



From the page to the street City administrators worried about giving free rein to young artists for projects in public spaces need look no further than the Plantin en Moretuslei in Antwerp. When local artist Ephameron and Dutch artist Thijs Kelder of Studio Ruwe Data were contacted by the organisation Buurt aan de Beurt, which spruces up Antwerp streets, they were told they could create whatever they wanted on the dull and dirty concrete walls of the length of the traffic-heavy Plantin en Moretuslei that passes under the railway

in the Borgerhout district. Far from what you might expect, the pair reached into Antwerp's illustrious past and, inspired by the name of the street, have created a loving monument to the legendary printers Plantin and Moretus. The early publishing company, founded by Christoffel Plantin in the 16th century and later run by the Moretus family, was in business for more than 300 years and is kept in Antwerp's collective consciousness by the Plantin-Moretus Museum. Ephameron and Kelder's colourful mural features images

of Plantin and Jan Moretus, people reading, printing symbols and pigeons (which "stand for the previous inhabitants – and soilers – of the bridge," says Ephameron). The pair also "wallpapered" the concrete pillars with designs inspired by old book covers, and even customised the Plantin-Moretus logo to fit their own signatures. If only all paint on urban walls looked this good. *(Lisa Bradshaw)*

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