



# headquARTers



KATOEN NATIE

# Headquarters



# Headquarters

“Headquarters” is a knowledge center whose aim is to gather, conserve, develop, distribute and provide access to the artistic policy and heritage of Katoen Natie.

“Headquarters” is a study center specializing in the art and art forms that the Katoen Natie group incorporates into its business model. The institute grew out of the need to:

- > document the group’s artistic policy
- > to support and structure it
- > and to explain and present it to the outside world.

The collection is divided into the following sections:

- > buildings, architecture, landscape and garden architecture, furnishings and decorative art
- > the ancient world
- > the Low Countries
- > Flemish and Belgian art in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- > modern art
- > Latin American art
- > the heritage of the group and of the port of Antwerp.



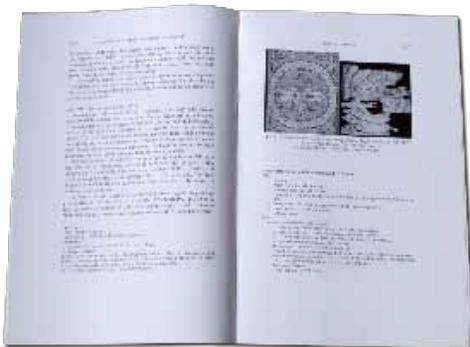


## Headquarters as research center: developing knowledge

The institute carries out extensive research into all aspects of ancient textiles, including:

- > textile techniques
- > materials
- > dyes
- > style characteristics
- > radiocarbon dating

The institute maintains close contacts with leading museums and private collections throughout the world, including the Royal Museums for Art & History in Brussels, the Musée du Louvre in Paris, the Skulpturensammlung und Museum für Byzantinische Kunst and the Museum für Islamische Kunst in Berlin, the Abegg Stiftung in Riggisberg, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Metropolitan Museum in New York and others. It also cultivates long-term relations with universities, like Ghent, Louvain, Leyden, Bonn and Manchester.

