

ADORNES  
DOMEIN

*Since 1429*

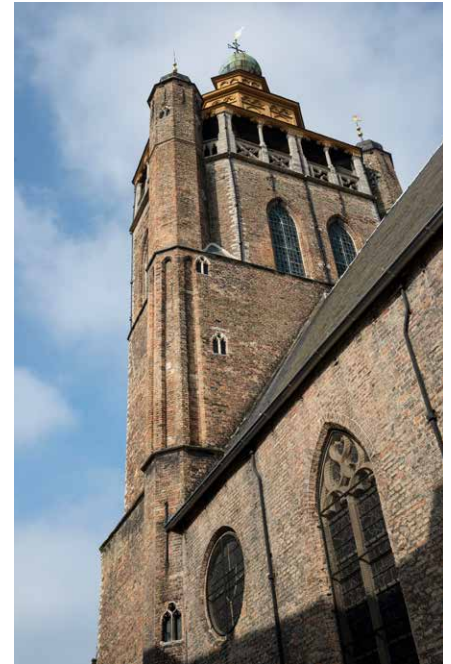


Into the intimacy of an authentic medieval family domain.  
In the heart of Bruges.

Adornes domain | Peperstraat 3, 8000 Brugge | Tél. +32 (0)50 33 88 83  
info@adornes.org | [www.adornes.org](http://www.adornes.org)



# THE ADORNES ESTATE



Remarkably, the Adornes estate has remained within the family ever since its foundation.

The Adornes domain is a private family domain, founded by the Adorno family from the Italian city of Genoa and dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It comprises the Jerusalem Chapel, several almshouses and a mansion with a large garden. The family chapel was first consecrated in 1429 and was loosely modelled on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Its architecture, interior and extraordinary relics testify to the Adornes family's veneration of Jerusalem.

Remarkably, the Adornes estate has remained within the family ever since its foundation. Today, the Count and Countess Maximilien de Limburg Stirum, now the seventeenth generation, passionately devote themselves to the preservation of this unique part of the heritage of Bruges. They wish to share this historic and cultural experience with the visitor while at the same time preserving the intimate and family character of the estate.

From 2014, the Adornes estate has opened its doors to the public: from Monday to Saturday visitors can discover the main parts of the domain individually or in a group. A short film and an educational exhibition

in the museum provide the keys to understanding the historical context of both the foundation and symbolism of the chapel. As part of a guided tour and by appointment, several private lounges can be visited as well.

Although the estate is a vibrant place steeped in history, it is also firmly part of contemporary life. Accordingly, the current generation continues to share the ancestral interest in art by offering a unique and original platform to contemporary artists. Twice a year Belgian works of art enter a dialogue with the medieval atmosphere of the premises.

Companies can rent the lounges of the Adornes estate to organize a dinner or reception, while the chapel is a suitable venue for a lecture or a private concert.

The owners have translated their mission of conservation and transmission into the following motto: "Sharing to bring alive – bringing alive to preserve".

# ANSELM ADORNES, businessman, diplomat and knight

The first Adornos, originally from Genoa in Italy, settled in Bruges in the 14th century. According to several sources, the Flemish branch of the family dates back to the 1350s with a certain Opicius Adornes as its founder. The Adornes soon integrated into the Bruges aristocracy and held key positions in the city's administration and economic activity.

At that time, Bruges was a pulsating and rich metropolis where merchants from all countries met. The family was involved in the very lucrative trade in alum stone, used for processing wool and manufacturing cloth.

Anselm Adornes, born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1424, was raised in a wealthy and well-educated family. Barely nineteen years old, he married the patricians' daughter Margareta van der Banck, who was to give him no less than sixteen children. He became an influential businessman and a competent diplomat for the Dukes of Burgundy. He also became a friend of king James III of Scotland, who granted him a knighthood. His most remarkable feat, however, is his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1470-71, where he faced multiple dangers along the road. He came home safe and sound and gained considerable prestige. At that time, the Adornes estate was given its present-day appearance: the old chapel, consecrated in 1429, was demolished and replaced by a prestigious chapel reminiscent of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The almshouses were built and the family home was embellished and enlarged.

