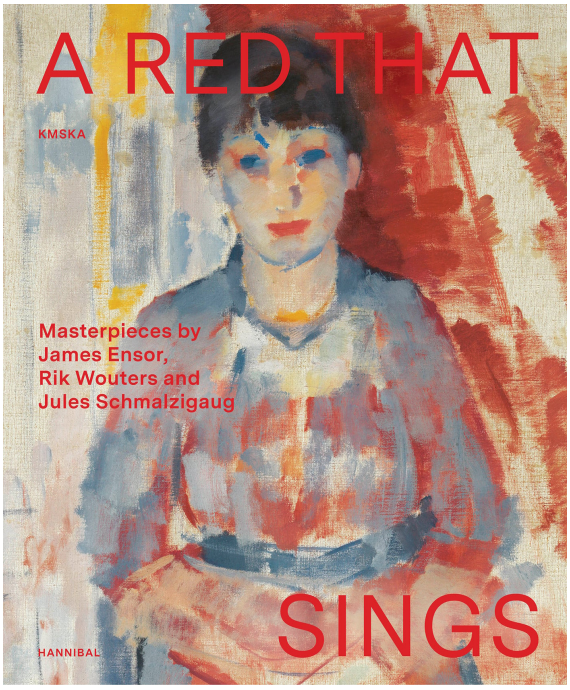
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A Red that Sings

Masterpieces from Ensor, Wouters and Schmalzigaug

Contributions by Adriaan Gonnissen

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- A celebration of famous Belgian colorists James Ensor, Rik Wouter, and Jules Schmalzigaug
- The first monograph on the work of James Ensor following the highly anticipated Centennial Ensor2024
- Collection of the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp
- Published to accompany the exhibition of the same name at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, running from 11 April to 30 August 2026
- Exhibition page: https://kmska.be/en/a-red-that-sings-masterpieces-by-ensor-wouters-and-schmalzigaug

What if colours could sing? What if you could not only see them, but *hear* them too?

A Red that Sings transports the reader to the epicentre of Belgian modernism, where colour is more than just colour: it brings spectacle, vibrates and resonates. In the paintings of James Ensor, Rik Wouters and Jules Schmalzigaug, pigments are not silent elements but musical forces: vermilion cries out, blue clatters, yellow jangles and green blares.

This book offers a compelling cultural history of colour as sound. Drawing on artists' letters as well as art criticism, poetry, music and philosophy, it illustrates how modern artists and thinkers from Charles Baudelaire and Vincent van Gogh to Wassily Kandinsky, Alexander Scriabin and the Futurists sought synaesthetic connections between seeing and hearing. The 'red that sings' – a metaphor coined by Schmalzigaug – runs like a thread through a broader reflection on expression, emotion and modernity that takes in old acquaintances and modern masters, including Peter Paul Rubens and Henri De Braekeleer, as well as Adolphe Monticelli, Willem Paerels and Jean Brusselmans.

Adriaan Gonnissen is a historian and art historian. He works at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (KMSKA) as curator of modern art, where he develops a series of exhibitions on Belgian modernism from both international and regional perspectives. In the past, he served as curator at Mu.ZEE in Ostend, where he organized exhibitions including *Cinema Joostens, Jules Schmalzigaug*, and *Transatlantic Modernisms: Belgium–Argentina 1910–1958*.

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