

IIAS Announcements

2017 will be the Leiden Asia Year

All the 2017 Asia-related activities of the University will be brought together on www.leidenasiayear.nl. Additions will be made to the programme over the coming months.



LEIDEN UNIVERSITY, home to IIAS, will be dedicating 2017 to Asia. Throughout the 'Leiden Asia Year', the university will be organising symposia, conferences, lectures and exhibitions, all on the theme of Asia, in close collaboration with the municipality of Leiden, its museums and other Leiden-based organisations. The Leiden Asia Year was announced by Rector Magnificus Professor Carel Stolker on 5 September 2015, on the occasion of the Opening of the Academic Year.

The Leiden Asia Year has been prompted by the upcoming opening of 'The Asian Library' in 2017. As announced in an earlier issue of The Newsletter, this new facility is currently being built on top of the main building of the Leiden University Libraries, and will bring together under one roof some of the foremost collections in the world, from and about Asia. The Asian Library is one of IIAS's most valued partners in Leiden, as it is the Official Sponsor of the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) Book Prize.

Above:
Current construction of the Asia Library at the Leiden University Libraries (Oct 2016)

IIAS will be organising and participating in a number of activities taking place in Leiden during the Leiden Asia Year. The first that has already been scheduled is the symposium 'Collecting Asia', to take place on 17 March 2017. This symposium aims to describe the history of Asian-Leiden connections and to showcase the written (digitised) sources and the wealth of material culture present at Leiden University. It will also look at current heritage practices taking place on the Asian continent. Additional events for which dates have been set include the seminar 'Reflections on India and China' in April, to be convened by IIAS visiting professor Pralay Kanungo, who currently holds the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Chair for the Study of Contemporary India at IIAS/LIAS (Leiden University Institute for Area Studies); and an afternoon meeting in Leiden, on 12 October, to introduce the academic community to the biennial International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS; co-organised by IIAS),

whose 11th edition will potentially be organised in Leiden in the summer of 2019 (ICAS 10 will take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 20-23 July 2016; www.icas.asia). Plans for other activities are still being developed, and will possibly include a Winter School for PhD students about food and food waste in Asia, to be organised together with Leiden University.

The full-day Grand Opening of The Asian Library is scheduled for 14 September 2017. Different events are being organised for the week of 11 to 17 September. These include a 'Mapping Asia' exhibition, an international symposium on the history of cartography featuring old Asian maps, a symposium and exhibition on Asian cuisine and culinary activities, smaller pop-up exhibitions and a range of lectures. The film hall of The Asian Library will be used for showing short films during the CinemAsia Film Festival.

The considerable efforts involved in the construction of the Asian Library demonstrate how a focus on Asia, going back to almost the beginning of the University in 1575, is as alive today as it ever was. Dutch trading endeavours in the East from the beginning of the 17th century, fortunately, went hand in hand with scientific explorations of Asia's rich biodiversity driven by the Hortus botanicus Leiden, and later with the systematic study of Asian cultures and societies. Today, this is reflected by the many collections from Asia, including unique manuscripts, rare printed books, letters and other archival materials, as well as by a strong focus on Asia in research and education, not only in the Humanities with its renowned Asian language and cultures programmes, but also in such areas as Law and the (Social) Sciences. Significantly, Leiden is, in addition to IIAS, home to a number of other institutes focusing on Asia, including the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), the National Museum of Ethnology, and the Siebold Japan Museum.



The mind envisioned through creativity: Chinese outsider art at the Outsider Art Museum

24 November 2016 - 5 June 2017

Outsider Art Museum (OAM), located in the Hermitage Amsterdam. OAM is run by The Dolhuys, Museum of the Mind, situated in Haarlem, a mere 15 minutes from downtown Amsterdam www.outsiderartmuseum.nl; www.hetdolhuys.nl

RECENTLY THE FIRST OUTSIDER ART MUSEUM (OAM) in the Netherlands opened its doors in the Hermitage Amsterdam. This museum shows leading art works by outsider artists from all over the world. Finally there is a permanent podium for 'invisible' artists who are not represented in the art world and who create works by following their inner voice.

Creativity is at the core of the Outsider Art Museum. When entering the Outsider Art Museum in the Hermitage Amsterdam one is welcomed by art that looks different than anything you encounter in other galleries or museums. Bright colors, edge-to-edge filled drawings and three-dimensional fantasy figures. Passionate and unique expressions give way to the artists' inner world; their dreams, fears, fascinations and preferences are on display. Looking at the paintings we can see a glimpse of the soul of the artist. Although this is the case for many artists, the fact that these creators do not follow the conformist art rules, gives them free rein.

Notable are the similar themes that emerge in outsider art, regardless of geography and cultural backgrounds. Dreams, fears, nightmares, religion as hope, overwhelming forces and systems with which the artists try to make sense of the world around them, can be detected. Are they in contact with each other? Do they know each other's work? Not at all. They follow their inner voice, and remarkably use a similar expressive language.

Chinese outsider art

This fall the OAM is participating in the first Sino-Dutch exchange exhibition of outsider art. This extraordinary exhibition features multiple artworks by Chinese outsider artists, as well as new pieces from the Dutch outsider art collection. The audience will have the unique opportunity to compare and admire outsider art from these two very different countries.

This international exchange is a joint project of The Dolhuys and the Chinese Federation for Disabled People, with Guo Haiping as curator for the Chinese artwork.

Guo Haiping strives to raise awareness and interest for the outsider art genre in China. This awareness is giving a voice to a group of people struggling to find their place in society. The artwork being displayed in the Outsider Art Museum is of great significance for both artists and their families, as well as a sign of recognition of their work in the international art world.

Hans Looijen, director of The Dolhuys, Museum of the Mind & Outsider Art Museum

IIAS lecture in the museum

Prof. Jeroen de Kloet, Director of the Amsterdam Centre for Globalisation Studies, University of Amsterdam (<http://jeroendekloet.nl>) will host a lecture at the Outsider Art Museum in the context of this exhibition, in January 2017. The exact date will be made available soon.

Please contact Heleen van der Minne at h.m.van.der.minne@iias.nl for more information, or if you would like to attend this lecture



Bring your friend!
Second ticket free with this coupon

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