



HELLO!

Let's explore together the *Panorama* exhibition. You'll discover the work of two artists: Xavier—a French painter living in Brussels—and Henk, a Dutch sculptor.

Follow me to discover their universes!

As you can see, the works in this first room show parts of Xavier's studio: his brushes, a cobweb in a corner, ... The canvases serve as windows to the artist's world, this way you can imagine how he creates his art.



This sculpture is called 'The stolen painting'. Cats are very watchful by nature, they're always on the lookout. Here the cat witnesses the stealing of Henk's painting! But since it can't talk, how can it report the theft? By taking on the appearance of a painting, obviously!



This bronze leg-shaped sculpture is called 'Once more' because every time Henk sells a copy, he casts a new one. That way, the leg will follow him his whole life, it walks alongside him!



In the series of paintings called *In the studio*, Xavier has painted his own hand holding brushes. And one of the paintings represents... Itself! Can you spot which one? This technique is called a 'mise en abyme' or the 'Droste effect'. The latter comes from a brand of cocoa powder. Yummy, isn't it?



The postcards on this table are part of the collection Xavier started as a child. He now has thousands of them! These cards picture the works of other artists. Xavier draws and paints (il manquait à nouveau le S aux verbes !) on them, creating new compositions as a tribute to all those artists he admires. Xavier also uses those cards to play a game he invented. The film in the small room shows four artists playing a game of a strange war. Can you guess the rules?



Haven't you seen this work somewhere else in the exhibition already? In his *Self-portrait by the witch*, Xavier paints his own reflection in the mirror of his work the *Emperor of Cyclops*, which you have seen earlier. By doing so, he creates a sense of *déjà vu*. The name of this painting draws inspiration from the bulging mirror at its centre, which the French call a 'witch's eye'. Besides, witches can predict the future, can't they?

So, this witch knew you would have seen this work somewhere else already and that you would make the connection with the beginning of your tour!



This painting depicts an African mask used during rituals. With its black side and its white side, it seems to have two faces. Search for the title on the wall. Now, look carefully, doesn't it feel like the mask is staring back at you? What do you think, what part of it gives out this impression?

Well, little artist, goodbye! I'll let you continue the tour. See you soon at the next exhibition!



Here, Xavier reproduces Vincent Van Gogh's famous *Self-Portrait With Bandaged Ear* that you may have already seen. Xavier wanted to pay homage to Van Gogh after seeing in real life this impressive work often copied on mugs, t-shirts, postcards ... which makes it somewhat dull. Look, he even painted the frame!

If you feel the urge to make your own version of one of Xavier's paintings, go for it!

PANORAMA

XAVIER NOIRET-THOMÉ
& HENK VISCH