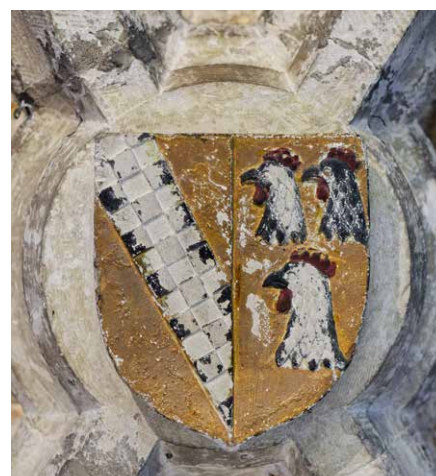
After the decline of Bruges from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the Adornes family continued managing the Jerusalem foundation. Although finances were sometimes lacking, the chapel was still provided with beautiful stained-glass windows in 1560. Despite periods of war and poverty, throughout peaceful and prosperous times, the estate has been passed on without interruption. On three occasions the domain was passed through the maternal line, resulting in different names for the owners: Adornes until the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, de Draek for the most of two centuries and finally de Limburg Stirum since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Anselm Adornes was indisputably a humanist and a man of the Flemish renaissance and has as such remained an essential source of inspiration to this very day.



The Adornes estate has been a private home, a religious foundation, a convent of Apostolinnen, a school and a lace museum. Though the domain has indeed had many different functions over the centuries, it has always focused on the fundamental values established by Anselm Adornes: the family, faith and the promotion of knowledge. Anselm Adornes was indisputably a humanist and a man of the Flemish renaissance and has as such remained an essential source of inspiration to this very day. The museum is mainly dedicated to him, to his life and what can reasonably be assumed about his temperament and interests. Surprisingly, this also planted the idea of perpetuating his interest in contemporary art.



# 700 YEARS AT A GLANCE



## ADORNES

ca 1270

Opicius I Adornes (probably legendary) is said to have followed Guy of Dampierre, Count of Flanders, on a journey to the Holy Land and then to have settled in Flanders.

ca 1300

Opicius II Adornes settles in Bruges and becomes a burgher (*poorter*) of the city.

1356-1361

The name of Martin Adornes, son of Opicius, is mentioned for the first time in city documents. He is the head (*hooftman*) of a city section.

1398

Death of Pieter I Adornes, *hostelier*, currency exchanger, treasurer of the city and Receiver General of Flanders and Artois from 1394.

1424

Birth of Anselm Adornes, son of Pieter II Adornes and Elisabeth Bradericx. He is the emblematic figure of the Adornes dynasty. He will become a merchant and a diplomat for the Dukes of Burgundy and will be knighted by James III of Scotland.

1429

The Jerusalem Chapel, founded by Pieter II and Jacob, is consecrated.

1470-1471

Anselm Adornes and his son go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Upon returning, Jan writes a travel report.

1483

Anselm Adornes is brutally murdered in North Berwick (Scotland).

1511

Arnoud Adornes succeeds his brother Jan as manager of the Jerusalem foundation. Having only one daughter, he decides to allow his grandson Jan de la Coste to use the name Adornes.



## DE DRAECK

1754

Death of Jacoba Dorothea Adornes, last bearer of the name. The management of the domain now goes to the de Draeck family, direct descendants of Jan de la Coste named Adornes.

1799

Gaspard Bernard de Draeck manages to object to the demolition of the chapel by the French administration.

1835

The Apostolinnen settle on the domain as tenants. A school for young girls is set up, mainly focused on lace making.

1871

Baroness Astérie Albertine de Draeck, last bearer of the name, widow of count François de Thiennes, donates the Adornes estate to her grandson Henri de Limburg Stirum, aged seven at that time.



## DE LIMBURG STIRUM

1882

Astérie Albertine de Draeck dies. The management and ownership of the estate now go to the de Limburg Stirum family.

