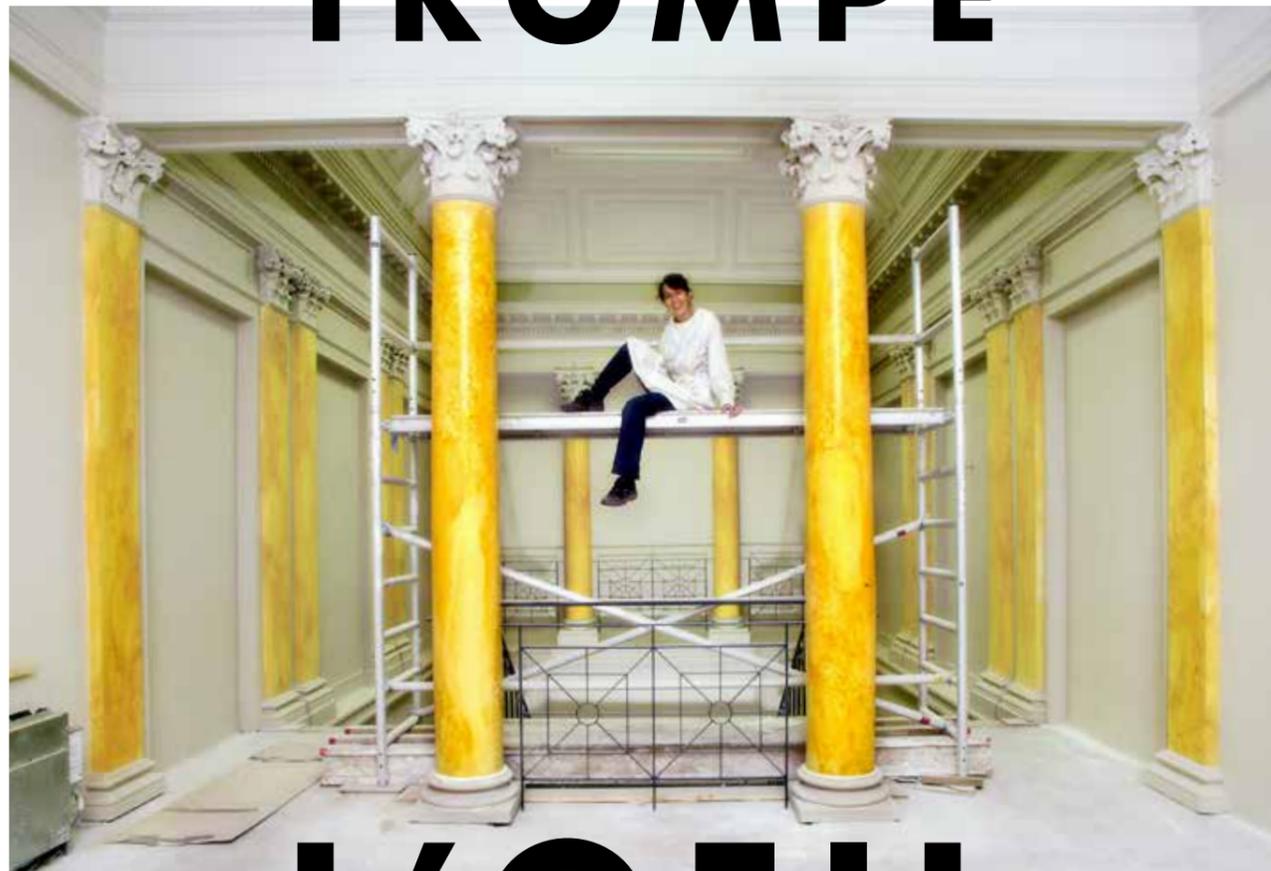# TROMPE

L'OEIL

This paint effect is due for a revival and Belgian creative Angèle Boddaert is the name to know

Angèle Boddaert was born and brought up in Brussels, a city crammed with Art Nouveau architecture adorned with *trompe l'oeil* murals. Her Armenian father was a painter who fuelled his daughter's love of art, and her home city offered the perfect place to study it: L'Institut Supérieur de Peinture Van der Kelen-Logelain. When Boddaert arrived in 1989, the school was run by Clément Van der Kelen, a master of illusion who could mimic every imaginable material in paint. He greeted his new student in an office whose ceiling was painted sky blue and dotted with golden stars; then he taught her how to create faux materials indistinguishable from the real thing, using multiple layers of paint and strange tools such as matchsticks, cork and feathers. 'I discovered a profession that I had never heard of, and which pleased me instantly,' says Boddaert.

In 1997, having finished her training, Boddaert won a competition to restore the murals of the Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert – a grand 19th-century shopping arcade in Brussels where Paul Verlaine bought the gun he used to shoot fellow poet Arthur Rimbaud in 1873. Here, she was called upon to recreate the delicate marbled effects that had been hidden beneath layers of modern paint. 'It was the kind of challenge that really suits me – when it's finished, everyone thinks that the place has never changed,' she says.

Boddaert excels at contemporary style, too. For chef Patrick Devos' Brussels restaurant, she used her favourite inspiration – food – to create a mural of 100 plates (opposite), each one holding a different ingredient. And for the restaurant Flavie's Tafel in the Belgian coastal town of Nieuwpoort, she painted a series of what she describes as 'metaphysical still-life murals' featuring seafood, vegetables and flowers. 'Once, Functionalists decreed that ornament was a crime,' observes Boddaert, 'but happily decorators no longer listen to them' (angeleboddaert.com).

Above Artist Angèle Boddaert creates realistic trompe l'oeil effects by hand. The siena marble design that she has created on the columns and pillars of this 19th-century home is inspired by its original colour scheme **Opposite** A close-up of one of the contemporary murals painted on the wall of Patrick Devos' restaurant in Brussels ➤

FROM EXQUISITE MIMICRY TO MODERN PROJECTS

Above An Art Deco-style mural in the Bachaumont hotel in Paris, which was built in the early 20th century
Opposite Boddaert's murals in Belgian restaurant Flavie's Tafel feature an artistically arranged selection of delicacies, crockery and raw ingredients ED