



# The Circle of the Villa



**Boghossian  
Foundation  
Villa Empain**

# The Circle of the Villa



## The public at the heart of the Villa, an artistic and philanthropic commitment

The Circle of the Villa is a philanthropic circle composed of those who wish to actively participate in an exciting cultural project in the heart of Europe. Advocating values of discovery, respect, sharing and education, the Boghossian Foundation wishes to bring together the East and the West through culture and by promoting intercultural dialogue, at a time when this is more vital than ever for mutual understanding.

By joining the Circle of the Villa, you are supporting the Boghossian Foundation's work and providing a vital contribution to developing its artistic, educational and social activities. You will be part of its history, share in its commitment, and contribute to the international influence of its actions. Your participation also ensures the continuing vitality of the Villa, a landmark of Brussels' architecture. You will enjoy numerous advantages which give you privileged access to the art world and its major players, and help expand your horizons.

The Foundation thrives thanks to its members' support and I would be very pleased to include you among them.

Louma Salamé  
General manager

**«Art has for result, even if  
it isn't its apparent object,  
the betterment of mankind.»**

**Victor Hugo**



Centre d'art et de dialogue  
entre les cultures d'Orient et d'Occident

# The Boghossian Foundation



Throughout time and civilizations, art has enabled mankind to express its profound nature, to explore new horizons and means of expression and communicate sensitive discoveries. Art exists in a dimension above all other experience, giving the imagination and intuition the freedom to interpret the world. **Art has spanned human history, has brought mankind together and has been an indisputable element of peace.**

Created in 1992 by Robert Boghossian and his two sons, Jean and Albert, jewellers of Armenian origin, the Boghossian Foundation's primary objective was to contribute to development and education. Throughout its first fifteen years of existence, the Boghossian Foundation mainly focused on the task of helping to improve the living conditions of young people in Armenia and Lebanon in order to cultivate their potential to give them a better future.

Convinced that their Foundation's work needed to extend beyond the humanitarian approach and dedicate itself to humanist values through outreach, reconciliation and a better mutual understanding of Eastern and Western cultures, Jean and Albert Boghossian launched the Foundation towards a new phase in its evolution.

Whilst looking for a suitable space, the Villa Empain emerged as a clear choice, a symbolic beacon of an era and of Brussel's Art Deco architecture. The Boghossian Foundation purchased the Villa at a critical time, just as the damages it had suffered were about to become irreversible. After dedicating four years to the Villa Empain's complete restoration, the Boghossian Foundation opened its doors to the public in 2010 and has since welcomed more than 40.000 visitors every year.



The Villa has emerged as a Centre for art and dialogue between the cultures of the East and the West; it is now a space for encounters and special discoveries, a space of wonderment for its newfound beauty

and shared emotions thanks to the activities hosted within. For this cultural platform where the differences should not remain but become riches, we have chosen a universal language: that of artistic expression.

The pool, the terrace and the rear facade of the Villa Empain

# Our projects



## ◇ Heritage



The Villa Empain is a hallmark of Brussels' art world, and also a remarkable testament to the Art Deco movement. It was built at the beginning of the 1930s by architect Michel Polak under Baron Louis Empain's initiative.

Throughout its past as a private house, a museum, the USSR Embassy, and the headquarters of Luxembourgish television channel RTL, the Villa has reflected the rhythm of Brussels' history.

Partially destroyed and vandalized, it was abandoned in a deplorable state at the beginning of the 1980s. The Boghossian Foundation acquired the Villa Empain in 2006 and began

working on its restoration, a process which would take four years.

A project simultaneously complex and delicate, the meticulous restoration was carried out with respect to the history of the building and was awarded the Europa Nostra prize by the European Union. The same year, the classification of the site was approved by the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region. These two distinctions occurred in 2010, the year the Villa was opened to the public.

▲ The Villa Empain  
© G. De Kinder

◀ Restoring  
the glass ceiling  
by Max Ingrand

## ◇ Artistic

Aiming to promote a dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures, the Boghossian Foundation's programming highlights the common ground and richness of the differences between these multi-faceted cultures.

The Villa Empain offers a rigorous programme in constant interaction with current social and political events. Exhibitions, concerts, conferences, dance, literary salons, film screenings, performances – the choices are extensive and offer numerous gateways to intercultural dialogue.

Featuring artists from all backgrounds and internationally renowned curators, the exhibitions held at the Villa Empain never fail to intrigue the public.



*Image as Title* by  
Nairy Baghramian.  
Exposition  
Répétition 2016

## ◇ Social and educational



Developing an intercultural dialogue which encourages tolerance and respect has been one of the core values of the Boghossian Foundation since its creation.

