

FACTSHEET

Eindhoven, May 2008

Be(com)ing Dutch – the exhibition

What defines the Dutch identity? How did we become what we are? These topical and urgent questions are playing on many people's minds. *Be(com)ing Dutch* is an inquiry into whether art can provide us with alternative examples in our thinking about contemporary society. *Be(com)ing Dutch* sets out to question our ideas about cultural identity and to explore today's processes of inclusion and exclusion. Thirtyfive Dutch and international artists present work both old and new at the museum and throughout Eindhoven. The museum has invited them to share their visions about what 'Becoming Dutch' has, does and could mean in the past, present and future. *Art Beyond the Walls* shows works at various venues and at various times.

Curators

The exhibition was curated by Charles Esche and Annie Fletcher, director and curator at the Van Abbemuseum, respectively.

Official opening

Saturday 24 May 2008, 14:45 – 15:15 p.m. official opening by Rob van Gijzel, Mayor of Eindhoven and Gitta Luiten, director Mondriaan Foundation.

The Question Paintings March

On Saturday, 24 May at 15:15 p.m. *Be(com)ing Dutch* opens with *The Question Paintings March*, a cheerful, carnivalesque parade staged by the Thai artist Surasi Kusolwong. The parade is the result of many months of collaboration between the artist and diverse cultural groups from Eindhoven: dancers, performers, activists, musicians and museum visitors. Participants in the parade will carry placards with questions such as 'Can I live without hope or fear?' and 'How did I get here?' The parade will progress through the centre of Eindhoven, starting from the Van Abbemuseum.

Press conference

Thursday, 22 May, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. in the Van Abbemuseum, followed by a visit to the exhibition. Word of welkom by Charles Esche, the director. Introduction to the exhibition by the curator, Annie Fletcher.

Art Beyond the Walls

Art Beyond the Walls is the umbrella title for several performances being staged in the city.

Participating artists

Petra Bauer, Abdellatif Benfaïdoul, Bik Van der Pol, Michael Blum, Libia Castro, Phil Collins, Carla Cruz, Gerrit Dekker, Erwin van Doorn, Ronen Eidelman, Ed van der Elsen, Hadassah Emmerich, Alexandra Ferreira, Daan van Golden, Rana Hamadeh, Noline van Harskamp, Alicia Herrero, Hans van Houwelingen, Johan van der Keuken, Annette Krauss, Agung Kurniawan, Surasi Kusolwong, Toos Nijssen, Ahmet Ögüt, Ólafur Ólafsson, Wendelien van Oldenborgh, Ilya Rabinovich, Mario Rizzi, Mounira Al Solh, Fiona Tan, Oğuz Tatari, Alite Thijsen, Lidwien van de Ven, Tintin Wulia, Bettina Wind.

Be(com)ing Dutch	<p><i>Be(com)ing Dutch</i> is a two-year project developed both inside and outside the Van Abbemuseum, involving debates, artists' projects, exhibitions and other activities.</p> <p>The <i>Be(com)ing Dutch</i> project was launched in late January 2007 at the Van Abbemuseum with <i>The Gatherings</i>, a weekend of talks, debates, art projects and presentations. The second phase of the project was staged at the museum in late 2007: the <i>Eindhoven Caucus</i>. Over a period of four weeks there were intensive discussions and lectures among and by thinkers and artists from all over the world.</p>	
Press material	<p>All press information can be found at www.vanabbemuseum.nl/pers For more information and interviews: Claire Beke - Communicatie in Cultuur Tel: + 31 (0) 10 425 03 44 beke@communicatieincultuur.com pressoffice@becomingdutch.com</p>	
Media partner	<p>The media partner of <i>Be(com)ing Dutch – the exhibition</i> is De Groene Amsterdammer.</p>	
Website	<p>www.becomingdutch.com www.vanabbemuseum.nl</p>	
Opening hours	<p>Tues.-Sun. Thurs. Thursday night (through 31/12/2008)</p>	<p>11:00 – 17:00 11:00 – 21:00 17:00 – 21:00, admission free</p>
Admission	<p>Adults Groups > 15 persons / 65+ Students/CJP-card holders Children 12 years and under</p>	<p>€ 8.50 € 6.00 € 4.00 free</p>
Mondriaan Foundation	<p>The Mondriaan Foundation awarded its 2006 Development Prize for Cultural Diversity to the Van Abbemuseum for the <i>Be(com)ing Dutch</i> project. Within this project's framework, the museum has organized a diversity of gatherings over the last two years. www.mondriaanfoundation.nl</p>	
With support of	<p>gemeente Eindhoven Culture programme of the European Union Stichting DOEN</p>	
Graphic design	<p>75B, Rotterdam</p>	
Communication press information	<p>The communication campaign is being coordinated by 'Claire Beke – Communicatie in Cultuur', Rotterdam Tel: +31 (0)10- 425 03 44 beke@communicatieincultuur.com pressoffice@becomingdutch.com</p>	