1953 et 1976

The Jerusalem chapel and later the almshouses are designated as monuments.

1968-1972

The chapel, the stained-glass windows and the tower are being restored.

1986

As the community is getting smaller and smaller, the sisters leave the domain.

1987

Part of the estate is rented out to the Lace Centre. The almshouses are restored and will accommodate a lace museum. The Jerusalem Chapel is open to the public.

1995

Count Henri de Limburg Stirum founds the «Adornes» non-profit organization including all buildings on the premises.

2000

Count and countess Maximilien and Véronique de Limburg Stirum become the organization's new directors and renovate the family home.

2014

The Lace Centre and its museum move to the building of the former school on the estate. The Adornes estate opens its doors to the public.

# DISCOVERING THE ESTATE



A guided visit for a group of 15 to 20 people can be extended with a reception in the 15<sup>th</sup> century private house.

## Circulate freely...

The discovery of the Adornes estate begins in the almshouses with a 12-minute **film** that retraces the main steps in the life of Anselm Adornes (°1424 - †1483), merchant, diplomat and pilgrim, in the historical context of 15<sup>th</sup> century Bruges.

In the **educational museum**, the visitor can then explore a number of important topics in his daily life: the alum trade and the dyeing of wool, his attention to art, knights' tournaments, his journeys and a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. One room covers the symbolism of the Chapel and its major works. A family tree shows the 17 generations in charge of the domain.

Next in the visit comes the discovery of the **Jerusalem Chapel**, a symbolic replica of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. It has always kept its original function: the Chapel is still consecrated and every Saturday morning a (freely accessible) mass is celebrated. Over the centuries, every generation has enriched it with a work of art or a funerary monument and today visitors can still immerse themselves in the sacred and exceptional atmosphere of the chapel.

Twice a year (from October to December and from May to August) the **Pieterszaal**, situated in the former coach house of Anselm's father's, houses an exhibition of contemporary art. Belgian works of art and artistic trends can be discovered and are shared with the very international public.

Outside the periods of those temporary exhibitions a collection of photographs offers the visitor a glimpse behind the scenes of the everyday activities and the management of the estate over the past 100 years.

A pleasant conclusion of the visit might be a stop at the **Scottish Lounge**, where visitors can enjoy a warm or refreshing drink and a small snack. We rely on the honesty of the guest, who serves himself and pays the correct amount in a piggy bank.

In the **shop** visitors will find publications and souvenirs related to the estate, a bookshop specializing in medieval history and a range of Scottish products.

## ... or join a guided tour

A **guided tour** can be booked by contacting the reception, which, depending on your question and availability, will refer you to one of our partner guides or to the official guide associations of Bruges.

A guided visit for a group of 15 to 20 people can be extended with a reception in the 15<sup>th</sup> century **private house**. Visitors discover the old parlours, nowadays inhabited by the owners. Several architectural details testify to the original function of these rooms for Anselm Adornes, as a working space and a hall for official receptions. A drink offered in these lounges can bring your visit to a pleasant and convivial conclusion.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND RATES

From 01/01/2020 onwards

The estate is accessible from Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. Closed on Sundays and public holidays.



## ADORNES MUSEUM, JERUSALEM CHAPEL AND TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

### Individual visit

#### Ticket price

Adults (from 26 to 64 years of age).	€ 8
Groups of 15 or more paying persons	€ 6
Senior citizens (65+)	€ 6
Young people from 7 to 25 years old	€ 4
People with disabilities	€ 4
School pupils (accompanying teacher(s) free)	€ 2
Children up to 6 years old	Free
3rd child and next child (family ticket)	Free
Guides and journalists (with valid card)	Free

### Guided group visit

Entrance ticket price + standard fee of € 80 for the guide.

Only official Bruges guides are allowed to accompany groups.

Both as an individual and as a group, visitors have access to the Scottish Lounge. Drinks and snacks are to be paid separately.

