

CONVERSATION CARDS



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IN CONVERSATION

Welcome in the museum "Mu.Zee" in Ostend. With these Conversation Cards, we invite you to use the Conversation Cards while exploring some artworks from our collection. We talk about everyday topics such as theatre, music, children, ... to get to know each other and each other's culture. It is a pleasant introduction to the museum and the art it preserves.

What is a Conversation Card?

On a Conversation Card you can find a picture and the topic of the painting, there are random questions to get to know the painting and the person you are talking to. You can also find information on the artwork below. We made the conversation cards with Erasmus students during their stay in Belgium.

What are Conversation Cards for?

The cards are especially for non-native newcomers and anyone who wants to practice English in a fun way, while also learning about our culture and our art.

How to use a Conversation Card?

Simply try to answer the questions that are on the Conversation Cards, they are great conversation starters.



Do you want to know more about Erasmus project "Art For All"? Scan the QR-code!

At Home



What do you see in the painting?	How do you feel when you look at the painting?
Would you hang it in your own house? Why (not)?	Do you have a cosy corner at home?
What do you think of the painting on the wall inside of the painting?	What do you like most about your home?
What was the first thing you noticed?	What is something you would like to change in your home?
What did you notice at second glance? (The hidden objects)	Did you already move houses? What are things you miss about your previous houses?

Ensom was 78 years old when he painted this work. He was a world famous painter at that time, even if the great years of creation were far behind him. This work must be placed in a series of studio interiors. We recognize objects that were part of Ensom's universe and that have long been kept in his house: the stuffed parrot, the clarinet, the chest of drawers. An older work by the artist hangs on the wall.

Birth



What do you see in the painting?

How does it make you feel?

How do you celebrate a birth in your country?

Are there different traditions for a boy or a girl?

If you had a baby, would you prefer a boy or a girl? Why?

Were you born in a hospital or at home?

What do you like most about babies?

What season were you born in?

How many children has a family in your country?

Do you have siblings? Tell me about them. If not, how is it to grow up as an only child?

Jean Brusselmans painted his son Armand in his crib in 1911. Shortly before that, he decided to be a full time artist. He lived in Brussels with his friend and study mate Rik Wouters. Brusselmans was looking for his own style and found a lot of inspiration in his own environment.

Insomnia



What do you see in the painting?

Which colour tones are used? Do you like them?

What is happening in the painting?

How does this painting make you feel?

What keeps you up at night?

How many hours do you sleep at night?
Are you a good sleeper?

What do you do when you can't sleep?

Is depression something that is talked about in your country?

Why is depression associated with black and white?

How can you help a friend that is depressed?

Self-portrait with a mirror, Leon Spilliaert, 1908

Léon Spilliaert is a night person. The darkness of night accompanies him on his lonely wanderings in Ostend or when - tormented by stomach ache - he wanders into the silent rooms of his own home. The darkness blurs the forms. Spilliaert paints and draws the night, streetlights and moonlight on the objects with a very personal technique. They create endless shades between light and darkness. The compelling search for his identity prompted him to create a series of expressive self-portraits in a very oppressive atmosphere. In *Self-portrait with mirror*, Spilliaert seems to slip away into darkness and we see only a shadow of the artist who is overcome by fear. We see Spilliaert with large hollow eyes and an open mouth that seems to be gasping for breath. In the background the clock is ticking and showing that his time is almost up.

The carriage



“De sjees” (the carriage) is one of the main works of Constant Permeke. It was painted near Jabbeke. The warm, contrasting colours are exceptional for art in the roaring twenties. Permeke represented the happy mood on Sundays in the countryside by the playful movement of the horse.

What do you see in the painting?

Which colour tones are used? Do you like them?

What is happening in the painting?

How does this painting make you feel?

What type of transport do you like most? Why?

What type of transport do you like the least? Why?

Do you think about the environment when choosing transport? Why (not)?

Do you still use horses in your country? What for?

What is the most popular way of transport in your country?

Do you like the travel to get to your destination? Why (not)?

Circus



What do you see in the painting?

What colours do you see?

Have you ever been to a circus?

Do you think that animals should be allowed in a circus?

Do you know any cool circus tricks?

What do you think is the most common circus act?

Do you think that some circus acts are too dangerous?

Do you like it when they use fire in shows?

Have you ever been part of a circus act?

What is your favorite circus act?

Vantongerloo, Georges

Character in interior, 1921

The woman in the interior was Georges' first wife Vantongerloo. She was the model for his portrait.

