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De Jonckheere's Old Masters Are Moving Back to Saint-Honoré

Ten years after leaving Paris, the Brussels-born gallery returns to the faubourg for its fiftieth year, bringing 400-year-old Flemish paintings to a street that has spent the last decade looking forward.

Walk down the rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré today and most of what hangs behind the gallery windows was made in your lifetime. Large canvases, white rooms, names you'll recognise from Art Basel Paris. That's what makes number 65 interesting.

Behind its black façade, from this autumn, you'll find Flemish paintings from the 1500s and 1600s. De Jonckheere is back in Paris.

The story starts in Brussels in 1976, when Georges De Jonckheere opened a gallery devoted to Flemish and Dutch Old Masters. His brother François joined a few years later. Paris followed in 1983, Geneva became home base in 2011, and a few years after that they left Paris altogether. Now, for the gallery's fiftieth anniversary, they're returning to a building a short walk from their old address. Laura De Jonckheere, the third generation, runs it alongside Georges and François.



PIETER BRUEGHEL THE YOUNGER
SAINT GEORGE'S KERMIS WITH THE DANCE
AROUND THE MAYPOLE, 1627

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There's something fitting about a family business that has spent half a century on a family of painters. The Brueghels have always been at the centre of what De Jonckheere does, and the family describes the gallery as being about "passing on knowledge, expertise and a way of looking at art." That's less of a slogan than it sounds. They digitised their archives in 2022 and opened them to researchers, which tells you how seriously they take the scholarship.

What makes this return worth writing about is the street itself. The faubourg was once where Paris bought its art, old and new. Today it belongs mostly to modern and contemporary galleries, and Old Masters have become something you see at TEFAF or in a museum rather than on an afternoon walk. De Jonckheere is betting that's changing, and the gallery says a new generation of collectors is paying attention. They aren't arriving as outsiders either. Since 2012 they've been hanging historical works alongside modern ones, so the conversation with the neighbours has been going on for a while.

The new space is led by Daisy Prevost-Marcilhacy, who has worked with the family for more than thirty years. The anniversary year has been building for weeks already. From 29 September, around a dozen of their works are on loan to the Brueghel exhibition at the Palazzo Reale in Milan, with a parallel show at Brun Fine Arts on Via Gesù. A book covering the gallery's fifty years, drawing on previously unpublished archives, is due out this year.



PIETER BRUEGHEL LE JEUNE
(BRUXELLES 1564-1638 ANVERS)
Le Paiement de la dîme

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§The best way to see it for yourself is opening night. On Monday 19 October, the gallery opens during MaSH, when 38 galleries across the Matignon Saint-Honoré quarter open their doors at once, the streets close to traffic and anyone can wander in. If Old Master galleries have always felt like places you'd need an appointment for, this is the evening to go. The inaugural exhibition, a selection of 16th and 17th century Flemish paintings, opens in November.

We'll admit Old Masters aren't usually where our Friday evenings end up. But standing in front of a painting that has lasted four centuries, a few doors down from work finished last spring, has a way of putting the week in perspective. If you're in Paris for Art Week, start here and work forwards.

Where: 65, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris 8e

When: Opening night Monday 19 October during MaSH. Inaugural exhibition from November.

Website: currently under maintenance