stolarczyk (Instagram [@nicolas.stolarczyk](https://www.instagram.com/nicolas.stolarczyk))

Their wallpaper will be produced, on this occasion, by the Atelier d'Offard in the French city of Tours ([www.atelierdoffard.com](http://www.atelierdoffard.com)), which specialises in recreating historical wallpaper. Of course, it will be put up in rooms in the house and studio that have no original painted murals, namely:

- Victor Horta's study
- His smoking room
- Simone Horta's bedroom
- Her private sitting room



The five artists have been given free rein for their wallpaper designs but have been instructed not to extend their work beyond the room allotted to each of them. They have admired and then analysed the many examples of interior decor conceived by Horta, or have simply immersed themselves in the atmosphere of these surroundings; all share an interest in colour, pattern and ornamentation. Some come from the world of textile design, while others even define themselves as ornamentalists. Both respectful and bold in their approach, the artists have adapted their decorative vocabularies and palettes to these spaces steeped in history; once ahead of their time, these rooms will display a new form of avant-garde creativity for a few months.

In order to achieve a harmonious relationship between past and present, the artists were asked not to make use of the latest technology when creating their wallpaper, but to work with an artisan, in accordance with their brief and requirements. The Atelier d'Offard, based in Tours, creates wallpaper using the same procedures that were followed in Horta's day. Only the blocks are 3D-printed.

Respect for work carried out by hand and for the artisanal professions is one of the fundamental principles upheld by the Horta Museum, and the Atelier d'Offard shares these values. Through this invitation offered to five artists, visitors will see that creative activity, artisanship and ornamentation live on in our era, in an updated form.

In fact, this is the first time in the Horta Museum's history that such an ambitious commission has been given to contemporary creators; these examples of "bespoke" wallpaper demonstrate their art and are worthy heirs to the legacy that Horta bequeathed to today's artists and creators, as reflected in his works. Art Nouveau still has more to say...

This exhibition has been made possible thanks to the support of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and our partners: the Municipality of Saint-Gilles, the Brussels-Capital Region, and Brussels Design September.

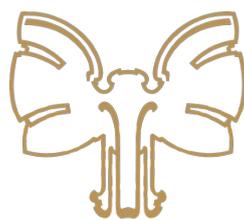


**BRUSSELS  
DESIGN  
SEPTEMBER**

## Exhibition title: Pushing Back the Walls

3 september > 14 november 2021

Press conference in the presence of the artists : 31 August at 11h00



MUSÉE HORTA  
SAINT-GILLES  
HORTAMUSEUM  
SINT-GILLIS

Rue Américaine, 27  
B-1060 Brussels  
Belgium

[www.hortamuseum.be](http://www.hortamuseum.be)

+ 32 2 543 04 90  
[info@hortamuseum.be](mailto:info@hortamuseum.be)

Benjamin Zurstrassen  
Curator  
+ 32 2 543 04 93  
[b.zurstrassen@hortamuseum.be](mailto:b.zurstrassen@hortamuseum.be)

PRESS CONTACT  
CARACAScom  
[info@caracascom.com](mailto:info@caracascom.com)

The Museum is supported by the local authority of Saint-Gilles,  
the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, the Brussels-Capital Region,  
and the Fonds Baillet Latour



**St Gilles Gillis**



# Visitor information

## **Horta Museum**

Rue Américaine, 27  
B-1060 Brussels  
Belgium

[www.hortamuseum.be](http://www.hortamuseum.be)

+32 2 543 04 90

[info@hortamuseum.be](mailto:info@hortamuseum.be)

## **Getting here**

Trams 81, 92, 97 (place Janson) / Bus 54

## **Opening times**

14.00 to 17.30 Tuesday to Friday incl.

11.00 to 17.30 Saturday and Sunday

Last entry 17.00

Mornings are reserved for group visits.

The interior of the Museum's is made up of 11 half-floors arranged around a narrow central staircase. Because the whole of this structure has listed status, we are unable to welcome visitors with reduced mobility to all areas. A virtual tour is, however, available on application at the ticket-counter.

## **Closing times**

Every Monday, 1 January, Easter Sunday, 1 May,  
Ascension Day, 21 July, 15 August, 1 November,  
11 November, 25 December

## **Prices**

Admission to the exhibition is free, but the following charges apply for access to other areas:

Adults – 10.00 €

Students (18+) – 5.00 €

Seniors, Belgian jobseekers, residents of Saint-Gilles – 6.00 €

Primary and secondary school children/children 6 to 18 years – 3.00 €

Article 27 – 1.25 €

ICOM, OKV concessions, press-card holders, disabled visitors – free

Museum Pass, ART NOUVEAU PASS – free