

Press kit

2020



Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum

Barcelona



Presentation

In May 2012, the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum of Barcelona, located in Palau Mornau - a stunning city palace built in the 16th century - opened its doors to the public.

Aiming to change the world

The museum, just like the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum in Amsterdam, is a unique permanent exhibition. It shows the past, present and future of the cannabis plant and its unmatched potential as a versatile resource for industrial, nutritional, medicinal, sacramental and recreational purposes. The museum's collection is composed of rare artefacts related to all aspects of cannabis history and culture, which its founder Ben Dronkers continues to gather from around the world.

A palace with lineage

The Palau Mornau dates back to the 16th century and originally consisted of two buildings. The Mornau family bought the whole property in the late 18th century and had it entirely renovated by the Modernista architect Manuel Joaquim Raspall (1877 - 1937). In 2002, Dutch entrepreneur and philanthropist Ben Dronkers bought the Palau Mornau, which was in a deplorable state. Architect Jordi Romeu, together with a team of contractors and artists, needed 10 years to entirely refurbish the palace and restore the grace and beauty it once had.

The collection

The museum presents valuable paintings and prints depicting cannabis use throughout history, and rare antiques, such as the various tools and implements used to make hemp into rope, paper and fabrics. Art lovers will be delighted by the original paintings by noted 17th century artists David Teniers the Younger, Cornelis Decker and Herman Saftleven. This important collection of old masters is complemented by a wide array of botanical prints from the 18th and 19th centuries. A medicinal section testifies to the widespread use of medicinal cannabis in the past. It features one of the world's largest collections of medicinal cannabis bottles from the 19th century.

Floor plan & highlights



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| ① <i>I Don't Mean To Be Blunt</i> , Sergio Garcia, 2014 | ⑥ <i>A Quiet Smoke</i> , Adriaen de Lelie, 1800 |
| ② <i>Cannabis</i> , Pierre Koralnik, 1970 | ⑦ <i>Como humo se va</i> , Cheech & Chong, 1978 |
| ③ <i>Vienna Dioscorides</i> , Pedanius Dioscorides, c. 512 CE (copy) | ⑧ <i>Marihuana - Assassin Of Youth</i> , Elmer Clifton, 1937 |
| ④ <i>Peasants Smoking In An Interior</i> ,
David Teniers the Younger, c. 1660 | ⑨ <i>The Putting Together Of The Heads</i> , Martin Sharp, 1967 |
| ⑤ Samurai doll in hemp outfit, late Edo period (c. 1800) | ⑩ Pharmacist's chest, Willmar Schwabe, 1873 |





Ben Dronkers

Ben Dronkers is the founder of Sensi Seeds, HempFlax, Hempstory and the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum in Amsterdam and Barcelona.

Early travels

As a young man in the late 1960s, Ben Dronkers worked on merchant ships which sailed from his native Rotterdam to various exotic locations. This was the beginning of Ben's lifelong passion for travel. Later, when he decided to try his hand at designing and creating distinctive clothing for his own shop, he travelled to Turkey, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to buy fabrics, and discovered the advantages of hemp fibre.

Inspired to collect cannabis seeds

He also bought cannabis in these countries. He relates with a smile, "I asked the farmers about cannabis plants and they laughed rather secretively. One of them gave me a handful of cannabis seeds as a gift and told me the seeds were very important. Naturally, this inspired me to preserve them, to learn about the qualities of seeds from different regions, and to collect more."

Exceptional new hybrids

By the time he returned to the Netherlands, Ben had assembled an extensive collection of cannabis genetics from all over Central Asia, and the subcontinent of Southeast Asia. Starting with these important building blocks, he began breeding his own cannabis strains and hybrids. In the early 1980s, an influx of new strains from the USA provided more gene-stock with which to create more exceptional hybrids. Establishing the Sensi Seed Club in 1985 enabled him to share his success with fellow enthusiasts.

Sharing the knowledge

During his travels, Ben also collected unusual, beautiful and rare artefacts connected to the world of cannabis and hemp. As he became more aware of the history and potential of global cannabis and hemp use, he became more passionate about sharing his knowledge and collection with the public.

Along with his friend and fellow cannabis activist, Ed Rosenthal, this led to the opening of the Hash Info Museum, which would grow to become the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum, one of Amsterdam's major tourist attractions.

