

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Welcome to Brussels: Europe's Unexpected Art-World Hotspot

Brussels may be less glamorous than Paris and more buttoned-up than Berlin—but that's exactly why the Belgian capital has emerged as an implausible artistic hub.

by Maura Egan
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My friend and I refer to Brussels as the B side of the record," says Megan Marrin, an American artist who recently returned to New York City after a yearlong residency at Wiels, Brussels's most important contemporary art center, which is housed in a former brewery in a gritty expanse south of the city. "It's not the catchy, pop-friendly A side that everyone falls for, but after listening to it a few times, you end up liking it even more."