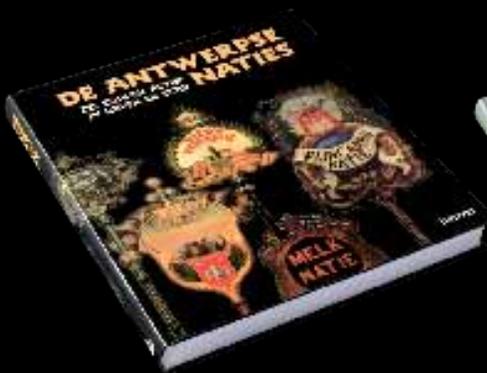
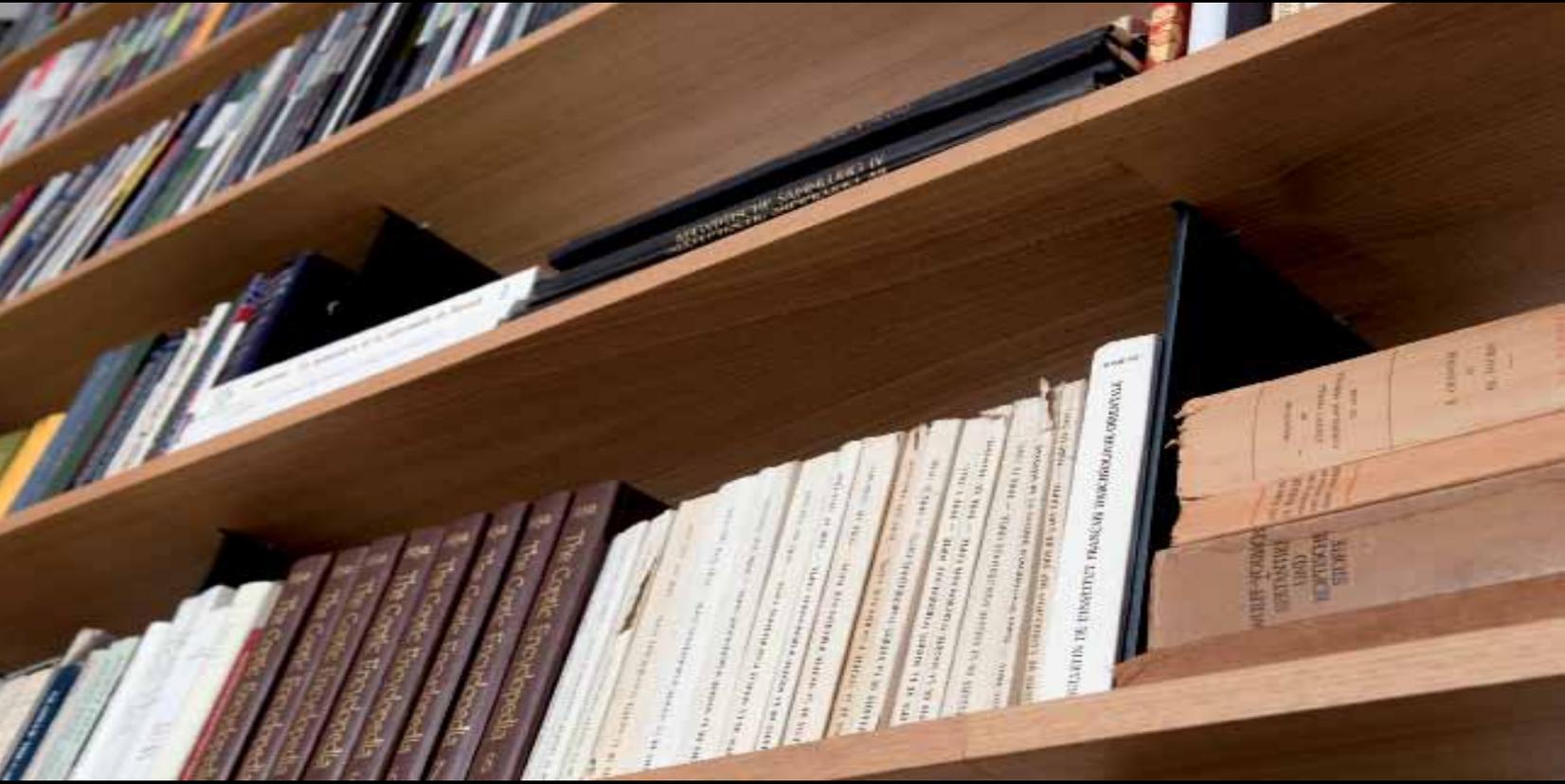


The staff of the institute publish the results of their research in numerous international journals, and lend their collaboration to major exhibitions all over the world.

In April 2005, the institute had the honor of organizing the world conference on "Textiles and Methods of Dating" in Antwerp, on behalf of the "Textiles from the Nile Valley" study group. Scientists from all over the world came to Antwerp to discuss their knowledge and research. The organization of the conference was such a success that it was decided to hold the next world conference 2007 in Antwerp.

The institute supports Greta Devos, professor of history at the University of Antwerp (UFSIA), with her detailed research into the history of the Antwerp "nations" (freight handling companies), freight handling in the port of Antwerp and in particular her research into the history of Katoen Natie.





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## Headquarters as documentation center: the library

The institute maintains extensive documentation on its fields of activity. This documentation center has developed into an important scientific library in its own right, with a large collection of books, brochures, publications, exhibition catalogs, auction catalogs, documents, archives, photographs, newspapers etc.

The aim of the documentation center is to expand, conserve and give access to the knowledge on the subjects concerned, and to make it available for further research. The staff of the institute also put great efforts into tracking down, purchasing and classifying books and documentation material.