More cannabis genetics

In 1991, Ben bought another seed bank from a breeder who had also been working with the US hybrids since the 1980s and the gene-stock of the two companies was merged to form the Sensi Seed Bank we know today. More new strains followed and the company went from strength to strength. More information about Sensi Seeds: www.sensiseeds.com



Reviving the hemp industry

Not content to merely talk about the wonderful things that hemp is capable of, in 1994 Ben Dronkers founded HempFlax, a company in the north of the Netherlands dedicated to growing and processing industrial hemp. In 2015, HempFlax opened a second factory in Romania, in a successful ongoing bid to revive the once-thriving hemp industry in Europe. More information about HempFlax: www.hempflax.com



Telling the story

In 2015, Ben opened a cosy shop and mini-café located in the heart of Amsterdam. He called it Hempstory, and its story is being told by a wide selection of fine natural goods: clothes, food and drink, skin care products, print, and accessories, all connected to hemp in their own way. More information about Hempstory: www.hempstory.nl



Cannabis entrepreneur

As Ben Dronkers enters his 60s, it is doubtful that he will rest on his laurels. His dedication to the marvellous multifaceted plant *Cannabis sativa* L. spurs him on to new challenges each year. Though many of his ideas are now a thriving reality, there are always new possibilities to explore for this cannabis entrepreneur.

National & international press

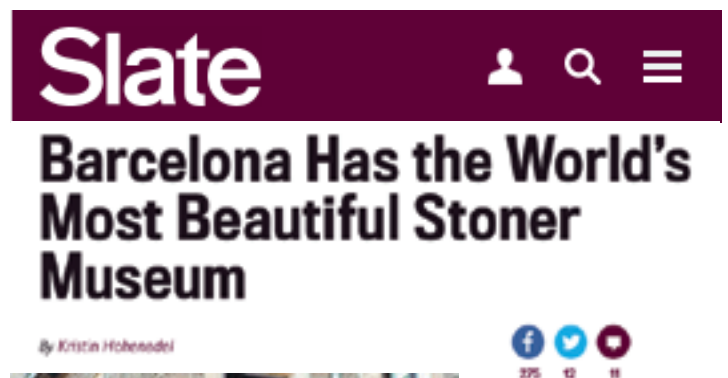
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ARCHITECTURE

the refurbishment of palau mornau's catalan architecture took 10 years to complete and now accommodates the »

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Practical information

Contact details

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   @hempmuseumgallery

Opening times

Monday to Sunday from 11:00 to 20:00.

Public holidays from 13:00 to 20:00, and December 24th and 31st, January 5th and June 23th, from 11:00 to 18:00.

Prices

General admission: € 9

Audio tour included, available in six languages: English, Spanish, Catalan, French, German and Italian.

Groups of 10 people or more receive a discount of 20%, if paid in full. Advance booking for groups is not necessary.

Children under 13 are admitted free of charge if accompanied by an adult.

Guided tours

Catalan: Saturdays at 12:00, Spanish: Sundays at 12:00.

Book your guided tour at your own convenience by sending an email to barcelona@hashmuseum.com.

Accessibility

Due to the nature of the Palau Mornau and the fact it is a national monument, the museum is not yet able to provide easy access for people with limited mobility.

Photography

Amateur photography (without flash) and video filming for personal use is permitted.

Professional photography and filming must be arranged in advance at barcelona@hashmuseum.com.

Venue rental

The museum opens its doors to welcome companies and professionals to enjoy the spaces of its outstanding building. These are exceptional spaces, ideal for special celebrations such as cocktails, gala dinners, press conferences and presentations. Please feel free to contact us if you require any further information.

Membership



RUTA DEL
MODERNISME



ART NOUVEAU EUROPEAN ROUTE
RUTA EUROPEA DEL MODERNISME



Barcelona
Turisme



MONUMENTA



A Modernista palace dedicated to cannabis

Hash Marihuana
& Hemp Museum
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SENSI SEEDS®

FLAGSHIP STORE BARCELONA

Our flagship store in Barcelona features Sensi Seeds' full range of products, including more than 100 renowned cannabis seed varieties and the new hybrid strains from the recently launched Sensi Seeds Research line.

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