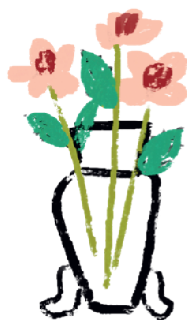


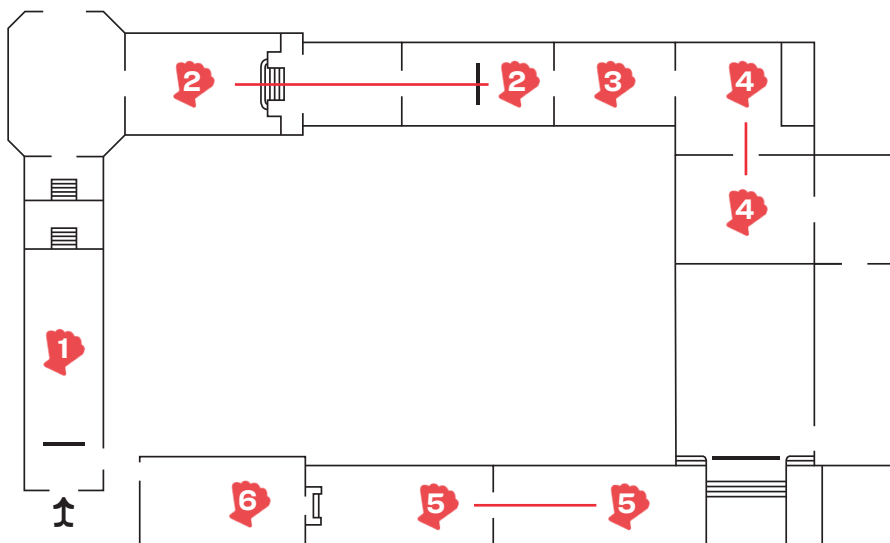
JEAN BRUSSELMANS

EN



**CHILDREN'S
GUIDE**

Painter by Nature



THINGS YOU CAN'T DO



THINGS YOU CAN DO



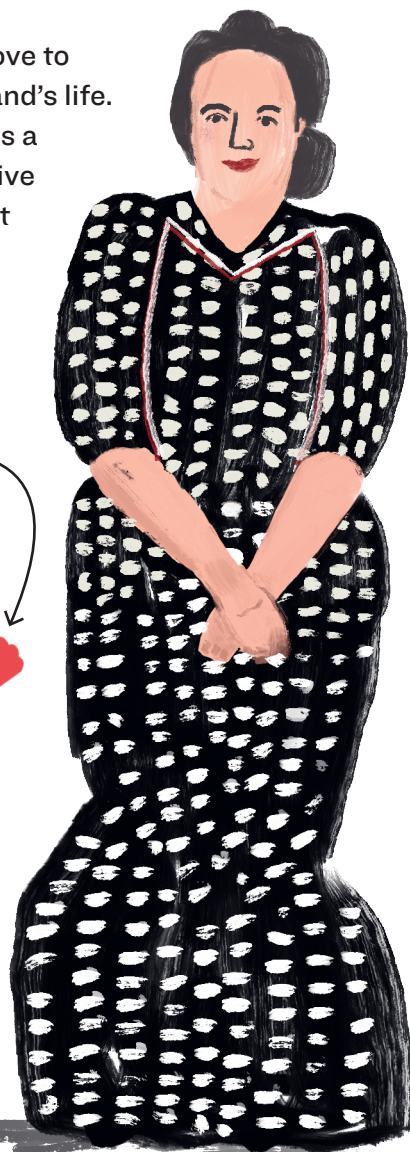
HELLO!

I'm Marie, Jean Brusselmans' wife. I'd love to take you on a journey through my husband's life. Together, we'll discover his art. Jean was a colourful Belgian painter with a distinctive style and a deep love of nature. He didn't like rules very much, but he did love me and our son, Armand.

I'm going to ask you to take a really close look at some of the artworks. Look for this symbol on the plan. When you see it, it's time to think, talk and act together. I can't wait to discover your imaginative ideas and see all the things you'll do! Ready? Off we go!

Almost 100 years ago, Bozar exhibited one of Jean's paintings for the very first time. Today, you can see many of his works here! As you explore the exhibition, you'll also spot artworks by other artists.

Why do you think those artworks are on display? Do they look a bit like Jean's paintings, or not at all? Have a chat about it – all answers are welcome!



PATTERNS

Jean grew up surrounded by fabrics and clothes, as his parents ran a sewing workshop. He loved patterns and often used them in his artwork. In the painting *Still Life* (1914), you can see a piece of fabric from an old armchair.

