

Embassy Culture Days

22-24 October 2024,
The Hague, Netherlands

The Power of Culture

Speaker's Biographies

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER

Welcome: *The Power of Culture*



Kirsten van den Hul

As the Director of DutchCulture since October 1, 2022, Kirsten is honoured to lead an organization that serves as a hub for international cultural exchange. With a background as an independent consultant and former member of parliament, she has focused on culture, education, and gender equality. Kirsten has also worked with various organizations in the fields of human rights and international cooperation. A published author, she believes in inclusive thinking, which is a powerful tool in today's world.



Dewi van de Weerd

Dewi van de Weerd is the Ambassador for Cultural Cooperation and Director of the International Cultural Policy Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, she served as ambassador to Albania and deputy ambassador to Italy before returning to the Netherlands in 2021. Dewi studied arts and sciences and (human rights) law, and she worked as a journalist before entering diplomacy. At the MFA in The Hague, she focused on culture, human rights, and peacekeeping, and she has held posts in Beijing and Paris, working on human rights, migration, sustainable development, and climate policies.



Christianne Mattijssen

Mr. Christianne Mattijssen has been director of the Directorate of Heritage & Arts at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science since 2019. She studied Dutch Law at the University of Limburg.

The Geopolitics of Culture



Monique van Daalen

Monique van Daalen was appointed Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UNESCO in Paris in 2022.

Cultural Collaboration: from Willemstad to Waalwijk



Cathalijne Poppe

Cathalijne Poppe joined the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science as a member of the Management Team for Heritage and Arts on April 1, 2023. She emphasizes the importance of culture in daily life, advocating for a vibrant and accessible cultural sector. Her portfolio focuses on education, participation, and diversity and inclusion, fostering connections within and beyond the cultural field. Cathalijne is motivated to enhance cultural education and participation, international cultural policy, and diversity in the sector, drawing on her political and administrative experience to connect people and initiatives. She studied Public Administration Science at Leiden University.



Avantia Damberg

Avantia Damberg (1977) is a multidisciplinary visual artist based in Curaçao. She started with video and animation art and currently focuses on art collage in the broadest sense of the word, installation and land art, and on art in the public space. She is inspired by soundscapes, graphic design, typography and the history and nature of Curaçao. Avantia is the founder of SKOR Kórsou, an organisation promoting art in the public space of Curaçao. She is known for *Map of Curacao II* at the public register Kranshi, the iconic staircase *Colourful Steps* of Otrobanda, and *Curaçao Layers* in the Wereldmuseum Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Break-out session 1: Exploring Caribbean Cultural Collaboration: Opportunities and Initiatives



Joeri Oltheten

Joeri Oltheten is the Director of Wintertuin Curacao.



Rapti Miedema

Rapti Miedema is Lead Heritage and Pilots at Mondriaan Fonds.



Flora van Regteren Altena

Flora van Regteren Altena is a coordinating policy advisor in the field of Caribbean and International Cooperation in the field of culture, with a focus on multilateral relations (EU, Council of Europe, UNESCO) in the Arts and Heritage Department at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands.

Break-out session 2: Regional Collaboration: From Local to Global Reach



Marcel Feil

Marcel Feil is the Head of International Cultural Policy & Coordination at DutchCulture since August 2021. Before that, he was the artistic director at Foam photography museum in Amsterdam for 18 years. Acting as a link between the Dutch cultural field and the focal countries, Marcel values the essential work of country and heritage advisors. He facilitates partnerships with diplomatic missions abroad and initiates relevant projects for the sector.



Andrea Posthuma

Andrea Posthuma has over twenty years of experience in the cultural and audio-visual industry, witnessing firsthand the structural changes driven by digitalization and internationalization. As the MEDIA programme manager at DutchCulture | Creative Europe Desk NL, she oversees the entire chain of film education, talent development, production, distribution, and exploitation. Andrea advises on subsidy applications and plays a key role in implementing the European Commission's policies. Passionate about supporting innovative projects, she takes pride in the Dutch sector's success in leveraging European subsidies to bring creative ideas to life.



Guido Franken

Guido Franken earned his Master's degree in Film and Television Studies from Utrecht University in 2011 and has since produced award-winning short films, documentaries, and animations. Since 2013, he has been the director of CineSud, a foundation that promotes and supports the film industry in the south of the Netherlands, focusing on talent development, professionalization, and internationalization. CineSud has grown into the largest film hub in the country. In 2016, Guido also became the director of the Limburg Film Office. In 2020, he founded Screen Talent NL, a national talent and production network supported by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science.



