

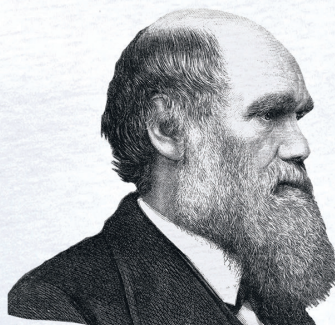
Une exposition réalisée par
La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie - Paris
en collaboration avec le Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle



Une programmation du
Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège
et du Centre d'Action Laïque



je descends de
Darwin



DARWIN L'ORIGINAL

12 OCTOBRE 2019 > 2 FÉVRIER 2020

Place Xavier Neujean 22 à Liège - Réservation conseillée : www.citemiroir.be

LA CITÉ MIROIR
SAUVENIÈRE

L'EXPO
LIEGE

www.expodarwin.be

PRESS FOLDER

Practical info

From 12 October 2019 until 2 February 2020
at La Cité Miroir in Liège - 22 place XavierNeuJean. 4000 Liège
+32 (0)4 230 70 50
www.expodarwin.be

In French, English and Italian – Braille and sign language
Exhibition open to all, families and schools, from the age of 10 years and up.

ADMISSION

7€ / 5€ / Art. 27
(-26 years, jobseeker, group (min. 10 pers.), Carte prof, reduced mobility, Citoyen Fondation Cité Miroir, Member Territoires de la Mémoire)

OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 9am-6pm | Saturday and Sunday 10am-6pm
Exceptional closing on 11/11, 9/12, 24/12, 25/12, 31/12 and 01/01.

INFORMATION AND BOOKING

04 230 70 50 - reservation@citemiroir.be
www.citemiroir.be
www.expodarwin.be

CURATOR

Guillaume Lecointre, Directeur du département Systématique et Évolution du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle en France

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PRESS KIT

<http://caracascom.com/fr/cite-miroir/931.html>

Exhibition realised by the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie in partnership with the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle.

A programme by the Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège and of the Centre d'Action Laïque.

Darwin, l'original at La Cité Miroir

From 12 October 2019 until 2 February 2020

From 12 October 2019 until 2 February 2020, La Cité Miroir in Liège is set to host an exhibition dedicated to a personality who is at once famous and little-known: Charles Darwin, father of the theory of evolution. Beyond the portrait of a renowned naturalist and scientific biologist emerges a humanist, abolitionist and pioneer of animal and human ethology, for whom empathy and collaboration were also the result of evolution.

Darwin's revolutionary ideas and the scientific shock waves that he helped to send out match the works of Copernicus in terms of his long-term effects on our knowledge, our portrayals and our beliefs. After Copernicus, Earth is no longer the centre of the Universe but revolves around the Sun. After Darwin, biology was enriched by a general theory that allowed it to explain the diversity and evolution of living beings. Thanks to him, we understand that Man is no longer at the centre, and even less at the summit of the living world.

Realised in 2015 by Cité des sciences de Paris in partnership with the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, the exhibition offers a voyage into the singular and fecund thinking of this iconic personality, author of the seminal work *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. Visitors are guided through an interactive, multi-subject trail, amid an immersive graphic universe. Strolling through the lush, luxuriant vegetation that surrounds them, they follow the path on a journey of exploration through Darwin's work and the Victorian imagination.

The exhibition follows the intellectual itinerary and slow maturation of the ideas of Charles Darwin (1809-1882). Its aspiration is to enable museum-goers to access his thinking and methods. Following his childhood and years of training which progressively revealed to him his taste for natural sciences, at a very young age, from 1831 until 1836, Darwin undertook a long voyage aboard HMS Beagle, a ship of the Royal Navy.

This around-the-world trip in the southern hemisphere would put his capacities of observation and reflection to the test, and establish his reputation as a promising naturalist courtesy of his work and correspondence with famous naturalists. Later on, his reading, his geological, botanical and zoological observations would consolidate as facts, which he would corroborate with his hypotheses, note by note, sketch by sketch, in order to form a theory of descent with modification.

The exhibition also reveals how these ideas were received, and sometimes hijacked during his lifetime. It outlines the stages of the conversion of one man to ideas that were the opposite of his initial convictions and general opinion of his day, when

natural theology dominated biology, a nascent discipline ushered in by Lamarck.

Darwinian evolution is a scientific revolution that facilitates an approach to numerous fields: zoology, botany, geology, palaeontology, anthropology, but also geography and, of course, history. One of the high points of the exhibition *Darwin, l'original* (Darwin the Original) attempts to compare and contrast Darwin's ideas to what evolution sciences are saying today. Here we have the opportunity to synthesise, for museum-goers not specialising in biology, the advancements, refutations, confirmations and extensions of the British naturalist's thinking.