Because of limited space in some areas of the estate, we urge groups to register in advance, by telephone on ☎ +00 32 (0)50 33 88 83 or by e-mail at ✉ [info@adornes.org](mailto:info@adornes.org)

## ADORNES MUSEUM, JERUSALEM CHAPEL TEMPORARY EXHIBITION + THE PRIVATE HOUSE

### Group visit (by appointment)

Entrance fee for groups from 15 to maximum 25 people

Per person	12 €
Per person with aperitif or coffee (same choice for the whole group)	16 €
Standard fee for the guide	80 €

The Adornes estate collaborates with a limited number of partner guides.

Duration of the visit: approximately 2 hours.

### OPENING HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

The estate is open from Monday to Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm (until 6 pm on Saturdays from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30th September). Closed on Sundays and public holidays.

### VISITORS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY

Most of the estate is wheelchair accessible. Bring a personal attendant if you can and notify the reception in advance in order to prepare alternative entrances. In a listed medieval site adaptations are restricted, though. Some doors may be too narrow for a wheelchair to pass and the cobblestones in the courtyard are not exactly comfortable.

# FOR ENTERPRISES



We put our heart and soul into organising quality events and extraordinary experiences.

## An intimate and exclusive location for your event

**Would you like to organise a prestigious dinner, lecture or concert in a unique venue?**

**Are you looking for an inspiring location for a quiet meeting?**

**Would you like to thank your clients?**

**Would you like to congratulate and encourage a team?**

**Are you holding a conference in Bruges and interested in offering cultural activities to your attendees or their partners in between work sessions?**

Both the private lounges of the **Adornes House** and the chapel can be rented to organise an exclusive and intimate event for your prospects, partners and teams. The house was built by Anselm Adornes at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Today it is the second home of Count and Countess Maximilien de Limburg Stirum, fitted with furniture and objects from their collection, with all the care that can be given to an authentic family home.

## Some ideas...

### DURING THE DAY

Customized guided tours can be arranged for groups of different sizes.

Depending on the available time and your interests, your visit can take the shape of a mainly cultural event or be concluded with a convivial drink in the lounges. We work with official guides of Bruges, who can guide you in many different languages.

For a customized offer for your group, contact Mr Jelle Deltombe via [✉ jde@adornes.org](mailto:jde@adornes.org) or [info@adornes.org](mailto:info@adornes.org) ☎ +32 50 33 88 83

### AT NIGHT

Numerous relaxing or more cultural variations are possible around the idea of a dinner or a reception in the private lounges: arriving with horse-drawn carriages, meeting your guests in the chapel for a small concert of chamber music or so called Lieder, organising a welcome drink in the private lounge on the first floor or in the cobbled courtyard, depending on the season ...

We put our heart and soul into organising quality events and extraordinary experiences. That is why we work with first class partners who are familiar with the domain and can propose an event in perfect harmony with the assets of the venue, to your greatest satisfaction.

Do you have a project or idea in mind? Do not hesitate to call or write us. To contact our first-class partners directly, please use the contact details below.

### PARTNERS

Caterer  
**D's – Deldycke Traiteur**  
Dirk Martensstraat 27, 8200 Bruges  
☎ +32 50 33 43 35 🌐 [www.deldycke.be](http://www.deldycke.be)

Event organisation  
**TRUE by Geoffrey Van Hulle**  
Jozef Suvéestraat 15, 8000 Brugge  
☎ +32 50 27 96 68 🌐 [www.geoffreyvanhulle.be](http://www.geoffreyvanhulle.be)

# OLD AND CONTEMPORARY ART



The appreciation of a work of art is mainly subjective. Let us grant this fundamental quality to art and have the deepest respect for the artist who reveals and exposes himself.

The Adornes estate is both old and bustling with life, as the family has been trying to transmit the values of curiosity and openness ever since the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Rather than engaging in the debates about the definition of art in general, modern or contemporary art, aestheticism or conceptual art, the owners give the highest priority to sharing their interest and taste for art.

