



MARK RAEMAEKERS

Before founding several companies, Mark Raemaekers sought expertise throughout extensive business training in Scotland. He thus prepared himself for deal- and acquisition making, capital raising and entrepreneurial leadership. He gained experience as an entrepreneur working in the film industry (distribution and retail). As such he founded Movie Max international, the largest home entertainment retailer within the Benelux and winner of the prestigious Dutch Retail of the Year Award in 1999. He then branched out to international marketing & sales, focussing on the Far- and Middle East primarily. In more recent years, his attention shifted towards lifestyle and indoor design (retail).

Inspired by his children, both of which have professional and academic ties with the arts, Mark has found a love and admiration for live music performance and the arts. He now strives to put his talents to use in these newly-found horizons. Visits to the Aldeburgh festival of music in Suffolk, UK have proven to be eye-opening moments in particular. The festival, once created by composer Benjamin Britten and tenor Peter Pears in the 20th century, provides a firm training ground for aspiring young artists up to the present day. Mark furthermore noticed the favourable social-economic effects this festival brings to its environment.

Mark is currently working, in collaboration with Diplomatic World Institute, on establishing a similar melting pot, in the desolate South European countryside, where cross-pollination of cultural and scientific talent is the ultimate goal. In this manner, he aims to make a major contribution to the organisation and design of a new and environmentally-aware future society whilst seeking to revitalise the most affected, depopulated areas of Southern Europe, socially and economically, by suburbanisation of its native inhabitants. This vision has culminated in “Fenixvillage”. This international NPO, functioning under the Belgian Royal Decree, was initiated by Mark. He will, as Fenixvillage initiator, join the New European Bauhaus initiative of EU President Ursula von der Leyen.