The foundation offers programs which bring together civilisations and geographic areas in order to highlight exchanges and cultural diversity. Even beyond these achievements, the

Foundation aspires to make the Villa Empain a home open to all and pilots numerous social and educational projects in collaboration with both public and private entities in Belgium.

The dialogue between the public and the artwork provides a starting point for exploring the visible barriers created by language and cultural or social origins.

## ◇ Artist Residency

Opened in 2010, the Foundation's artist residency quickly became an essential part of the institution's work. By inviting artists from all backgrounds to stay at the Villa Empain, the Boghossian Foundation offers a serene time and place for artists to develop their practice, all the while taking inspiration from a dynamic cultural environment. In order to enable its residents to reach their potential through their artistic expression, the Foundation provides various spaces dedicated to creation, including a multi-purpose workshop, a recording studio and various exhibition areas.

Eager to engage the public in each aspect of the Villa's life, the Foundation invites the artists in residency to present their work to visitors in dynamic and engaging ways. These exchanges between artists of various backgrounds and the public open up a multicultural discussion.



**Andros Zins-Browne,  
*Already Unmade*,  
2016**

## Join Us



The Foundation's projects flourish thanks to its partners, patrons and Friends.

As a member of the Circle of the Villa, you will participate in the development of artistic, cultural, educational and social activities organized throughout the year. Supporting the Boghossian Foundation means being a part of its history, sharing its commitments, and contributing to its philanthropic activities as well as sustaining the continuation of the Villa Empain.

# Friends



Convinced by the Boghossian Foundation's project for intercultural dialogue, we are offering you, art and culture enthusiasts, to join Friends of the Villa. Friends enjoy a privileged participation in the Foundation through a wide variety of activities.



Exclusive guided tour of Dansaekhwa by exhibition curator Sam Bardouil

If you wish to contribute a larger donation, we would encourage you to become a patron or corporate partner of the Foundation.

	Friends 50 €	Friends of Honour 500 €	Philanthropic Friends 1500 €
<b>Personal member card</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Exhibitions</b>			
Free access	✓	✓	✓
Free entries for your guests		6 per year	10 per year
Exclusive invitations to private openings		✓	✓
<b>Guided tours</b>			
Discount on the monthly guided tours	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to the exclusive guided tours followed by a cocktail reception		✓	✓
An exclusive and private guided tour given by the Director of the Foundation			✓
<b>Complementary programming</b>			
Access to complementary programming (conferences, workshops, ...)	Priority	Priority and free	Priority and free
<b>Friends Program</b>			
Access to cultural outings and trips abroad	✓	Priority	Priority
Access to visits of artists' studios and to private collections, ...	✓	Priority	Priority and free
<b>Events</b>			
Access to the Foundation's annual Garden Party		✓	✓
Invitation to dinners organised by the Foundation			✓
<b>Visibility</b>			
		Special mention on the Foundation's website	Special mention on the Foundation's website and at the entrance
<b>Other advantages</b>			
10% off every purchase in the shop	✓	✓	✓
A free catalogue for each exhibition		✓	✓

# Patrons



Becoming a patron of the Boghossian Foundation means showing your commitment to the Villa Empain and reaffirming the importance of the humanist values which are at the core of our work. We guarantee that your donation will be used efficiently and will contribute to maintaining the high standards of the Foundation's projects.

If you wish to:

- help support our artistic programming
- contribute to sustaining the Villa Empain
- help provide universal access to the Foundation's activities
- support young artists' development through the artists in residency programme

be confident that your sponsorship will play an essential role in fulfilling the Foundation's mission.

## Contact

Boghossian Foundation  
communication@boghossianfoundation.be  
+32 2 627 52 30  
avenue Franklin Roosevelt 67, 1050 Brussels

# Partners



It's at the crossroads of two worlds that the most passionate synergies can take form. Conscious of the social role that companies play in contemporary society, the Boghossian Foundation wishes to establish relationships with corporate partners for mutual enrichment.

In these troubled times, courage and vision are essential to the durability of cultural institutions and it would be impossible for us to maintain our programme of intercultural dialogue without our partners' investment. This is why we don't work with a pre-established set of sponsoring packages but strive to develop targeted actions with our partners as a team.

Sponsorship opportunities are endless and we look forward to discussing your involvement and the benefits we each can gain from collaboration.