The exhibition will be hosted at La Cité Miroir in Liège by the Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège. The association thus intends to pay homage to a figure who laid the ground for overturning of the ideas of his day and advancing human knowledge. The exhibition also provides the CAL with an opportunity to promote the scientific theory of evolution and combat creationist excesses.

The association will also be offering guided tours of the exhibition and activities aimed at groups as an extension of the experience, as well as a debate and conference with Guillaume Lecointre, the exhibition's patron and director of the Evolution department at the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle.

Parallel to *Darwin, l'original*, the Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège will present its exhibition *Tous croyants ?* which is an opportunity to open our critical mind to the topics of faiths and rationality.

The exhibition *Darwin, l'original* and *Tous croyants ?* are inaugurated in the context of 50 years of secularism in Belgium. In order to mark this major event, a packed programme of conferences, theatre shows and concerts featuring well-known, recognised personalities will be on offer at La Cité Miroir from 10 to 13 October. Full programme on 50ans.laicite.be



The Darwin, l'original exhibition trail

The exhibition enjoys the patronage of Éric Lapie and the scientific patronage of Guillaume Lecointre, director of the Systematics and Evolution department at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, and the support of a multi-disciplinary scientific committee.

It compares and contrasts two worlds: a majority historical world, set in scene through the systematic use of reproductions of nineteenth-century images, and a contemporary world, which permits an alternative connotation of the topic of evolution sciences today and various timeless interpretative materials.

The various facets of Darwin are explored through observation and interaction (films, interactive multi-media devices, games, and more), but also in the course of a tour itinerary suited to families (and children from the age of 10 and up) which follows the various topics of the exhibition trail.

- **Darwin and his times** where points of reference are provided concerning the historical, intellectual and cultural context of the Victorian society in which Charles Darwin lived, along with chronological elements on his life and origins.
- **The tour of the world in 1741 aboard HMS Beagle**, a ship of the Royal Navy, is described in the on-board journal kept by Darwin. The documented recreation of the important stages of the voyage, from the Azores to Ascension Island, via Brazil, Peru, the Galapagos and Australia, is also based on the naturalist's correspondence.
- Museum-goers are invited to recalibrate their points of reference, and especially **think on a grander scale**, in order to gain thorough comprehension of Darwin's theory. Notions of time, evolution and generations were overthrown: talk was no longer in terms of genealogy, but thousands of generations and sometimes millions of years, and not just of the individual but of whole populations...
- **Darwinian evolution** is examined through three major works: On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex and The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals. Interactive exhibition elements enable visitors to join Darwin in exploring his hypotheses and the facts that led to his conclusions.
- Compare and contrast **today's evolution sciences** with the ideas of Charles Darwin and demonstrate how he outlined a type of research programme, certain aspects of which are reactivated today. Chance, the notion of space, the common ancestor and selection are some of the topics that are approached and explained.
- Likely to linger in visitors' memories, the final section of the trail **Darwin close up** has a biographical intent and conveys a sensitive image of the person, a father of 10, who monitored his children's development by means of studies and experiments.



Animations

Guided tour

€25 + admission ticket/pers. (by booking only)
from 12 years and up - (duration: 01:30)

At the heart of the exhibition, discover the career of Darwin, his theory of evolution, its reception, the controversies it triggered and is still triggering today at both the religious and scientific level and its present-day implications in various fields. This tour will also query the characteristics of the scientific approach and endeavour to demonstrate how one of the most extensive contributions to modern and universal thinking is once again under threat by obscurantism. Reason and science are essential in the emancipation of individuals, so that they can free themselves from faiths and superstitions.

Guided tour with passport

€25 + admission ticket/pers. (by booking only)
aimed at secondary school groups - (duration: 01:30)

This tour will start off with a brief activity aimed at revealing what the audience already knows (or thinks it knows) about the theory of evolution. Visitors will then be invited to walk through the exhibition at their own pace, equipped with a passport comprising a certain number of questions, the answers to which will be discoverable within the exhibition. The tour will be concluded with a discussion based on the questions in the booklet.

Event: Tous croyants ?

€25 + admission ticket/pers. (by booking only)
from 15 years and up - (duration: 2 x 50 min.)

Are we all believers? Are we capable of freeing ourselves from our beliefs, at least in part? Is this desirable? So many questions to think about together. What is belief/faith? Or should we say, faiths? What relation do they have to science? How do they play a part in our approach to the world, to others, to our life as a collectivity? We offer you a reflection of and a journey into our own portrayals, at the fringe of Darwin, l'original, with a dynamic and lively exhibition. The events enable deeper exploration of these topics and more, taking an interactive approach and open to debate.