Jean thought the colours were beautiful.

This motif appears three more times in the exhibition. Can you spot it?*

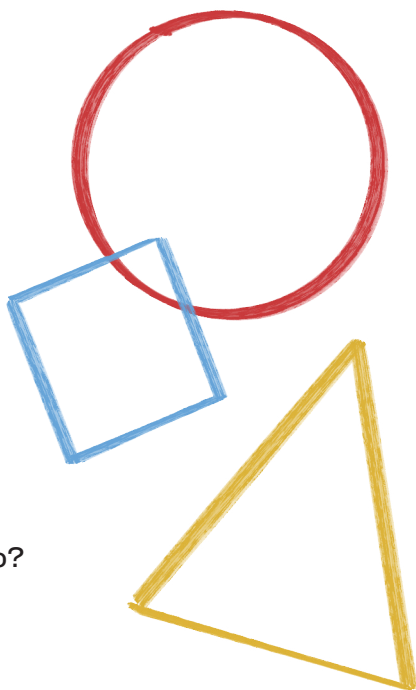
Write the title of these works here.

On the back of your booklet, you'll find a fan. Trace the pattern from my dress onto it. In the empty boxes, draw some of the other patterns you spot in the exhibition!

In the next rooms, you'll discover some beautiful landscapes. Here and there, you'll also see our home. We moved house quite a few times in and around Brussels. Which painting would you most like to live in? And which season do you like best?

DANCE

A PAINTING



Jean pieced his paintings together like a puzzle, using different shapes. Those shapes became trees, a sun, a field, a house... Can you spot them too?

Stand in front of a painting.

What shapes can you see?

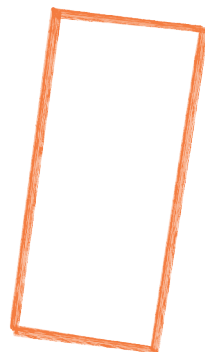
Write them down here.

Now think of a movement for each shape.

How does a rectangle move?
What does your elbow do
when you make a square?

Link all your movements together.

And there you go –
you're dancing a landscape by Jean!