The hunter



What do you see in the painting?

Which colour tones are used? Do you like them?

What is happening in the painting?

How does this painting make you feel?

What do you like most about autumn? Why?

What do you hate about autumn? Why?

What do you do in autumn in your country?

How do you feel about hunting?

Is there typical food you eat or like in autumn?

What is your favorite animal living in the woods? Why?

De Jager, 1931, Edith van Leckwyck-Campendonck

Edith van Leckwyck-Campendonck was a Belgian painter who was born in 1899. Museum Drachten featured Edith van Leckwyck-Campendonck's work in the past. Edith van Leckwyck-Campendonck's work has been offered at auction multiple times, with realized prices ranging from 358 USD to 3,588 USD, depending on the size and medium of the artwork. Since 2005 the record price for this artist at auction is 3,588 USD for Fisherman, sold at Lehner Art Auctions in 2021. The artist died in 1987.

Artist's alternative names: Edith Gertrude van Leckwijck, Edith van Leckwyck

The opera of Beijing



What do you see?	What are they doing?
Are they happy? Why (not)?	What is interesting about the painting?
Which colours do you see?	What title would you give this painting?
Have you ever been in a play before?	How could the play end?
What are the different roles in the play?	What do you feel when you look at this painting?

Alice Frey's grandfather has an eyewear shop in the Vlaanderenstraat in Ostend. In the summer of 1914, Alice stays with her grandfather and meets James Ensor who lives in the same street. Due to the outbreak of the First World War, the family ended up living in Ostend for almost a year and a half. Alice Frey becomes close friends with James Ensor. He delivers her paints, teaches her to draw and takes a great interest in 19-year-old Alice. Back in Antwerp, she takes classes at the Academy and mixes in the Antwerp avant-garde art circles, which reached a peak in the 1920s. In her studio she opts for a world of fantasy and imagination, with dream decors full of clowns, harlequins and young partying people. Carnival is her favorite theme. Her touch is light and colorful, the atmosphere is poetic, dreamy and melancholy. There is a great admiration for James Ensor.

Theatre



What do you think about the colors that are used in the painting ?

The painting is about a theatre. Have you ever been in a theatre ?

What do you think the theatre is about?

What do you like about this painting ?

Why do you think or don't think theatre is a form of art?

What kind of theatre do you like ?

Do you prefer movies or going to a theatre? Why?

What is your favourite play? Why?

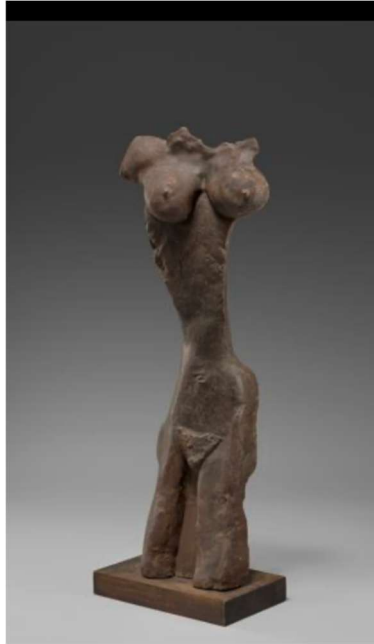
If you could, would you want to be a part of a theatre and why ?

What kind of music do you think is good for a theatre?

Georges Lemmen, Götterdämmerung, 1903

"Götterdämmerung" was first performed in 1903 in De Munt in Brussels. For this reason, R. Cardon dates the work to about that time. He early became a supporter of Neo-Impressionism. Later he combined painting with design in the applied arts.

Womanhood



What do you see in the sculpture?

Why do you think there is no head and limbs?

What do you think about the proportions? Why is that, you think?

What do you think the artist wanted to say with this sculpture?

What does it mean to be a woman?

Do you think on average women have an easier life than men? Why (not)?

Is the daily life of women here different than in your country? Why?

What are some issues women still struggle with today?

How can we help men and women understand each other better?

Is breastfeeding common in your country? Why (not)?

Torso, Constant Permeke, 1938

Plaster was a cheap material that was easy to find before and during the war. Incidentally, Permeke liked working with plaster because it allowed him to make constant changes. 1938 was the year Permeke made his breakthrough as a sculptor. Paul Haesaerts visited him for the first time in Jabbeke and became acquainted with his sculptures. He wrote the booklet 'Permeke sculpteur', which appeared in February 1939 and accompanied the first exhibition of Permeke's sculptures at the Palace of Fine Arts in Brussels.