Nina Aalders

Nina Aalders (she/her) serves as the Artistic Coordinator for Theaterfestival Boulevard in 's-Hertogenbosch. With a background in theatre and performance studies and prior experience as a freelance dramaturg, she joined Boulevard as a programme maker in 2015. Since then, she has been co-responsible for programming, talent development, and contextual programmes, including research and development initiatives. Since 2017, Nina has contributed to three Creative Europe projects and currently leads the Lijn 73 initiative, which pioneers collaborative processes between artists, audiences, and the organization. In addition to her work at Boulevard, Nina advises on dance for the Performing Arts Fund.



Tanja Mlaker

Tanja Mlaker is general director of Foundation Cultuur Eindhoven since February 2016. Cultuur Eindhoven is a foundation for arts and culture: responsible for financing the institutions and projects in the city, it has an advisory function to the municipality and cultural sector regarding policy development and strategy, and the task to strengthen the networks within and beyond the cultural sector on local, national and international level. Tanja studied German, French and Dutch language and literature and graduated at University of Utrecht with a special focus on theatre science. As literary translator she translated many Dutch and German authors into Slovenian, her mother tongue. In the performing arts she worked as general director of a theatre, an European network of cultural organisations, she was managing director of a dance company Danstheater AYA (2001-2004), and business manager of Dutch National Opera (2006-2016).



Teun van Irsel

Teun van Irsel is a cultural strategist for the municipality of Tilburg. His work focusses on long term cultural strategies for Tilburg. He is also on the board of a various cultural institutions and a part time musician.

WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER

A Deep Dive into the Creative Industries



Aric Chen

Aric Chen is the general and artistic director of Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam, the Netherlands' national museum and institute for architecture, design and digital culture. American-born, Aric previously served as a professor and the founding director of the Curatorial Lab at the College of Design & Innovation at Tongji University in Shanghai. He also worked as the curatorial director of the Design Miami fairs in Miami Beach and Basel, creative director of Beijing Design Week, and lead curator for design and architecture at the ambitious M+ museum in Hong Kong, where he oversaw the formation of its design and architecture collection and programme.



Syb Groeneveld

Syb Groeneveld is the director-manager of the Creative Industries Fund. Previously he acted as a manager of strategy and policy at the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, as the director of the think tank Kennisland, and as the head of new media at the Dutch Media Fund. Before that, Syb was responsible for the first two interactive programmes at the Netherlands Film Festival.



Marieke Ladru

Marieke Ladru has been working at the Creative Industries Fund NL since 2016, and has been the Talent Development programme leader since 2018. In the past, she has worked at various art institutions, including the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague.

Break-out session 1: International Heritage Cooperation



Marieke van Ommeren

Marieke van Ommeren is the Programme Secretary International Heritage Cooperation Programme at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science).



Jean-Paul Corten

Jean-Paul Corten is the Acting Programme Manager International Heritage Cooperation Programme at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science).



Martijn Martens

Martijn Martens is the Coordinator International Maritime Heritage for the International Heritage Cooperation Programme at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science).



Johan van Langen

Johan van Langen is the Programme Manager International Heritage Cooperation at the National Archives of the Netherlands.



Alex Enzlin

Alex Enzlin is the Project Leader International Heritage Cooperation at the National Archives of the Netherlands.



Vera Furth

Vera Furth is the Project Officer International Heritage Cooperation at the National Archives of the Netherlands.



Remco Vermeulen

Remco Vermeulen is the Coordinator Collection Management for the International Heritage Cooperation Programme at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science).



Bente Bergmans

Bente Bergmans is the Secretary Colonial Collections Consortium at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science).



Sherlien Sanches

Sherlien Sanches is the Advisor International Heritage Cooperation at the Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage (KIEN).



Jacomine Hendrikse

Jacomine Hendrikse is the Advisor Europe + Heritage Programme at DutchCulture.



