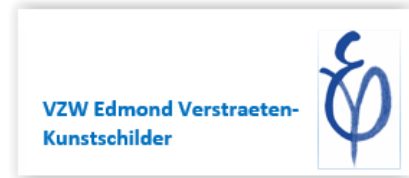




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INFOFLASH No. 79

Domburg (Netherlands): Light and Sky!

EXHIBITION

THE BELGIAN LUMINIST EDMOND VERSTRAETEN

From June 2 to November 3, 2024

Domburg became known at the end of the 19th century as a seaside resort located by the sea, not far from Antwerp and Ghent... Since the 1980s, it has been fully part of the "old-fashioned" artists' colonies » grouped within Euroart. Its dynamic MTVP Domburg Museum (marietakmuseum.nl) is a member of Impressionisms Routes© and Euroart and is home to ICEAC (International Center for the Study of European Artist's Colonies).

The MTVP Domburg Museum and the ICEAC are devoting the 2024 summer exhibition to the Belgian luminist Edmond Verstraeten (1870-1956), who painted almost continuously throughout his life.

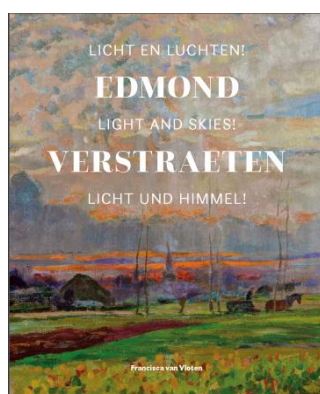
Curator Francisca van Vloten had a free choice from the collection of the Kunstkring VZW Edmond Verstraeten and some associated private collections. She focuses on the works that the artist made on his estate. She also selected several works that were created during his travels or as a result of them. Verstraeten traveled to Germany, Russia, France and Italy, among others.

Although he made small works outdoors, Verstraeten did not consider himself a plein-air artist. '*I paint from memory or make drawings during longer observations in nature*', he proclaimed. '*They serve as a guideline in my studio. [...] I paint small formats on canvas, panel or cardboard as studies in nature. Afterwards I can incorporate them into large works in the studio with the right colour shades.*' Some 100 enthusiastic people attended the opening of the exhibition in the Domburg Museum on Saturday June 1. After a word of welcome by museum chairman Arnold van Houtum, curator Francisca van Vloten explained the exhibition, Antoon Rumes, the artist's grandson, then told more about his unstoppable grandfather, Klara van Gorp performed the song 'Unstoppable' beautifully and finally Evert van Os, general director of Singer Laren – that museum is more or less the big brother of the Domburg museum with Evert as advisor – spoke the opening words. The exhibition is accompanied by a trilingual, extensive catalogue publication.

Edmond Verstraeten (1870-1951) was born in Waasmunster in East Flanders. He painted outdoors in his early days in the surroundings of Tervuren, Hasselt and Ghent... He was invited to exhibit with the avant-garde group "La libre Esthétique" in Brussels, exhibited in Munich, Paris, Antwerp, Buenos Aires and participated in 1923 - with Emile Claus and Théo van Rijsselberghe - in an important exhibition in Pittsburgh.

Luminist and pointillist, he occupies a "separate" place among the second generation impressionists. One of his biographers writes: *"He did not want to listen to anyone, only nature, clarity and light had his preference"*.

From March 12 to 26, 2023, Impressionisms Routes© successfully presented its Exhibition: "Impressionism in France and Europe" in Waasmunster (Château de Blauewendaal), in cooperation with the Association of Friends of Edmond Verstraeten, active member of our network.



Domburg, Pays-Bas, June, 1st, 2024