

## John Biggs memories of PEDAS trip to Belgium

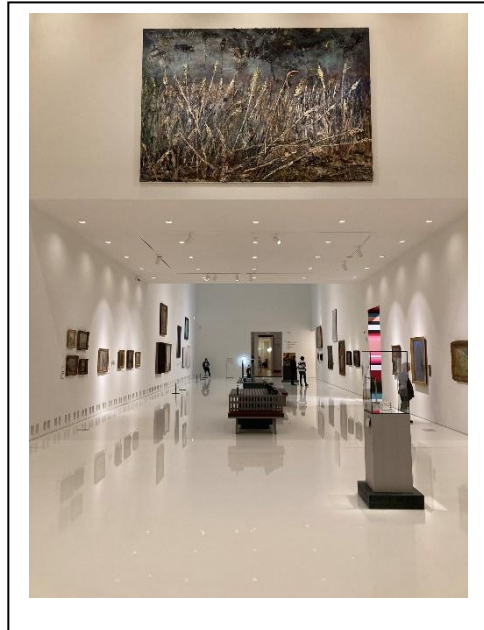
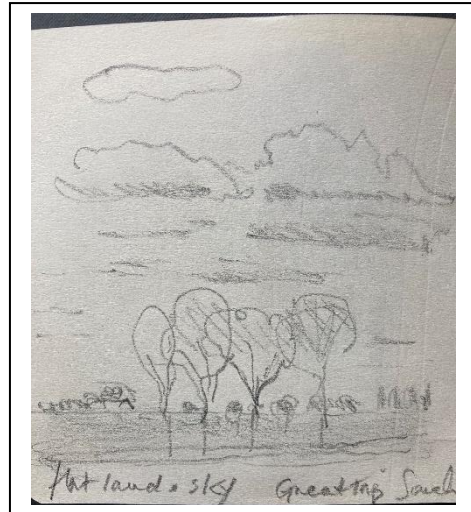
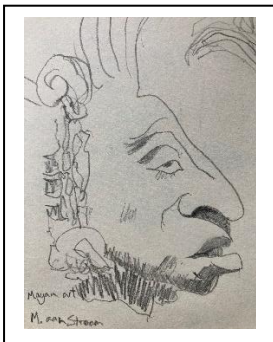
23 Artists from 3 art groups travelled to Antwerp with Angela Coaches for, 3 days of concentrated art gallery watching.

We couldn't believe how flat it was.  
Not a hillock from Calais to Antwerp

Antwerp is a little dour and a serious city but it has some fabulous galleries and world famous art works from 15<sup>th</sup> century to today. First up was the Royal Museum of Fine Arts or KMSKA, sparkingly exciting after its 11 year refurbishment. Some of the new internal spaces are stunning, with seemingly never ending stairs and glimpses of the ground floor from 4 floors up. Art is arranged by themes so you might get a medieval piece with an Impressionist next to a 20<sup>th</sup> century abstract.

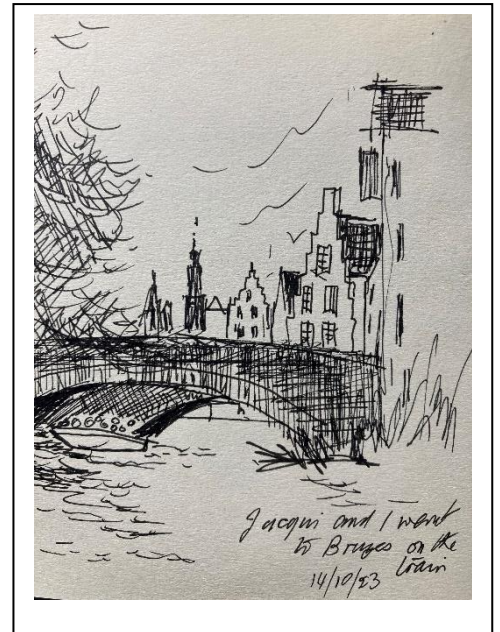
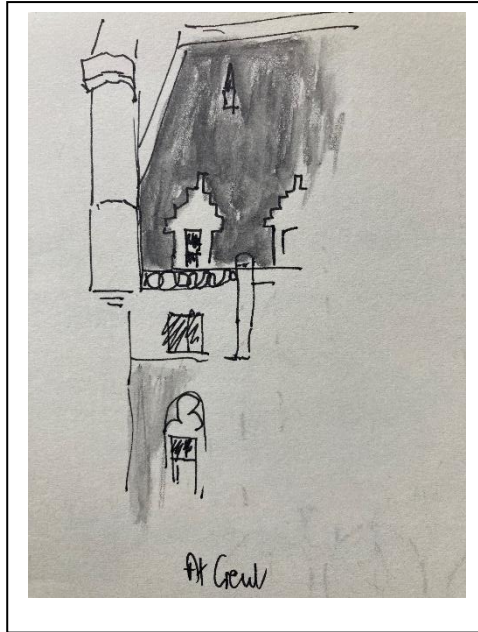
There are lots of smaller galleries like Museum Mayer van den Bergh, where you can get close up and dangerous with Breughel's "Mad Meg" from 1563 with its tumultuous vision of demons and devils.

And at the Museum aan de Stroom is a mesmerising collection of pre-Colombian art like you've never seen before.



Some people took a trip to "magnificent" Brussels with even bigger galleries and bristling architecture

On top of all that there were trips to the smaller, more touristy towns of Bruges and Gent. Some people even did some sketching.



*"Wonderful Holiday. New visions and new friendships."*

*"So moving to see faces and narratives reaching us from hundreds of years ago."*