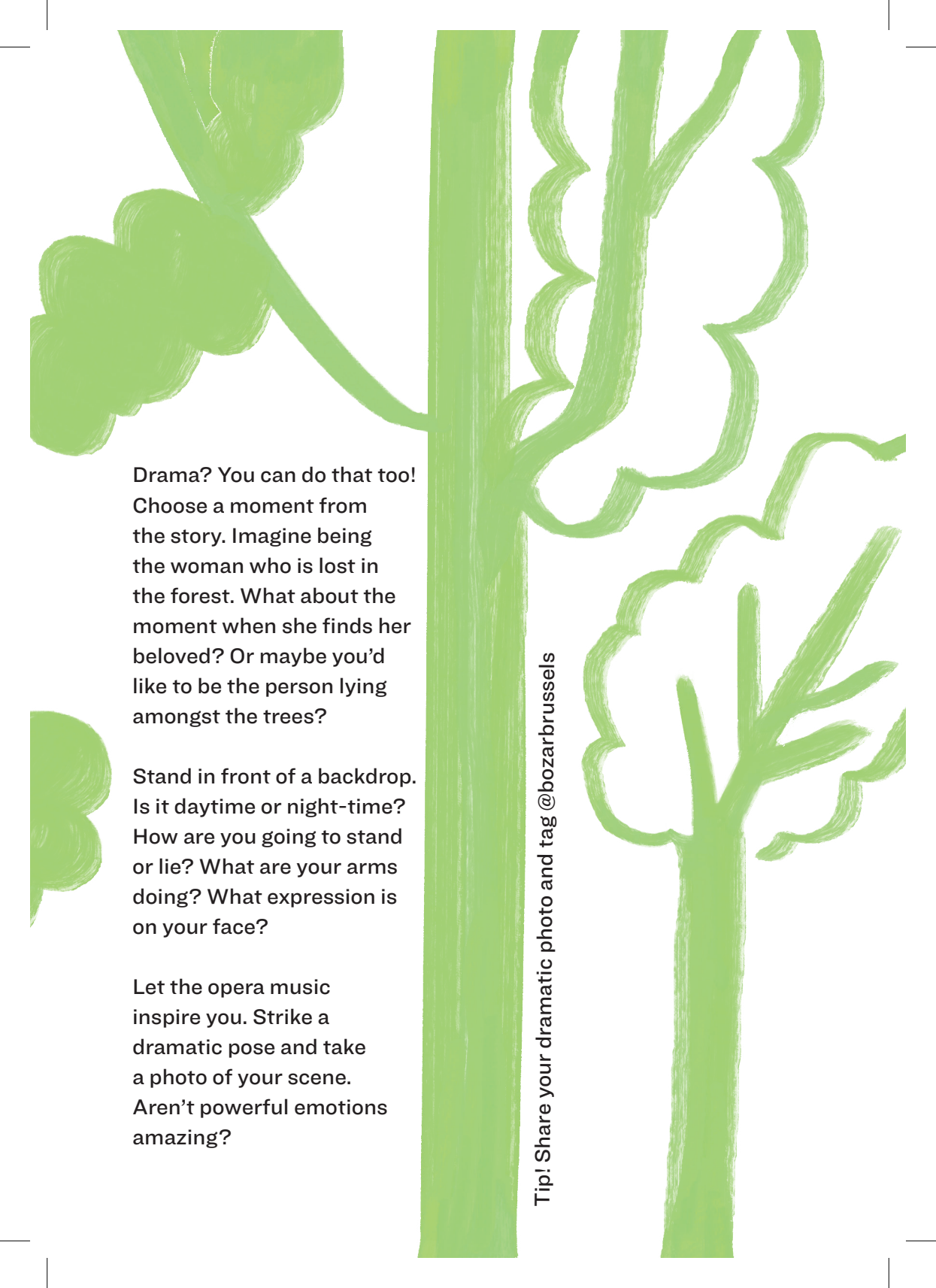
DRAMA

ON STAGE

Jean loved to sing, and he had a good voice! He even sang in the choir at La Monnaie, the grand opera house in Brussels. Jean also designed the huge sets for the opera *Erwartung* (Expectation).

The original sets have been lost, but Kristof Santy has created his own version of them, especially for this exhibition. Do you like them?

Expectation tells the story of a woman who enters a forest to look for her lover. But she gets lost. At the end of her search, he is no longer alive. What a tragic story!



Drama? You can do that too!
Choose a moment from the story. Imagine being the woman who is lost in the forest. What about the moment when she finds her beloved? Or maybe you'd like to be the person lying amongst the trees?

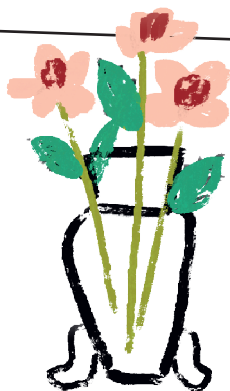
Stand in front of a backdrop. Is it daytime or night-time? How are you going to stand or lie? What are your arms doing? What expression is on your face?

Let the opera music inspire you. Strike a dramatic pose and take a photo of your scene. Aren't powerful emotions amazing?

Tip! Share your dramatic photo and tag [@bozarbrussels](https://www.instagram.com/bozarbrussels)

BINGO!

Jean often painted the same objects because they meant so much to him. They can also tell you a lot about the way we lived.



VASE OF FLOWERS

nature's colours
are always
cheerful



SHELL

isn't the shape
beautiful?

**SCULPTURE
OF HEAD
OF DAVID**

for practising
portrait drawing



**A BASKET
OF APPLES**

whether full or empty,
you'll always find one
at home

See if you can spot them all!

Circle the object you saw most often.

Which objects are so special to you
that you'd like to paint them too?
Draw them in the empty boxes.



