

HEADLINE: All things beautiful and Belgian

SUBHEADLINE: This week promises a score of cross-cultural delights

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Along with the Belgian Economic Mission taking place in Bangkok, which began yesterday and ends this Friday, February 12th to February 16th, presided over by HRH Crown Prince Philippe, heir to the throne, and led by Belgium State Secretary Annemie Neyts, the Wallonia-Brussels community in Bangkok has organised a variety of cultural events, ranging from fashion shows to art exhibitions.

HRH Princess Mathilde, who landed in Thailand on Sunday with HRH the Crown Prince, will also take part in the visit, while the various cultural events will be presided over by Belgian Minister of Fine Arts, Literature and Mass Communication Richard Miller.

The cultural programme opened with great pomp yesterday evening, with a gala dinner and the "Belgian Lifestyle" show held in the Royal Ballroom of The Oriental Hotel.

A collection of outfits by leading Belgian fashion designers such as Kaat Tilley, Dirk Van Saene and Yves Doods were displayed along with a glittering jewellery show set up by the High Council for Diamonds and a brilliant Nagara by Jim Thompson show.

Today will feature four events:

- u A conference by Marcel Paquet, professor of philosophy, entitled "La Pensée de Michel Foucault" will be held at Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Arts (Boromratchumarn Building, Room 707) at 1:30 pm. Michel Foucault (1926-1984) is one of France's most renowned philosophers and social critics.

- u The opening of a painting exhibition on "Aleksandr and the Cobra Group" with a conference by Minister Richard Miller at Chulalongkorn University will be at 2:30 pm followed by an exhibition of numerous Belgian contemporary painters, including Aubry, Binsfeld, Delmeire, Delsaut, Devallee, Mahieu, Panamarenko, Raveel, Szymkovicz, Vandercam, to be held in the Garden Wing of the Hilton hotel.

- u The day will end with the premiere of the film *Thomas est amoureux* (Thomas is in love) at the Alliance Française at 7:30 pm preceded by a presentation by film director, Pierre Paul Renders.

- u The crowning piece will be two shows: an exhibition by Franck Liefoghe entitled "Square of Equality"; and a show by sculptors and painters Bram Bogart (abstract expressionism), Culot ("sculptor of the invisible"), Buri, Gerald Dederen and Pal Horvat, to open at the National Museum and National Gallery respectively on Thursday.