The aim is to find what appeals to them and what they want to share. A common thread: presenting Belgian artists to both the Belgian and foreign public. In other words: local products! The short supply chain! Belgium has been home to exceptional artists for centuries and today's generations are in no way inferior to their predecessors.

We want to get carried away by the artist and his theme before supporting his approach and offering him a unique and original platform.

## How are exhibitors selected?

"We choose and select projects according to our own tastes and interests, in line with our encounters and discoveries. Sometimes we are helped, advised or even challenged by an artistic committee of professionals and enthusiasts. A spark may be created by a specific theme, technique or simple emotion. Always along this basic idea, however: presenting Belgian artists whose works showcase a trend, an idea or a technique. For us, art becomes interesting when it offers a different view of the world and challenges our certainties.

Such a project also needs to find a special and coherent echo in the surroundings, i.e. in the Adornes estate, a location with a very strong personality. It is not a matter of juxtaposing two different worlds, but of making them enter into dialogue with each other.

Unfortunately, this also means saying no to a lot of projects proposed to us. There are all kinds of objective, material and technical reasons for this. We only host two exhibitions a year and given the number of excellent opportunities, this is very little. Our reasons are also purely subjective sometimes, we should admit : some works of art simply leave us stone-cold. The appreciation of a work of art is mainly subjective. Let us grant this fundamental quality to art and have the deepest respect for the artist who reveals and exposes himself."

Maximilien en Véronique de Limburg Stirum



# OUR MISSION



The Adornes estate has remained family property ever since its origin, which is quite exceptional. We, the 17<sup>th</sup> generation, feel proud and happy with our legacy, but are above all aware of our immense financial, technical and moral responsibility.

Taking over the management of one of the rare authentic 15<sup>th</sup>-century Bruges heritage sites is an extraordinary adventure packed with all kinds of challenges, especially if this heritage is important, historically rich and complex at the same time. Indeed, the Adornes estate includes immovable (house, chapel, almshouses and garden), movable (collections including paintings, drawings, sculptures and silverware) and historical heritage (archives, documents, pilgrimage stories), ranging from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Why this desire to preserve this heritage at almost any cost? The estate is indeed a protected monument, which makes us legally answerable to the local authorities and the public. There is also a moral responsibility towards our children and all our descendants. We believe that heritage, culture and history are essential parts of the identity of a person or a community: the family, the people of Bruges, the Flemish or even the former Burgundians. In our globalized and multicultural society with quickly changing reference points, identity has become a delicate, vulnerable and therefore precious issue.

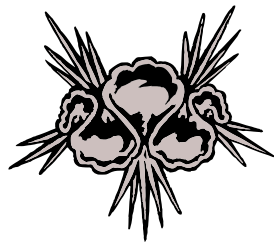
We believe that our mission consists first and foremost in preserving this immovable, movable, artistic and historical heritage by a maximum respect for the domain's original functions and its intimate and family properties. In this way, we safeguard the knowledge of what has shaped us. We also want to share our thoughts and involve the public with the challenges of managing this heritage. We avoid the trap of indulging in nostalgia, but want to make heritage an incubator for future dreams and plans.

Art, which the history of the estate has always been closely linked to, provides an essential stimulus for thought and an uncompromising vision of society.

For all these reasons, we have decided to fulfill our mission by bringing the Adornes Estate to life through all sorts of experiences. Our approach has been translated into a motto: "Sharing to bring alive – bringing alive to preserve". The domain is open for the public from Monday to Saturday. Individually or with a guided group, visitors can explore the main part of the estate. A moment of relaxation can be found in the Scottish lounge, with a view on the large garden. In addition to these traditional visits, we regularly organise tours in the private lounges (by appointment), as well as events such as late-night openings, concerts and exhibitions of contemporary art. Customized guided tours are available for companies.

The adventure goes on, we still have an abundance of projects and dreams for the future of the estate in mind. We will pursue them with maximum professionalism, surrounded by experts in various fields and supported by our visitors.

Maximilien en Véronique de Limburg Stirum



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