HERRING

long live cheap
tinned food

RED CAN

my favourite thing



OIL LAMP

glass and metal are
beautiful materials



THE SOUND OF

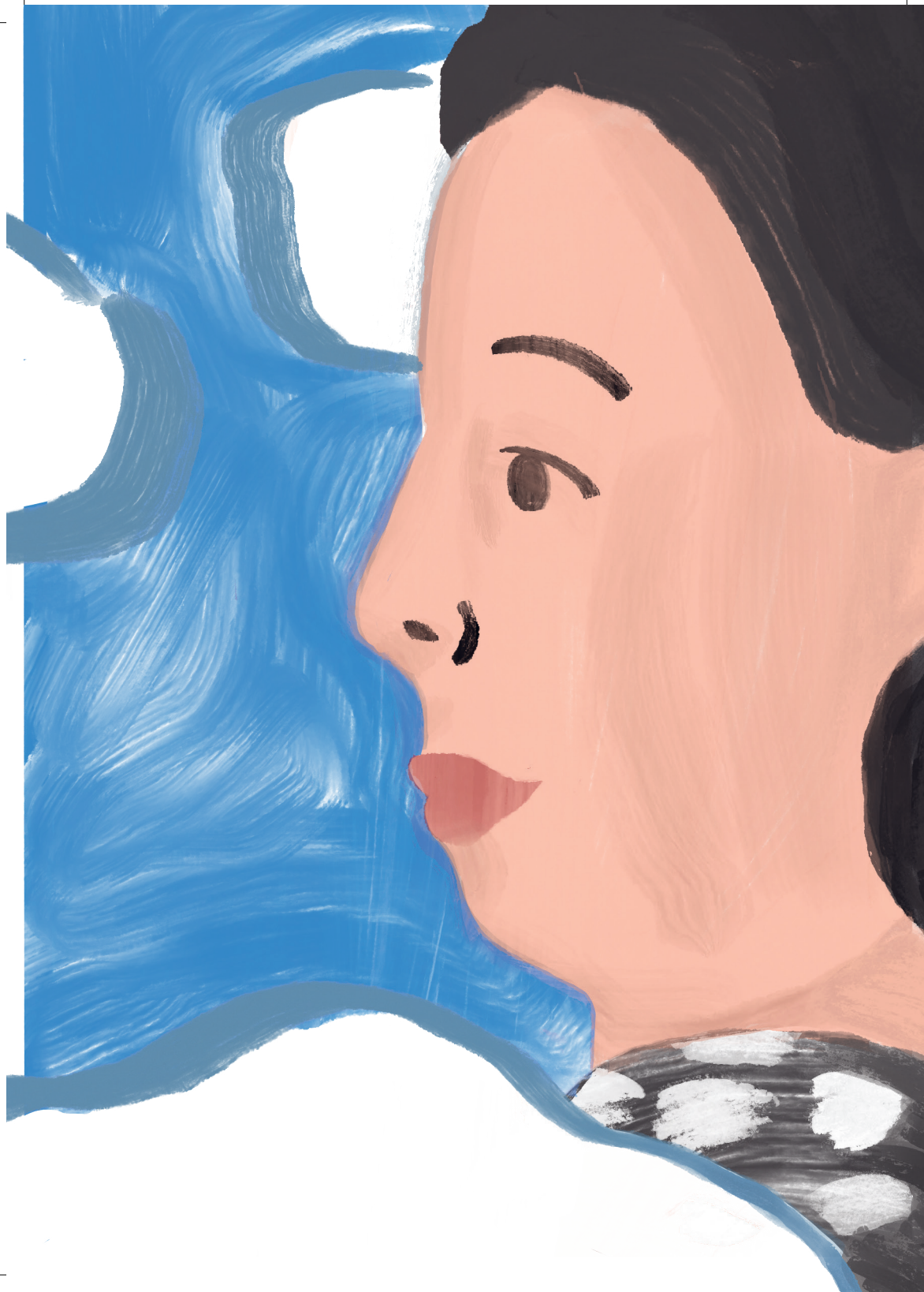
ART

I love to lose myself in these paintings.
When I look at them closely, I can almost hear them.
I really feel as though I'm inside the artwork.
Will you help me bring a painting to life?

Take a look at the artworks
featuring water, clouds or winter.
Choose the one you'd most like to step into.

What can you see in the artwork?
What can you smell? What can you hear?
How does it make you feel?

Choose three sounds that might come from the painting.
Make them out loud. Now mix them together.
Let's bring the artwork to life!



GUESS

WHO I AM?



In the painting *The Art Companions* (1949), Jean portrayed his artist friends with a touch of humour. He even hid himself in the artwork! Which figure do you think is Jean?*

And, more importantly, why do you think so?

*The man with the red coffee pot on his head!

Who would you invite to join your club?
Which objects would suit each member?
Tell each other your ideas. Then draw the objects
for your club and create your own group!



A stylized illustration of a woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a black dress with white polka dots, sitting in a white chair and holding a book. She is in a room with a green wall. To her left is a white shelf with a teapot and plates. Behind her is a white bust on a table. Above her is a large white rectangular area containing text. To the right is a framed picture of flowers. The ceiling is blue with three circular decorative elements.

Thank you so much for looking,
thinking and joining in
with such enthusiasm!
I hope you love Jean
just as much as I do.

What will you remember
most about him?

Want to discover even more fun activities for children?
Take a look at our website: www.bozar.be



Jean Brusselmans. Painter by Nature

2 October 2026 – 31 January 2027

Bozar – Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels

Curator: Ann Geeraerts

Coordinator: Marie Claes

CHILDREN'S GUIDE

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A pattern is a design that repeats itself over and over again. It can consist of dots, circles, flowers, lines, squares, etc.

