

**PRESS CONFERENCE: 12 October 10.30am at St Bavo's Cathedral (Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Ghent)**

### **Restoration of the *Ghent Altarpiece***

The exterior wing panels and their frames have been restored and the result is breathtaking!

### **Exhibition *restoration/REVELATION* at the Caermersklooster Provincial Cultural Centre, 12/10/2016-28/05/2017**

This exhibition takes you along the startling path that led the restorers to the real Van Eyck.

### **Announcement of projects by Tourism Flanders on Van Eyck and the *Ghent Altarpiece***

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After four years of research and restoration by the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA, Brussels), the greatly transformed outer wing panels of the *Ghent Altarpiece* and their frames have returned to St Bavo's Cathedral, where they are on show for the public from 13 October onwards. The lower register of the open polyptych has already been moved to the conservation studio in the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts for the second phase of the restoration.

The results of the first phase will be presented to the press at St Bavo's. Afterwards there will be interviews at the Caermersklooster, a light lunch and a visit to the exhibition *restoration/REVELATION. The exterior wings of the Ghent Altarpiece*.

### **Programme**

10h00 - Reception with coffee

10h30 - Word of welcome from Bishop Luc Van Looy

- Elke Sleurs, State Secretary for Science Policy
- Christina Ceulemans, General director a.i. of the KIK-IRPA
- Anne van Grevenstein, Professor emeritus: highlights of the first phase of restoration
- Jozef Dauwe, Provincial Culture Delegate: the exhibition *restoration/REVELATION. The exterior wings of the Ghent Altarpiece*
- Baron Jan Huyghebaert, President of the Baillet Latour Fund
- Sven Gatz, Flemish Minister for Culture
- Ben Weyts, Flemish Minister for Tourism: announcement of projects by Tourism Flanders on Van Eyck and the *Ghent Altarpiece*
- Annelies Storms, Ghent Alderman of Culture
- Canon Ludo Collin, Rector of St Bavo's Cathedral: announcement on the next phase of the restoration

11h40: Presentation of the restored exterior wing panels and photo opportunity (flashes not allowed)

12h00: Visit to the exhibition *restoration/REVELATION* at the Caermersklooster, Vrouwebroersstraat 6, 9000 Ghent (within walking distance). Interviews and light lunch. You will also receive the exhibition catalogue.

We will provide a press kit and a selection of high-resolution images for publication.

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