*L'Appel* by Johan Baudart, Garden of the Foundation

# The Circle of the Villa



## Bulletin d'adhésion Aanvraag tot toetreding Membership request

Nouvelle adhésion **Nieuwe toetreding** New membership

Renouvellement **Vernieuwing** Renewal

MONSIEUR  
**DE HEER**  
MR

MADAME  
**MEVROUW**  
MADAM

ENTREPRISE  
**BEDRIJF**  
COMPANY

NOM **NAAM** NAME

TÉLÉPHONE **TELEFOON** PHONE

PRÉNOM **VOORNAAM** FIRST NAME

ADRESSE **ADRES** ADDRESS

ENTREPRISE **BEDRIJF** COMPANY

DATE DE NAISSANCE **GEBORTE DATUM** BIRTHDATE

CP/VILLE **PC/STAD** ZIP/CITY

EMAIL

PAYS **LAND** COUNTRY

### Le Cercle de la Villa **De Kring van de Villa** The Circle of the Villa

AMIS  
**VRIENDEN**  
FRIENDS  
50€

AMIS D'HONNEUR  
**EREVRIENDEN**  
FRIENDS OF HONOUR  
500€

AMIS PHILANTROPES  
**FILANTROPISCHE VRIENDEN**  
PHILANTROPIC FRIENDS  
1 500€

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1 YEAR

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\_\_\_\_\_ YEARS

Je règle **Ik betaal** I pay

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**VIA OVERSCHRIJVING**  
BY BANK TRANSFER

Fondation Boghossian  
BNP Paraibas Fortis  
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BIC GEBABEBB

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BY CREDIT CARD

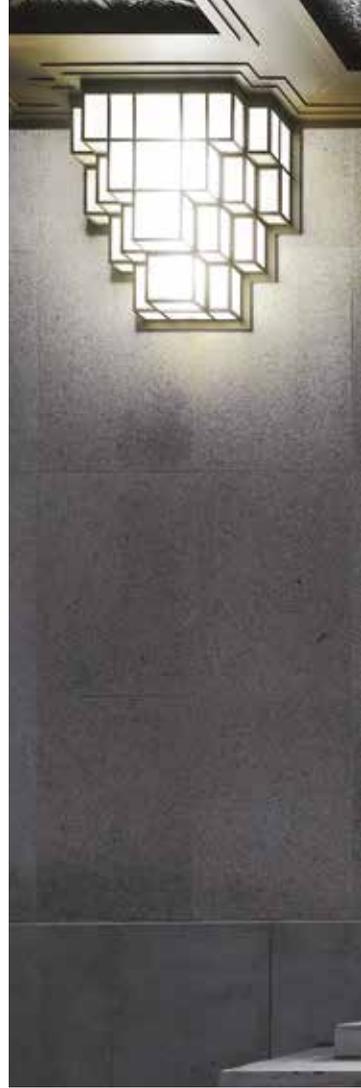
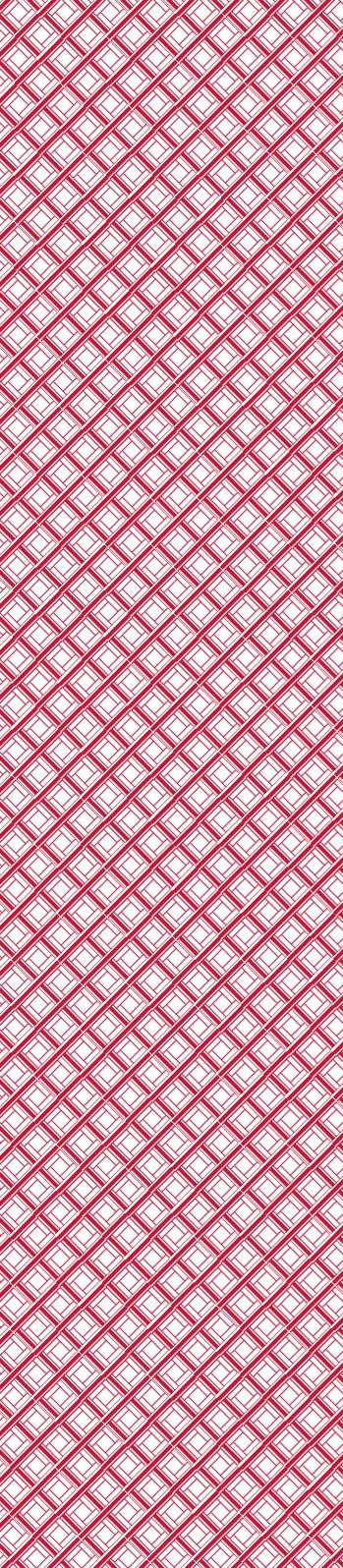
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Cryptogram

Date d'expiration **Geldigheidsdatum**  
Expiration date

Date **Datum** Date

Signature **Handtekening** Signature



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**Duvel**

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MU<sup>SiO<sub>2</sub></sup>