

ERASMUS HOUSE AND BÉGUINAGE
EXPO Omnia Vanitas - Eileen Cohen Sussholz
25.06 > 26.11



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[Press release](#)

From June 25 to November 26, 2020 the Erasmus House and Beguinage Museum will honour the ceramic work of the artist Eileen Cohen Sussholz in an exhibition entitled *Omnia Vanitas*.

A drainpipe, tuba, hair dryer, and knife are but a few of the everyday objects associated with highly symbolic representations borrowed from traditional still-life paintings. This series of ceramic works takes its name from the Renaissance genre of still-life painting – *Vanitas* – that referred to the Christian notions of the vanity of earthly possessions, the superfluousness of pleasures, and the fleetingness of life; a solemn reminder of the *memento mori* (“remember that you will die”) etched into the face of life...And all that gives the artist and viewers justification for enjoying her representations of earthly objects, despite their futile nature.

The matter of which the sculptures are made – clay, a fragile material close to bones and the human skeleton – also refers back to death. However, the iconographic vocabulary and brilliant glazes contrast joyously with the announced theme. Whilst the objects remain recognisable, their status, monetary value, aesthetic value, and meanings in today’s world are highly disparate. They are associated with *memento mori* torn from their original contexts to become part of a work that can become a symbol in turn, even if one is never quite sure of what. United with and melted into the clay and colour, they are

reborn in compositions of flashy, eccentric beauty in which parody and irony have important roles. Whilst the artist also draws inspiration from poetry and literature, as certain titles indicate, she suggests that we not give specific meanings and interpretations to her works. Instead, we should give free rein to what this dissonance may engender in our hearts and minds.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Erasmus House and Béguinage

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Rue de Formanoirstraat 31

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Openingshours

Tue. to Sun. 10.00 – 18.00

www.erasmushouse.museum



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