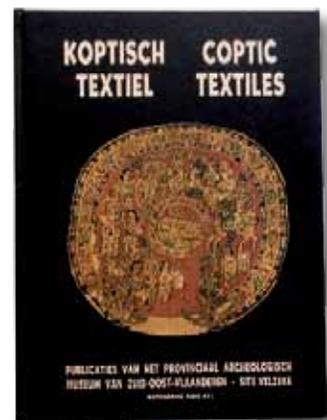
## Headquarters as spreader of knowledge: publications and publishing collaboration

With the knowledge available to it, the institute publishes material aimed at the general public. These publications are scientific in nature, but thanks to their extensive illustrations they are also very accessible. Publications by scientists and academics are also produced with the collaboration of the institute.

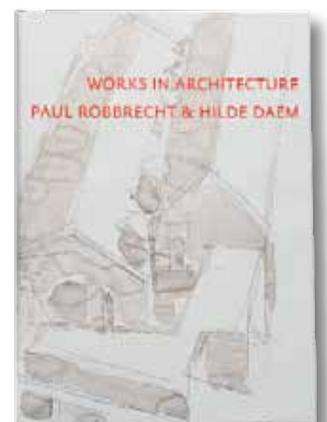
The following are already available:

- 1** 'Koptisch textiel uit Vlaamse privé-verzamelingen', Zottegem, Publicaties van het Provinciaal Archeologisch Museum van Zuid-Oost-Vlaanderen-site Velzeke, 1993, De Moor A, editor.
- 2** 'Werk in architectuur, Paul Robbrecht en Hilde Daem', Steven Jacobs with contributions by Juan Muñoz and Farshid Moussavi, Ludion.

- 3** 'De Antwerpse Naties, zes eeuwen actief in haven en stad', Greta Devos, Gustaaf Asaert, Fernand Suykens, Lannoo
  - 4** Katoen Natie 150 jaar, deel 1, 'Over krikhaken, pirrewitjes en natiepaarden' Greta Devos, Lannoo
  - 5** Katoen Natie 150 jaar, deel 2, 'Over olifanten, batterijen en andere mastodonten' Greta Devos, Lannoo
  - 6** 'Methods of dating of ancient textiles from Egypt and the neighboring countries of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD', De Moor Antoine and Fluck Cäcilia, Lannoo.
- This book contains the proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the scientific group "Textiles from the Nile Valley," which was held on 16 and 17 April 2005.



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## Headquarters as the bearer of an idea: architecture, heritage and art as an integral part of our everyday world

Following the French Revolution, the 19<sup>th</sup> century bourgeoisie brought about a schism in our experience of art: museums were “invented” and art was housed in these temples of the muses. Katoen Natie tries to get back to architecture and art as an everyday part of the world in which we live. The institute enables those who are interested to become acquainted with this ordinary vision of how art should be experienced.

For this purpose, guided tours led by experts are organized in and around the Katoen Natie headquarters and other buildings.

