

Antwerp, February 20th 2018

## China hosts DIVA's first ever exhibition at the Shanghai Natural History Museum

DIVA and the Shanghai Diamond Exchange (SDE) have mounted a remarkable exhibition at the Shanghai Natural History Museum, which runs from February 7th to April 7th 2018. In so doing, DIVA has lifted a corner of her veil for the Chinese public. International trade, pioneering craftsmanship and contemporary creative talent are arousing the interest of the Chinese in the opening of DIVA in Antwerp on May 7th 2018. The Shanghai exhibition is the first project to stem from the cultural cooperation agreement between DIVA and the SDE.

Governor of the Province of Antwerp Cathy Berx and the Belgian Consul-General Paul Lambert cut the iconic silver ribbon on February 7th. An enthusiastic Governor Cathy Berx said: "China is showing a huge interest in Flanders' cultural heritage. Our long and fascinating association with diamonds and our craftsmanship have put Antwerp well and truly on the world map." DIVA Chairman Luk Lemmens added proudly: "It is unbelievable how with DIVA we have managed not only to open a new museum with international appeal in Antwerp, but also to realize our international ambitions with this cooperation agreement and this prestigious exhibition in Shanghai." Partner ALLOVE is supporting the preview and exhibiting two items of jewellery, flashing their ten diamond hearts and ten diamond arrows.



### "FROM NATURAL WONDERS TO ART TREASURES"

When selecting the objects for the exhibition, consideration was given to the Chinese visitors' frame of reference and interests. The exhibition set is based on the theme of international trade and consists of display cases and viewing screens. The combination of animations and information about the objects brings to life the stories behind what are for the Chinese unfamiliar objects.

Common ground is established between China and Europe in the stories which are told. For example, there is a link between the owl cup dating from 1548/49 (a chef d'oeuvre on long-term loan from the King Baudouin Foundation) and the importance of socializing with family, friends and

relations over drinks and a meal. The warning about excessive drinking is a theme that resonates with today's visitors, whether they are from Europe or China.

### **A brilliant Antwerp story**

The exhibition opens with 16 bird's-eye photographs of the city of Antwerp taken by Stany Dederen. A contemporary section of the exhibition contains a sculpture by Jan Dries from the provincial collection and a work by Willy De Sauter. Rounding off the exhibition is a sculpture by Rob and Jaap Thalen entitled Frozen Morning Light, which the Thalen duo worked on for 10 months. It consists of 28 kg of silver and contains 300 diamonds.

### **A brilliant cooperation**

The exhibition is the first event to result from the cultural cooperation agreement signed by DIVA and the Shanghai Diamond Exchange on September 4th 2017. The two organizations pledge to share knowledge, skills and exhibitions and stimulate cultural exchange. An international award and new exhibitions will be rolled out over the next few years.

### **A brilliant location**

Shanghai's 44,517-m<sup>2</sup> Natural History Museum re-opened in the Jing'An Sculpture Park in 2015. More than 10,000 specimens from all seven continents shed light on the world of natural history. The museum is one of the most popular museums in Shanghai and China, attracting one and a half million visitors every year. It expects to welcome approximately 150,000 visitors to the DIVA preview exhibition. Only a few days after opening the exhibition, the museum received already more than 12.000 visitors.



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From Natural Wonders to Art Treasures

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比利时DIVA博物馆精品展  
Exhibition by Antwerp Diamond Museum DIVA

**DIVA**



ALLOVE



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