1805

Decisive victory of the Royal Navy over the French-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar

1809

1809: Birth of Charles Darwin in England

1809

Lamarck's Zoological Philosophy is published

1815

The British forces stand against Napoleon

1831

The HMS Beagle begins its journey

1833

Slavery Abolition Act

1835

Darwin explores the Galapagos archipelago

1836

The HMS Beagle ends its journey

1837

Queen Victoria begins her reign

1839

Charles Darwin marries his cousin Emma Wedgwood

1859

Origins of the Species is published

1866

George Mendel publishes his works on genetics

1871

The descent of Man is published

1882

Charles Darwin dies in England



Within the context of the exhibition

I Exhibition

Tous croyants ?

From 12 October 2019 until 12 January 2020 at La Cité Miroir
Included in the admission to the exhibition Darwin, l'original
The exhibition *Tous croyants ?* is an opportunity to open our critical minds by approaching the world at a little bit of a remove. By taking time to analyse things in an era where opinions are forged at a speed of 280 characters per minute. It understands itself to be a toolbox, a decoding primer, a game of reflections. A moment in which to ask ourselves all together and in total freedom: "Are we all believers?"

An exhibition devised by the Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège



I Conference

The Tacit Secularism of Science

Conference by Guillaume Lecointre, patron of the exhibition Darwin, l'original

12 November 2019 at 7:30pm, at La Cité Miroir
€5 (€1.25 Art.27)



Today, it is no longer an unusual occurrence, in science class or the social media, for scientific content to find itself questioned if not contested on the basis of faiths or opinions. The theory of evolution does not escape this rule. Guillaume Lecointre, a researcher and pedagogue, proposes that we arm ourselves intellectually in the face of this reality. He will hand to us some keys for distinguishing between the knowledge delivered by the scientific approach and faiths, religious beliefs or opinions. He will remind us of the vital conditions for scientific practice, the tacit secularism that animates it and the eminently social and political role of schools.

Guillaume Lecointre is director of the Systematics and Evolution department of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in France. He is patron of the exhibition Darwin, l'original.

A programme by the Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège



Within the context of the exhibition

I theater

Tout le monde descend

Café-theatre show by Marie-Charlotte MORIN. Production: Artenréel#1.
Thursday 21 November at 2pm (schools) and 7:30pm (adults) at La Cité Miroir

More than 150 years after the publication of *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin, modern science is delivering to us the details of the mechanisms of evolution. Despite being recognised by the entire scientific community, this theory remains in conflict with the most obscurantist religious believers – but not only them. Employing play and pedagogy, this show is a comedy of scientific vulgarisation which has the objective to explain, detail, illustrate, re-demonstrate and reinforce Darwin's theory by making it accessible and joyous. It seeks to decompartmentalise science from its habitual framework, unbolt the traditional access codes. Thus, it offers exciting, quirky access to the subject and illustrates the conflicts between science and secular dogmas. A right-up-to-the-minute opposition to obscurantism on all sides, especially in the United States where only one quarter of Americans are convinced by Darwin's theory.



Open to all from the age of 12 years and up. Duration: 01:15
€7/ €5 (-26 years, jobseeker, group (min. 10 pers.), Carte prof, reduced mobility, Citoyen Fondation Cité Miroir, Member Territoires de la Mémoire) / €3 (schools, Art.27)
Booking: 04 230 70 50 – reservation@citemiroir.be – www.citemiroir.be

Texte original : Marie-Charlotte Morin | Adaptation théâtrale : Marie-Charlotte Morin et Alexandre Taesch | Mise en scène : Alexandre Taesch |
Jeu : Marie-Charlotte Morin et Alexandre Taesch | Bande sonore : Cyrille Davidson | Lumière : Stéphane Hau et Alexandre Taesch | Accessoires et costumes : Tania Tolstoï | Production : Artenréel#1

A programme by the Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège



I Conference

Science and Faith, Eternal Enemies

26 November 2019 at 9am at La Cité Miroir
€5 (€1.25 Art.27)

Meeting and debate with Marcel Otte, Doctor of Art History and Archaeology, Albert Moukheiber, Doctor of Neurosciences and clinical psychologist and one speaker to be confirmed

Three speakers will take a look at the antagonism between science and faith. They will propose complementary points of view to share with the audience. Is the fight between science and faith futile? Has science been substituted by religion in the construction of our civilisation? Is our brain a belief factory? Is faith compatible with the rational and scientific approach? These questions, and many more, will live up this moment of exchange and debate.

A programme by the Centre d'Action Laïque de la Province de Liège

Booking: La Cité Miroir - reservation@citemiroir.be - 04 230 70 50 - www.citemiroir.be





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