

A  
R T I S T S  
S  
coffre  
fort  
C L U B

63 Rue du Houblon, BE-1000 Bruxelles // Hopstraat 63, BE-1000 Brussels  
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## PRESENTATION

### The Artists Club

In March 2012, Thibaut Espiau, Ištvan Išt Huzjan and Grégoire Motte established the Artists Club, a group of artists whose primary activity is spending time together and discussion but not developing an art practice as a collective. A few months later, they discovered a huge Fichet Bauche brand vault on the mezzanine floor of the building where they had their studios. This steel cube of several tones was to mark the start of a palpable artistic collaboration between members of the club as well as the opening of an exhibition space. Both activities are closely intertwined.

### First works

The renovation of the vault and the surrounding room gave rise to the first works by the trio of artists. These were mostly objects documenting the way the space was used (First floor cloth (pink and pierced)) or things they find in the rubble (A little gold) or the use of the volume of rooms as a camera obscura to observe the street upside down.

### The Vault

The box is a cube of 230 x 280 x 230 cm. The interior space measures 200 x 250 x 200 cm. It is placed in the middle of a room of thirty square meters on the mezzanine of a former jeweler's place located on 63 Rue du Houblon in the centre of Brussels.

From the street, two windows give a view looking down onto the vault and a third window serves as a showcase for graphic proposals. On December 20th, 2012, the Vault was unveiled to the public as a work by the Artists Club as well as a new exhibition space. It was empty and simply furnished with a white carpet. What followed was a party.

### The Carpet

The dirty white carpet was removed and kept as another trace of evolution of the Artists Club's Vault: a trace from the first meeting between the Vault and its public. Since then, for each exhibition, the Artists Club changes the carpet in the Vault, and keeps it as a souvenir of the collaboration with the guest artist. Invited by the Brussels based fair 'Brussels Cologne Contemporaries' The Artists Club presented their collection of eleven carpets in January 2014 in Cologne.

### Exhibitions

The frequency and duration of the exhibitions is very irregular (one night only sometimes) because the goal is not to "make exhibitions" but to try to invite artists who belong to Artists Club personal art history and to make it public. With very limited financial resources, Artists Club often has to wait, like a trapdoor spider, for artists to be close to Brussels in order to work with them in the Vault.

We claim periods of inactivity as well as the furtive nature of certain exhibitions because we think it is more natural than a continuous stream of proposals. We are artists and we run the place as such. The exhibitions at the Vault are the result of discussions between artists (who integrate the Club for the duration of the exhibition) and us. So in some respects, these exhibitions are actually collaborations. We produce with each artist an edition that accompanies the exhibition. These editions are small booklets, posters, sound works on USB keys, etc.

## **ARTISTES & EXPOSITIONS**

ARTISTS CLUB (FIRST OPENING)

BARBARA PEREYRA & FILIP VAN DINGENEN

*MIRA. MAR Y OTROS*

ROBERT WILHITE

EARTHPILLARS

EVOR

FORTRESSES

MATTHIEU MANCHE

MADE IN CHINA

ELLA DE BURCA

ILLUMINATING KUNSTHOLES

KURT RYSLAVY

LA PÉRUODE VERTE (jamming money)

JAMES BECKETT

"That's that, that way 'round, basically – as you probably know"

YVES GRENET

LA FABRIQUE D'ÉMOTIONS

CHRISTOPHE TERLINDEN

BEEP

SADAHARU HORIO + On-Site Art Squad «KUKI»

## **A C C F hors les murs**

BRUSSELS COLOGNE CONTEMPORARIES 2013

ART BRUSSELS 2015 - 25-27 Avril - Brussels expo







Coffre Fort



# DE TOUR MIRA. MAR Y OTROS



**Bolivar**  
**Tapalque**  
**Azul**  
**Tandil**  
**Mar Chiquita**  
**Tordillo**  
**Magdalena**  
**Navarro**  
**Mercedes**  
**Exaltación de la Cruz**  
**Baradero**  
**San Antonio de Areco**  
**Capitan Sarmiento**  
**San Pedro**  
**Arrecifes**  
**Pergamino**  
**Chivilcoy**

*Libreto para el Bicentenario*



Barbara Pereyra & Filip Van Dingenen, *MIRA. MAR Y OTROS*  
Robert Wilhite *EARTHPILLARS*



