



About the artist Jan van Aken.

The culinary artist Jan van Aken lives and works in Zundert, a small village in the south of the Netherlands (Holland), province Brabant. Zundert is well known as the place of birth of Vincent van Gogh. Van Aken however is not special inspired by Vincent van Gogh. More inspirational artists to his culinary theme are ‘Burgundian’ artists like Jan Steen, Toulouse Lautrec, Joachim Beuckelaer and Rubens. Jan is specialized in the culinary world and paints like he says “every culinary reality or fantasy between shit and stars”, indicating the culinary circle from farmers to high class restaurants. The culinary world offers him an inexhaustible source of inspiration, more than time left to create.



The Recipe Concept® series 2006.

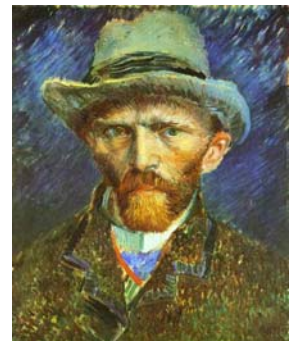
Van Aken introduced the Recipe Concept® series to the Dutch culinary scene on an international culinary fair. Giving just an example of this concept is never representative to the artworks and serves just the explanation of it. Behind every recipe is a story to tell. Sometimes clear to be seen, sometimes it needs a better look or it’s hidden in symbols. This example is based on a recipe of the famous Dutch chef Jonnie Boer, owner of restaurant ‘the Librije***’. He put available one of his exclusive recipes for a dish called “Kikkerhammetjes”, which means frog legs or like the French cuisine term ‘Cuisses de Grenouilles’. In France they are also known as ‘Cuisses des Nymphes’. That name and Jonnies wife inspired the artist to this painting. There’s also a wink to the fairy tale of the frog king: a princes kissing a frog.



In the 2006 series the animals of the recipe - meat or fish - had a central role in the paintings. In this worldwide Culi Chain Art Project, the artist will take much more creative freedom in the interpretation of a recipe on the cross-road of facts and feelings.

Vincent van Gogh: 30-03-1853 – 29-07-1890

In the centre of Zundert, on the location where Vincent was born stands today the Van Gogh House (left one on the photo). Next to this house is a small museum dedicated to Vincent van Gogh as citizen of Zundert. Unfortunately the original house of birth was broken down early 1900 and these houses build in 1903. Vincent spent his youth in Zundert up to his 16^e year of age. The countryside of Brabant and the farmers life inspired Vincent to create a lot of paintings in this theme. The Vincent van Gogh museum is located in Amsterdam.



Memorial tablet on the van Gogh House at Zundert (place of birth of Vincent) and Vincent with hat 1887