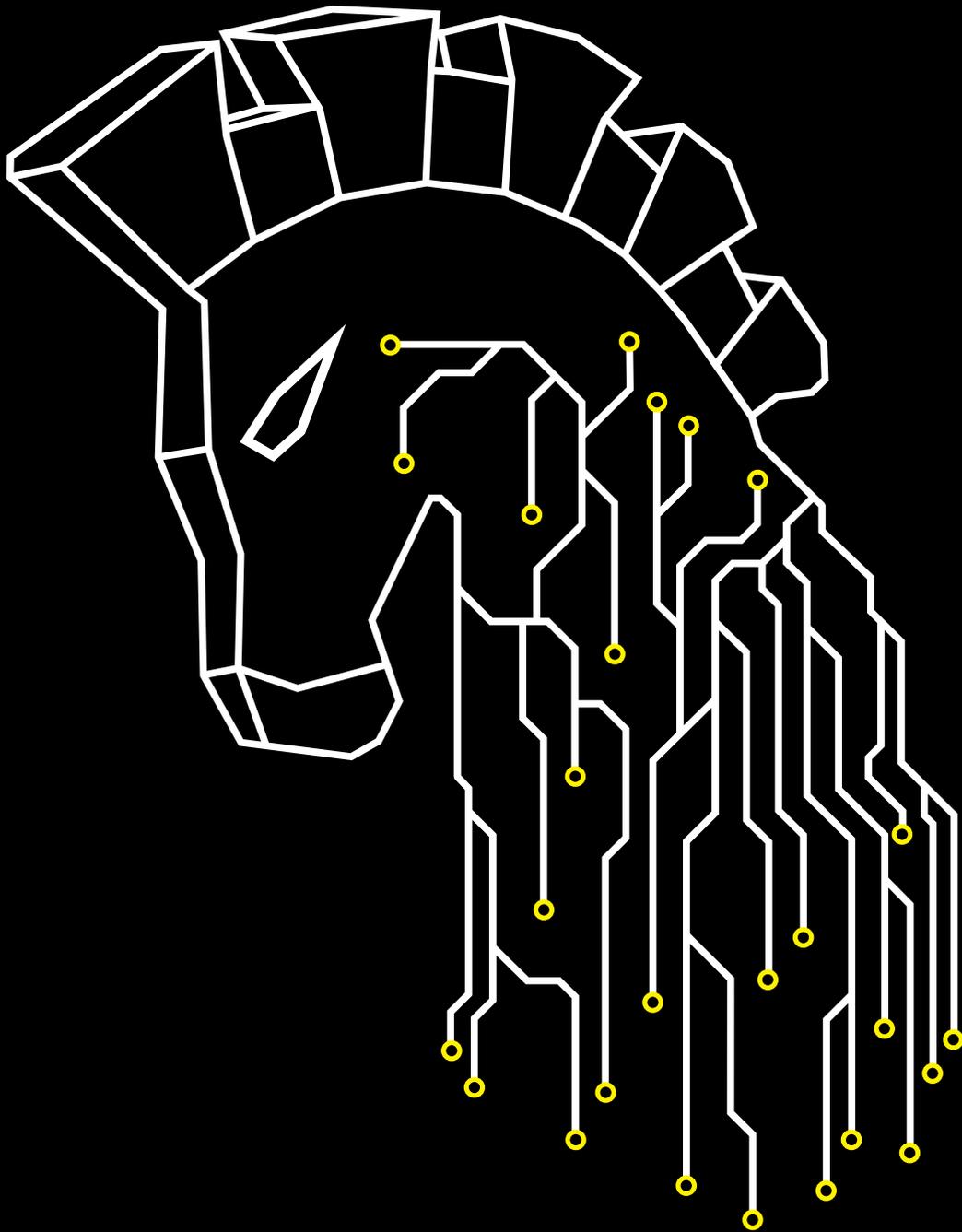


FAKE OR REAL

A HISTORY OF FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION



PRESS RELEASE



HOUSE OF
EUROPEAN HISTORY



A project of the European Parliament

“Fake for Real” – House of European History opens new temporary exhibition



The House of European History in Brussels’ Park Leopold opens its doors to a new temporary exhibition, ‘Fake for Real: A history of forgery and falsification’ on the 24th of October, 2020. Exploring the fascinating world of forgery, fakes and falsehoods, visitors will be swept along a dramatic narrative, spanning from antiquity to the present day.

An artful display of mirrors at the entrance and a labyrinthine path through the exhibits immediately set the tone for the visit – how do we find or evade the truth? How do we play with illusions? Visitors are invited to reflect on how falsehoods are told and for what purpose. As exhibition curator Joanna Urbanek explains: “We have to be aware that sometimes we want to be deceived, to transcend our daily existence, to daydream. It’s human to embrace certain fakes. But that inclination can be exploited, and the consequences huge.”

Set across six themes and a chronological timeline, the exhibition offers a rich display of more than 200 remarkable artefacts from all over Europe. Wide-ranging, each tells a compelling story of falsification and deceit — from the erased records of the Roman emperors, manipulated biographies of medieval saints, stories of travel that never happened — to a fake army used by the Allies in WWII. They also include documents of critical importance in our history such as the Donation of Constantine and the letters used to accuse Dreyfus, all illustrating how emotions and personal beliefs can impact how we want to understand the world, or deliberately misrepresent it.

Communication on Covid-19 and the disinformation surrounding it are also examined in this topical and up-to-date exhibition. ‘Disinfodemic’ serves as a timely reminder that truths and untruths are constantly circulating and that critical thinking and civic action are valuable guardians against deception. The final section of the exhibition, entitled ‘Era of Post Truth?’ is an interactive space filled with games and videos where visitors can become fact checkers, decide on what gets published, and play with an innovative ‘filter bubble’ that explores how social media works.

A theatrical journey through the motives, impact and exposure of fakes, this is an engaging exhibition that shines a light on our past, present and future, in all its complexity and contradictions. It runs from 24th of October 2020 to 31st of October 2021 at the House of European History, 135 Belliard, Brussels.

About the House of European History

The House of European History immerses visitors in the history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and offers a unique exploration of the development of European integration. Visitors can discover the origins and evolution of Europe, learning about both the continent's diversity and history's many interpretations of its story. The museum's exhibitions and learning offers provide a trans-European viewpoint that explores the historical memories, diverse experiences and common ground of the peoples of Europe and how these relate to the present day. Entrance to the museum is free.



Practical information

Fake for Real - A History of Forgery and Falsification

Curators: Joanna Urbanek, Simina Badica

24 October 2020 – October 2021

House of European History

Rue Belliard / Belliardstraat 135,
1000 Brussels, Belgium

To ensure everyone's safety during the pandemic, visitors are kindly asked to:

Wear face masks (over the age of 12)

Undergo a temperature check at the door, using a touchless thermometer

Book in advance online

Limit their groups to members of the same household.

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Images of the exhibition can be downloaded here in high-definition:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f4xdYzihVWpHopu9OzqaYk2DSitgDrWU?usp=sharing>