

Press release

## Autumn Leaves

Fall Colour will be in full focus throughout the whole season from 6 september until 2 december. Belgium's National Botanic Garden presents the art of Roel Jacobs combined with a fall foliage trail.



### Autumn leaves

Artist Roel Jacobs chose to present his photographs 'Autumn Leaves' as a kind of *Kunstkammer*, a jewelbox, in the keep (fortified Tower) of the castle in the centre of the garden. Some fifteen years ago Jacobs started photographing autumn leaves with a big 8 x 10 plate-camera, which he continues still today. In a scientific manner he collects the leaves from an identified specimen tree, displays them on a large rectangle and photographs them always under the same conditions and identical parameters (same height, same light, same optics etc). In the course of his quest he visited many arboreta and botanic gardens in the northern hemisphere in order to encounter unique species with their brilliant hues of fall at a peak show time. The artist illustrates in this photographic inventory the biodiversity and also catches the unique temporary moment of colours changing nearly instantaneously on his images. Each year the beginning of autumn makes his heart beat with anticipation: "I do like the details"



Jacobs explains "each leaf is different, each shade of colour unique".

### Monumental Trees

Roel Jacobs expresses in this exhibition his passion for a tree being an individual and a timeless "monument". His project "Monumental Trees" makes people think about the importance of these beacons of time. Therefore he has 'living sculptures', trees, planted on symbolical and meaningful places such as the Middelheimmuseum in Antwerp or the Académie des Beaux Arts in Kinshasa. These seedlings should eternally be protected to be able to grow as living monuments for our grand-grand-children to enjoy. Some 30 pictures of monumental trees in Belgium, from his book "*Trees of Belgium. Revisited.*" are exhibited at the basement of the tower.



### Autumn trail

The exhibition continues in the garden and we invite the public to discover the special show of autumn colours outside. The National Botanic Garden of Belgium has selected together with Roel

Jacobs 14 trees that show a magnificent coloration in autumn. Each visitor of the garden receives a leaflet with the map and the specific information about the trees. The autumn colours may be shortlived and depends also on the weatherconditions and could be different each year for every species. Therefore a real size picture, made by Roel Jacobs during the preceding years, of the autumn leaves at their peak of these chosen trees is placed under each tree. In this manner one always comes at the right moment even if the change of colours has not started yet or if the leaves have fallen already.

## Practical Information

The exhibition 'Autumn Leaves' and the Autumn Colours Trail starts on september 8 and ends on december 2012. The National Botanic Garden opens each day at 9:30.

Admission 5 €; 60+, disabled persons 4€; -12 years, students and the persons accompanying disabled persons free. Admission includes the exhibition, the autumn trail and all collections of the Garden including the conservatory (partly under renovation). Walking shoes or wellies are recommended for the trail.



## Pictures for journalists can be downloaded:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/102592460575661840695/AutumnLeavesRoelJacobsSeptDec2012?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCOa5qdL-0-KehQE&feat=directlink> (Don't forget to mention © Roel Jacobs).

## For any further information, please contact

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