Jinna Smit

Jinna Smit is Head of Department Library & Archival Collections / Bureau Coordinator of the Colonial Collections Consortium at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science)

Breakout session 2: Unlocking EUNIC



Robert Kieft

Robert Kieft is Programme Manager European Spaces of Culture at EUNIC (EU National Institutes for Culture). Together with partners, EUNIC brings to life European cultural collaboration in more than 100 countries worldwide with a network of 140 clusters, drawing on the broad experience of our members from all EU Member States and associate countries. The EUNIC office coordinates the network from Brussels. Before joining EUNIC in 2019, Robert worked as strategic and funding advisor and EUNIC Focal Point at DutchCulture, EUNIC's member from the Netherlands, for 8 years. Robert studied History and European Union Studies at Leiden University.



Simon de Leeuw

Simon de Leeuw is an all-round programme maker at DutchCulture, dedicated to leveraging the role of culture in addressing global challenges. Through the NewGen programme, he amplifies the voices of emerging artists in international collaborations and coordinates DutchCulture's links with higher arts education. He also represents DutchCulture in the EUNIC network, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts in cultural relations and exchange both in the EUNIC NL Cluster and as DutchCulture's Focal Point in EUNIC Global.

Breakout session 2: The Power of 'The Culture'



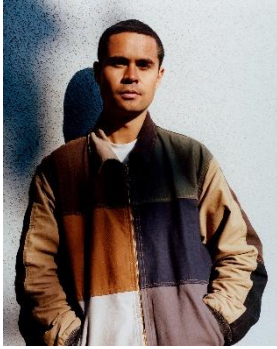
Martin van Engel

Martin van Engel is the founder of DoDiversity and a recognized expert in diversity, inclusion, and participation. With experience at organizations like the Van Gogh Museum, he is a sought-after advisor and moderator for management teams and D&I groups. Martin coaches managers to develop inclusive leadership and offers impactful workshops that translate D&I principles into practical strategies. He is also a member of the Dutch UNESCO Commission.



Lisanne Bedaux

Lisanne Louise Bedaux is a senior advisor on culture and heritage at the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO, where her responsibilities include World Heritage and the recently published policy advice on the Culture. At the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, she worked on various dossiers, including intangible heritage and international cultural policy. Lisanne holds a research master's degree in arts of the Netherlands and a master's degree in constitutional and administrative law from the University of Amsterdam. Her academic expertise includes a specialisation in art from the (early) modern period and freedom of expression.



Elizar Veerman

Elizar Veerman is a Moluccan-Dutch photography artist based in Amsterdam. His photographic practice is particularly concerned with the effects of migration. Focusing on peripheral communities and diasporas, he portrays representations of street culture, post-colonial identity and acts of (self-)reclamation in both documentary and commissioned photography. He started his photography career with Dana Lixenberg. His debut series *You Huddle To Keep Warm* received multiple nominations, including the DuPho SO Award, Rabo Portrait Prize and Fashion 100 by PhotoVogue. His work has been published in GQ Middle East, Fisheye Magazine and NRC.

Breakout session 3: AI and Artistic Practice



Maarten Lamers

Maarten Lamers is a computer science researcher and lecturer at Leiden University. His work combines artificial intelligence and computer science with other interests, such as robotics, animal-computer interaction, and using organisms as part of computing systems. Vrij Nederland magazine featured him on their list of 101 Most Interesting Nerds of The Netherlands.



Jeroen van der Most

Artist Jeroen van der Most explores technologies like AI and quantum computing to challenge the essence of both art and tech. While technology is often used to exploit nature, in Jeroen's art, it breeds deeper connections with the natural world. He uses AI to show beauty from long lost histories and distant futures, and probes a world where technology transcends its role as a human tool and evolves into an independent force - urging us to rethink the meaning of being human. His artworks and talks are featured worldwide in museums, art fairs, and tech conferences. Since 2010, Jeroen has been a pioneer in the digital arts. He works autonomously but also created artworks for organizations such as Amnesty International, Microsoft, and the EU's S+T+ARTS programme.[NULL](#)



Constant Dullaart

Constant Dullaart is a former resident of the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, who lives and works in Berlin. His works were shown in MCA, Chicago, Whitechapel Gallery London, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Import Projects Berlin, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, ZKM Karlsruhe, Victoria & Albert Museum London, and MAAT Lisbon. Dullaart has curated several exhibitions and lectured at universities and academies throughout Europe, such as Werkplaats Typografie a post-graduate programme at ArtEZ, Arnhem. In 2015, he was awarded the Prix Net-Art, the international prize for internet art. Since 2023, Constant Dullaart is professor Artistic Forms of the Digital at AdBK Nuremberg.