

Timeless Gazes: From Pharaohs to the present day

With the collections of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art

From 10 April to 7 September 2025

Direction: Louma Salamé, Xavier Droux

Scientific Curation: Xavier Droux, Olivia Fahmy,

with the collaboration of Aurélie Quirion

The Boghossian Foundation and the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art jointly present an exhibition celebrating ancient Egypt and contemporary art in relation to the African continent.

For the first time in Belgium, approximately 130 works from the prestigious collection assembled by Jean Claude Gandur will be exhibited in the unique setting of the Villa Empain. The five collections housed at the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art encompass more than 4,000 works and objects, including over a 1,000 antiquities from the Mediterranean world – the cradle of our Greco-Roman civilisation – with a particular focus on Egypt. This archaeological collection stands out for its bronzes, reliefs, bas-reliefs, and stelae crafted over 2,000 years ago by the most talented artisans.

Organised around eight successive themes, the exhibition explores the depiction of the gaze and one's perception of their environment. On the one hand, it presents breathtaking examples of daily life and funerary art, including figurines, amulets, and sarcophagus masks. On the other hand, it features iconic characters from the Pharaonic period, such as a bust of Ramses II carved from red granite, dating back to the second millennium BC.

The itinerary showcases recent works by living artists who are closely connected to the rich diversity of the African continent. More than 40 paintings, photographs, and sculptures from the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art's collection of African Contemporary Art and of the Diaspora foster a lively and engaging dialogue on topics that already mattered at the time of the Pharaohs.



Boghossian Foundation

Villa Empain, Centre for 'art and dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 67 – 1050 Brussels

www.boghossianfoundation.be

Committed to building bridges between peoples and enriching the collective memory, the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art shares the fundamental goal of the Boghossian Foundation, which seeks to foster dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures. With this in mind, the invitation to invest the Villa Empain, where past and present meet, gains particular significance.

Curators

The exhibition is organised by Xavier Droux, Curator Archaeology Collection, and Olivia Fahmy, Curator Collection African Contemporary Art and of the Diaspora, with the collaboration of Aurélie Quirion, assistant curator Archaeology Collection and scientific associate Ethnology Collection, Fondation Gandur pour l'Art.

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art

Founded in 2010 by entrepreneur and art collector Jean Claude Gandur, the **Fondation Gandur pour l'Art** (FGA) is a non-profit organization aimed at fostering an understanding of our cultural heritage and education by providing public access to its internationally significant collections. The Fondation's collections encompass five distinct areas: archaeology, fine arts, decorative arts, ethnology and contemporary African and diaspora art. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the Fondation is committed to preserving, expanding, and showcasing its collections.

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art lends its works to museums and cultural institutions in Switzerland and abroad through numerous loans, exhibitions, and partnerships, notably with the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Spain) and the Réunion des Musées Métropolitains Rouen Normandie (France).

In May 2024, Jean Claude Gandur announced his project of building a museum, scheduled to open in 2030, in Caen (Normandy) to house the Fondation's collections permanently. Open to all, this future cultural and artistic venue will provide an extensive educational and outreach programme for young in the city and neighbouring areas.

fg-art.org



Boghossian Foundation

Villa Empain, Centre for 'art and dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 67 – 1050 Brussels
www.boghossianfoundation.be

The Boghossian Foundation

Created in 1992 by Robert Boghossian and his two sons, Jean and Albert, jewellers of Armenian origin, the Boghossian Foundation's primary mission remains to promote education and training. For the first 15 years, the Foundation focused on improving the lives of young people in Armenia and Lebanon. Since 2010, while continuing to support several social, educational and artistic projects in these countries, the Foundation has also been supporting a humanist project in Brussels: the Villa Empain.

It took four years to restore this Art Deco masterpiece to its former glory, a project that earned the Villa Empain the prestigious Europa Nostra award. With 800,000 visitors since its opening and 90,000 in 2024 alone, the Villa Empain has become a leading cultural venue on the Belgian art scene. Since 2016, under the direction of Louma Salamé, this exceptional space combines architectural heritage with artistic innovation.

As a centre for dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures, the Villa Empain organises ambitious exhibitions acclaimed in Belgium and abroad, as well as a programme of conferences, concerts, performances and festive events. It also encourages and stimulates artistic creation by awarding several prizes and hosting a residency for young artists from all over the world, thus reinforcing its role as a platform for exchange and creativity on an international scale.

villaempain.com

Information

The exhibition is open:

From 10 April to 7 September 2025

From Tuesday to Sunday, from 11 am to 6 pm

Press preview: Wednesday 9 April 2025, at 11 am

Art Talk: inaugural lecture with Jean Claude Gandur on Thursday 10 April 2025, at 7 pm. The conversation open to the public at the Villa Empain, will be available live and on line as well.



Boghossian Foundation

Villa Empain, Centre for 'art and dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 67 – 1050 Brussels

www.boghossianfoundation.be

Press contact

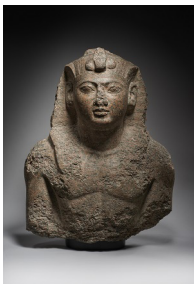
Boghossian Foundation

Caroline Schuermans
caroline@boghossianfoundation.be
+32 497 46 12 64

Fondation Gandur pour l'Art

C La Vie - L'Agence
Ingrid Cadoret
ingrid@c-la-vie.fr
+ 33 6 88 89 17 72

Images



Bust of Ramses II

2nd millennium BC

FGA-ARCH-EG-0133

© Photographic credit: Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva.
Photographer: Thierry Ollivier.



Gonçalo Mabunda

Untitled (series Masks), circa 2016

FGA-ACAD-MABUN-0003

© Gonçalo Mabunda
© Photographic credit: Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva.
Photographer: Lucas Olivet.



Boghossian Foundation

Villa Empain, Centre for art and dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 67 – 1050 Brussels
www.boghossianfoundation.be