

**Arts Centre**  
Avenue Golenvaux, 14  
5000 NAMUR

**ROPS Museum**  
Rue Fumal, 12  
5000 NAMUR

**Détour Gallery**  
Avenue Jean Materne, 160  
5100 Jambes

**PRESS RELEASE**

**At the Rops Museum and  
at the Arts Centre  
of the Province of Namur  
from 11 September to 24 October 2004**

**Détour Gallery, Jambes  
from 8 September to 24 October 2004**

**AXELL**  
**Pop Art to Paradise**

In September 2004, the Arts Department of the Province of Namur will give pride of place to a Namur native artist, Evelyne Axell.

Referred to by Pierre Restany, art critic and inventor of the "New Realism" as a "thrill of life", Evelyne Axell was born in Namur, on 16 August 1935. After her education, she attended ceramics classes at the Academy of Namur and dramatic art classes at the Brussels Academy. From 1955 to 1962, she started a career as an actress. In 1963, she was introduced to painting by René Magritte and devoted herself to that technique until her accidental death, in 1972.

Evelyne Axell's work is a clear reflection of the sixties, one of the most innovating periods of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, where "pop" was the lifestyle of the youth of the whole world. Her work developed in that climate and her formal research is the direct expression of it: the artist experimented new processes such as the working of plastic, Perspex, Formica, together with composite collages.

As a rare "pop art" artist of the Wallonia-Brussels French-speaking Community, she has just been honoured in one of the most prestigious galleries of London, The Mayor Gallery, and presented at the last FIAC in Paris and the European Fine Art and Antiques Fair in Maastricht (Tetaf).

Three exhibition sites in Namur will present the work of Evelyne Axell: the Arts Centre of the Province of Namur, which will host the large-sized works, the Félicien Rops Provincial Museum, which will reveal the more erotic side of the artist's work, and the Détour Gallery, which will exhibit the works of her youth.

In addition to the organisation of these three exhibitions, the descriptive catalogue of the artist's work is published in collaboration with Editions Somogy, Paris. Mrs Sarah Wilson, "pop art" specialist (Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London), writes an analysis of Axell's work, for this project. This important text places the originality of the artist in the context of that pictorial movement. Jean Antoine, author for movie and TV, recounts the biography of the artist. Claude Lorent, art critic, studies the erotic aspect of the work in particular, by comparing it with the art of Félicien Rops, another renowned Namur artist. Bernard Ceysson, historian of art, signs the preface to the book.

On 17 September, at 8.00 p.m., the film *Styles: Axell, 1978* will be screened at the Félicien Rops Museum, in the presence of the director, Jean Antoine.

Exhibition organised by the Arts Department of the Province of Namur (Plastic Arts Sector & Rops Museum) and Dexia Banque with the assistance of the Wallonia-Brussels French-speaking Community, General Commission for International Relations (CGRI), the National Lottery and the non-profit organisation "Les amis du musée Rops".

**Practical information:** Rops Museum: Open Tuesdays to Sundays, 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.  
(admission free for the "Axell" exhibition). Tel.: 081/22.01.10  
Arts Centre: Open daily, 12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m.  
(admission free). Tel.: 081/22.90.14  
Détour Gallery: Open Tuesdays to Sundays, 2.00 pm. to 6.00 p.m. (admission free)  
Avenue Jean Materne, 160 in Jambes. Tel.: 081/24.64.43

**Vernissage: Friday, 10 September 2004**  
**At 6.00 p.m. at the Rops Museum**  
**At 7.00 p.m. at the Arts Centre**

**(NB: The Détour Gallery will be open on 10 September from 2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.)**  
**Vernissage: Tuesday 7 September at 6.30 p.m.**