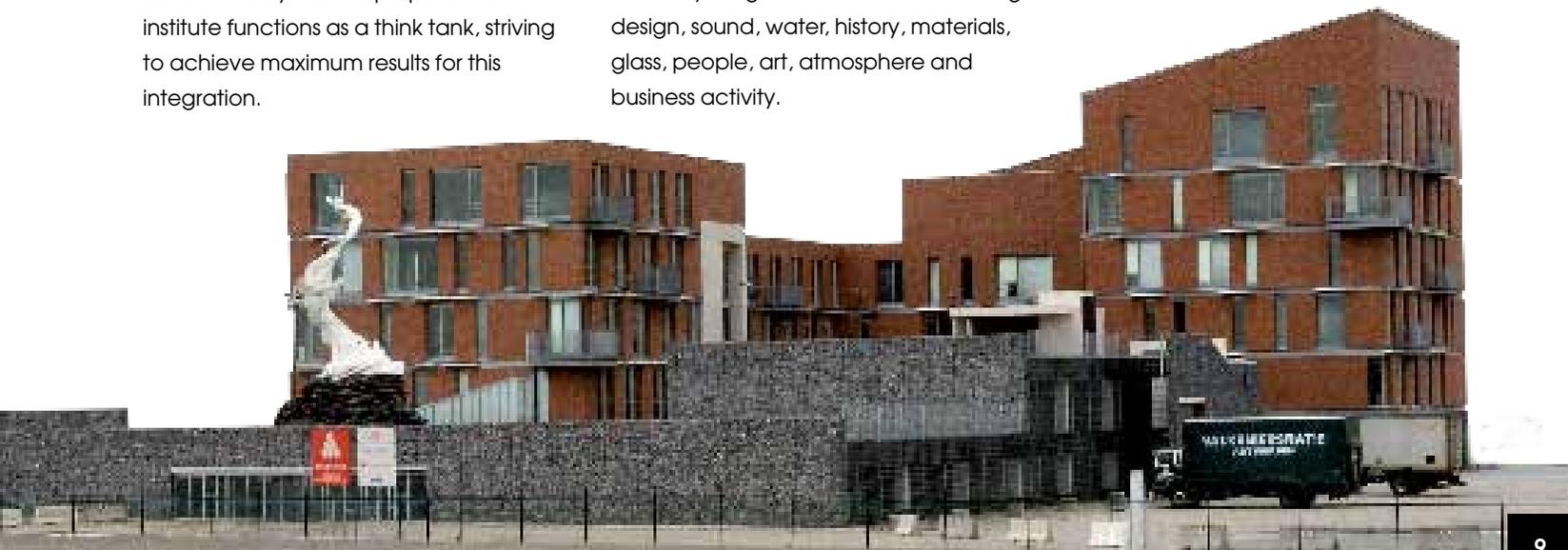
But “HeadquARTers” goes even further, playing an active part in combining architecture with art in the port area. Architects and artists are given commissions to create works of art in the great expanse of the port landscape.



## Headquarters as think tank, exhibition designer and integrator of art within the company

The integration of architecture, art and business activity has to be done in an efficient, balanced and above all aesthetic way. For this purpose the institute functions as a think tank, striving to achieve maximum results for this integration.

Creativity and a wealth of material resources merge into a whole, so that visitors are confronted with a wonderful harmony of light, color, decor, furnishing design, sound, water, history, materials, glass, people, art, atmosphere and business activity.





## Headquarters as a booster for Antwerp North

Antwerp North is the neighborhood where the petty bourgeois used to live, and is still distinguished by the many houses with Art Nouveau features in their architecture.

The neighborhood has gone through a difficult period in the past few decades, but despite all the problems it has pulled through and is now recovering slowly but surely. The development of the Katoen Natie headquarters and of “Headquarters” has created a focus that serves to attract new life and activity. In this way Katoen Natie and “Headquarters” are making a significant contribution to the recovery and rebirth of the neighborhood.



## Headquarters as a contributor to preservation of the local heritage: Beveren Manor and Singelberg Fortress

“Beveren Manor” was once an important feudal domain of the counts of Flanders. The lord of Beveren lived in Singelberg Fortress. In homage to the important role played by Beveren Manor in the history of Flanders, Katoen Natie has created the “Singelberg Fortress” architectural project.

The institute is the driving force behind this very ambitious project, seeking to give it significant historical, architectural and artistic added value. The institute is also working towards publication of an art book on Singelberg Fortress and Beveren Manor.



## Headquarters as a source of pride: contributing to the image of Antwerp and Flanders



The duchy of Brabant and the county of Flanders were the most vibrant regions of Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. This was the golden age of Antwerp as the world's leading commercial city and entrepot.

In the 20th century the Flemish region began to flourish once more, becoming one of the most successful and affluent in the world.

Now at the beginning of the 21st century, Flanders is a good place in which to live and work. "Headquarters" is proud to make its contribution to the image of Antwerp, the surrounding Waasland area and the region of Flanders as a whole.

### Practical information

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