

PHD RESEARCH

WILFRIED WOUTERS

Catholic Brothers in the Education System for Art and Architecture. The Saint Luke Schools in Belgium

1866 -1966 - [Original Title : *Broeders in het kunstonderwijs . De Sint-Lucasscholen in België 1866-1966*]

K.U. Leuven, department Geschiedenis, 2011.

Supervisor : Jan De Maeyer

The Saint Luke Schools make up the Catholic education system for art and architecture in Belgium. The institutes in Brussels, Ghent, Tournai, and Liège constitute in total more than six thousand students in higher education. This doctorate outlines the origins and development of these institutes. The creation of these institutes was made possible thanks to the generous financial support of the Catholic elite, both men and women. At the same time the dissertation analyses the methods and behaviour used by the congregation of the brothers of the Christian School, to take over during several decades almost half of the art and architectural education in Belgium. This organizational and material feat was only made possible by the obligation on the brothers to lifelong voluntary work for their congregations. To achieve this goal the brothers were bound by three vows and strict monastic rule. In contrast to their material success stood their pedagogical and artistic failure. Due to the restrictions of monastic life, a flexible art education was impossible. Only from 1958 onwards, after the school was taken over by laymen, did it become possible for these institutes to evolve as modern schools of art and architecture. Since the 1960s the graduates of the architectural section have played an important role in the architectural history of Belgium.