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The Smurfs Luxury Collection from Belgian custom pen brand **Garcia-Deschacht** is an officially licensed homage to another Belgian creation, the Smurfs. A hand-turned and polished acrylic body of "Smurf blue" features barrel and cap hand-engraved sterling silver overlays of four Smurf-themed designs captured in the lost wax engraving process. A brilliant-cut diamond is set in the Smurf's hat on the barrel or the cap. A sterling silver plate toward the barrel end has the signature of "Peyo" (Pierre Culliford, creator of the Smurfs). The cartridge/converter-filling Garcia-Deschacht Smurfs Luxury Collection has a No. 6 18 karat gold nib in extra-fine through broad and comes in a wood and sterling silver presentation box. While the one-of-a-kind fountain pen shown here is already sold, there are more Smurftastic pens available.

Pricing on request.

garcia-deschacht.com



Garcia-Deschacht Honors the Ardennes



Rich forests, rolling hills, rough terrain: the Ardennes is a large, magnificent sweep of land that spans Belgium and Luxembourg, running into the western parts of France and Germany. In the 20th century, it gained infamy as the staging ground for some of the fiercest battles of World War I and World War II. To this day, visitors may find the scars of battle throughout the region.

When the husband-and-wife team of Andy Deschacht and Laura Garcia Belli of Garcia-Deschacht Exclusive Custom Pens heard of an opportunity to participate in an exhibition inspired by the Ardennes at Belgium's Durbuy History and Art Museum (DHAM), lead designer Deschacht was inspired to create a vision of the place he and Garcia Belli have called home since 2021.

From February 6 to April 18, the Garcia-Deschacht Ardenne fountain pen will be on display at the museum. It took Deschacht 100 hours to complete the writing instrument. Each element of the pen reflects different aspects of the Ardennes.

The Garcia-Deschacht Ardenne fountain pen has a barrel of very special oak wood. Deschacht says, "The wooden pieces were full of bullets and bomb fragments from the first World War. This explains the gray and black stripes in the wood: discoloration due to the metal being trapped in the wood for decades."

The wood is matched to a large barrel ring of Coticule stone, a sedimentary rock that is extracted in the Ardennes and is used as a whetstone. The section, threads, and pen core feature a black acrylic. The base is composed of *Noir de Golzinne*, the only Belgian black limestone that is still mined and one of the most expensive marbles in the world. Also called *Noir Belge*, the marble has been used since Roman antiquity and can be found in buildings such as the Taj Mahal, the Vatican, and the Louvre.

A *Noire Belge* cabochon also graces the cap top. That sterling silver cap features one of Garcia-Deschacht's greatest skills, metalwork. The pen has a wrap-around design of layers of Argentium silver soldered together to create the flora, fauna, and landscape of the Ardennes region.

To complement the pen, Deschacht attached to the base delicate metal flowers made from the bullets he found in the oak wood, each of which features a brilliant red stone at the center, meant to symbolize peace after war.

Even the piston-filling system of the Ardenne fountain pen is a proprietary design by Deschacht: "I chose to use an acrylic that resembles pebbles in a river. It is semi-transparent, so it is possible to see the ink level." The fountain pen is finished with a No. 6 14 karat gold nib.

It is easy to see why the Durbuy History and Art Museum chose to include the new Garcia-Deschacht Ardenne fountain pen in its exhibition. In addition to incorporating Belgian history and landscape brilliantly, Garcia-Deschacht is a young artisan brand that continues Belgium's proud artistic tradition.

Visit garcia-deschacht.com and learn more about the Durbuy History and Art Museum at dham.be. See the pen in person at Rue Comte Théodule d'Ursel, 21, 6940 Durbuy, Belgium.