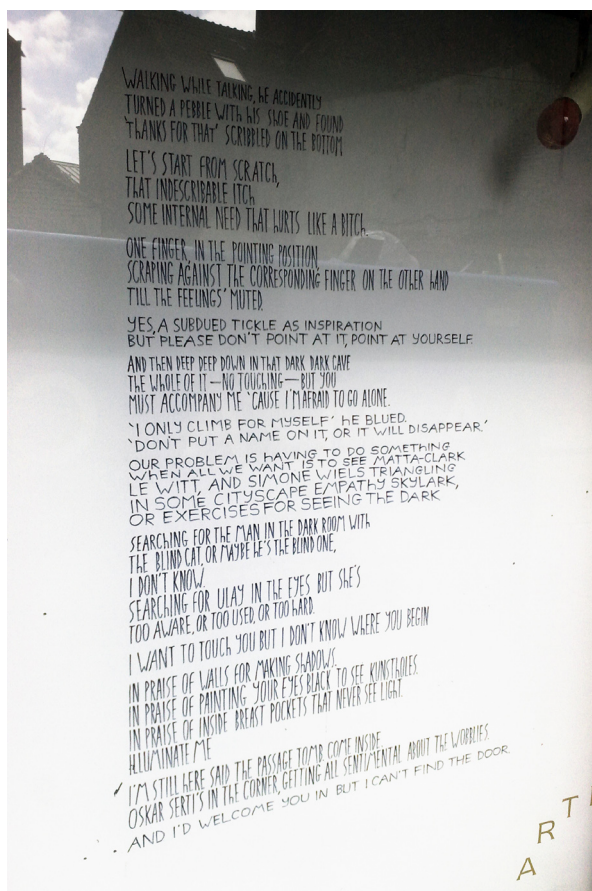


Kurt Rylavý, LA PÉRUODE VERTE  
 Evor, FORTRESSES  
 Matthieu Manche, MADE IN CHINA



James Becket, "That's that, that way 'round, basically – as you probably know"  
Ella De Burca, ILLUMINATING KUNSTHOLES





Cristophe Terlinden, BEEP  
 Ella De Burca, ILLUMINATING KUNSTHOLES  
 Cristophe Terlinden, BEEP





Yves Grenet, LA FABRIQUE D'ÉMOTIONS  
SADAHARU HORIO + On-Site Art Squad «KUKI»



Artists Club, MARCHANDS DE TAPIS, Brussels Cologne Contemporaries 2013



## PRESSE

# this is tomorrow

Contemporary Art Magazine

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Various venues, Brussels, 18 Sep 2013

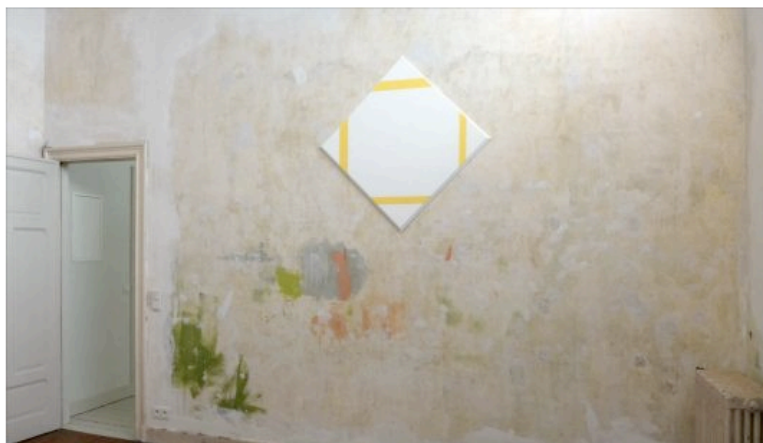
### **Brussels Art Days: the Brussels contemporary art scene**

For their current project, they invited Amsterdam-based visual artist James Beckett, who in turn appointed a professional, registered dowser to investigate the space using an angular rod, looking for a treasure that is supposedly hidden behind the walls. The whole process is recorded by the artist and played back in the vault on a reel-to-reel tape deck, almost summoning the dowser's presence. After the investigation, Beckett decided to do the proof by digging into the wall on some of the indicated parts – obviously without result, but that's beside the point. Beckett managed to develop a proposal that fits the space so well, it feels like it has always been there. And which, at the same time, makes 'Coffre Fort' well worth another visit.

With just a few snapshots of the Brussels art scene, it is hard to do justice to its sparkling variety. In a series of articles and interviews, we will continue this ongoing exploration, in order to slowly make you believe the hype.



## Boom in Brussel Les Instituts / De instituten



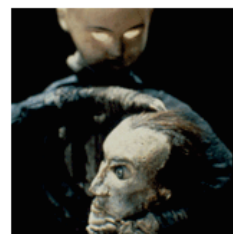
Installatie Jan Andriessse bij A.VE.NU.DE.JET.TE – INSTITUT DE CARTON

Brussel is het nieuwe Berlijn. Een onophoudelijke stroom van jonge kunstenaars en curatoren vestigt zich er. Door hun komst schieten de onafhankelijke kunstuimtes als paddenstoelen uit de grond.

In Metropolis M Nr 6 schrijft Maaïke Lauwaert over de bloeiende kunstscene in Brussel, aan de hand van een aantal van de meest inspirerende kleinere initiatieven. Hier de adressenlijst. Aanvullingen welkom.

Datum 11 December 2013

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The Quay Brothers' Universum  
nu bij EYE, t/m 9 maart

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## Abilene Gallery

Rue de la Victoire 163  
1060 Saint Gilles  
Bruxelles  
<http://www.abilenegallery.com/>

## Artist's Club Coffre Fort

Hopstraat 63  
1000 Brussel  
[Facebook](#)

## A.VE.NU.DE.JET.TE - INSTITUT DE CARTON

Avenue de Jette 41 – Jetselaan 41  
1081 Koekelberg / Brussels  
Metro Simonis, 10 minutes walk.  
<http://avenudejette.blogspot.nl/>

## 105 Besme



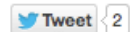
## Homage to Haneke and Les Nuits sounds off. This weekend in Belgium.

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013

Writers

[SARAH SCHUG](#),

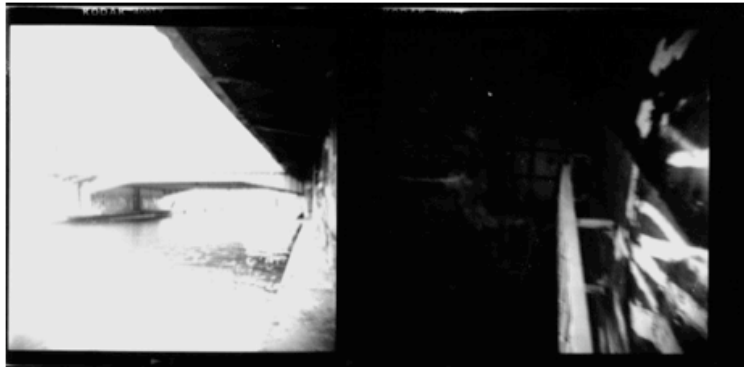
[CHARLINE STOELZAED](#)



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### Illuminating Kunsthöles, Brussels



Coffre-Fort, or Artists Club, is an initiative think up by artists [Thibaut Espiau](#), [Istvan Huzjan](#) and [Gregoire Motte](#) who, since last year, have been running a studio and exhibition space in a former jewellery vault. Their most recent expo opens this week and is centred around a project by Irish artist [Ella de Burca](#) who is known for her conceptual approach to creating situational and performance-based work. Illuminating Kunsthöles is the intriguing result of city walks made by the three Coffre-Fort founders in their neighbourhood: each one of them was asked to find a spot where the sun never shines and paint it black.

Opening 4 May

Artists Club Coffre-Fort, Rue de Houblon 63 Hopstraat – 1000 Brussels

[www.artistsclubcoffrefort.com](http://www.artistsclubcoffrefort.com)

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## The Artists Club Coffre-Fort in Brussels



One of the recent additions to the evolving artistic landscape in Brussels is the artist-run non-profit initiative The Artists Club Coffre-Fort, set up towards the end of last year by three individuals Thibaut Espiau, Ištvan Išt Huzjan and Gregoire Motte, who have been running this studio and exhibition space in the vault of a former jeweller that they have turned into a white cube. Since then, they have been organising an energetic series of exhibitions at the space, focusing on supporting experimental practices and the production of new work. Their most recent exhibition, by Irish artist Ella de Burca, who is currently based in Brussels, continued this ethos. Her exhibition at The Artists Club responded to the physical context of the space and its surrounds, and as well as to being the first woman artists to have a solo exhibition at the space. The exhibition itself was the presentation of a sparse display within the vault, which was the delicate trace of a wider process-based mode of collaboration





**L'IMPRENABLE  
COFFRE-FORT  
ARTIST'S CLUB**

03.2013

Hopstraat 63, 1000  
Bruxelles

Par Septembre Tiberghien

## L'IMPRENABLE COFFRE-FORT

En investissant le sous-sol d'un immeuble laissé vacant par un ancien diamantaire, l'Artists Club – un collectif piqué de dandysme, formé de trois artistes : Thibaut Espiau, Ištvan Išt Huzjan et Grégoire Motte – a trouvé une véritable mine d'or. L'identité du groupe s'est d'ailleurs forgée autour de ce coffre et de son probable contenu: leur logo, dessiné par les graphistes de Überknackig bureau, adopte la forme d'une bague où le mot *coffre-fort* tient lieu de diamant, s'inspirant des insignes des grands clubs sélects. Comme toute société secrète qui se respecte, l'Artists club communique peu sur ses activités, qui à défaut d'être clandestines, sont à tout le moins nocturnes. Les événements qui y sont organisés n'y durent guère plus qu'une soirée, les œuvres disparaissant ensuite comme par magie. Car, en plus d'offrir un espace mental propice au déploiement de réflexions métaphysiques, quelque chose de l'ordre du paranormal semble émaner de ce coffre.

Au-delà de la mise à disposition du lieu, qui est en soit une donnée très stimulante, les membres de l'Artists Club affirment ne pas avoir de visées curatoriales. Pour eux, le coffre-fort est en quelque sorte un accélérateur de particules. Il leur permet de laisser carte blanche à des artistes de diverses origines ou générations, de susciter des liens inattendus, sans avoir à assumer le rôle ni le propos de commissaires d'expositions. Ici, tout est question de rencontres et d'affinités électives, ce qui génère dans le meilleur des cas une énergie communicative, alors qu'en d'autres occasions l'enthousiasme est plus mesuré.

