

Effective 17 August, De Lakenhal has a new director. Meta Knol, until recently curator of modern and contemporary art at the Centraal Museum Utrecht, took over from interim director Peter Berns.

Immediately after taking up office, Meta Knol busied herself with preparations for the major retrospective on Theo van Doesburg. In addition, De Lakenhal will enter an important new phase next year. Sponsored by the City of Leiden and the VSBfonds, that donated € 225,000 for museum innovation, De Lakenhal will update the collection in 2010. In this year, preparations also will start for the renovation and expansion of the building, which dates from 1640. Both the city officials and the museum very much want to shape a new future for De Lakenhal.

Photo: Jan Banning, 2009



Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal Leiden

Art Route

26 and 27 September,

all locations open from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.

For the 15th time running, the final September weekend will focus fully on art. 150 Artists will open wide the doors of their studios and galleries. Meet the artists and visit the 79 unique locations, ranging from the industrial factory building *Nieuwe Energie (New Energy)* to the tiny *Weaver's Cottage*, and from the artists' bulwark on Haagweg 4 to the many downtown studios.

Scheltema building, from where the Art Route starts, has information on all participating artists, as well as a free route booklet and map. Enjoy the various presentations in Scheltema, while children make their own work of art on Sunday afternoon, supervised by professional artists. Various art projects take place throughout the city. A bazaar *choc-a-block* with weird, lovely and touching knick-knacks is located in visual artist Simone de Jong's store in Dwarsbolwerkstraat, for instance, and Yvonne van den Herik presents Art in Progress in *Ars Aemula Naturae*. Her project presents live experiments which combine dance, music, drawings, paintings and graphic art.

For more information on the participating artists, on all activities, and to map out your personal art route, please go to www.kunstrouteleiden.nl.



VAN DOESBURG AND THE INTERNATIONAL AVANT-GARDE: CONSTRUCTING A NEW WORLD

20 October 2009 through 3 January 2010

In close cooperation with Tate Modern in London, Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal in Leiden presents a major exhibition on Theo van Doesburg (1883-1931), and this artist's influence on the international avant-garde. The 300-plus works by some 80 artists are on loan from museums from around the world. Many of these works have never been on display before in the Netherlands. Paintings, sculptures, scale-models, furniture, posters, films, typographical designs and magazines illustrate the lively international world of art. Artists whose works are on view include El Lissitzky, László Moholy-Nagy, Gino Severini, Karl Peter Röhl, Werner Gräff, Walter Dexel, Kurt Schwitters, Hans and Sophie Arp, Raoul Hausmann, Hans Richter, Henryk Berlewi, Piet Mondrian, Vilmos Huszár, Bart van der Leck, Alexander Archipenko. Van Doesburg was a painter, architect, designer, typographer, art critic, poet, Dada-performer, editor and publisher. In 1917 he founded the periodical *De Stijl*, a platform for the art movement by the same name, in which artists and architects searched for a harmonic and universal style. In Europe he promoted the ideas of *De Stijl* by organising amongst other things lectures, congresses and exhibitions and founding artists' collectives. His varied activities soon made Van Doesburg one of the pivotal people within the European avant-garde.

For more information on all activities, with (avant-garde) movies, theatre and activities for children, please go to www.lakenhal.nl/doesburg.

The catalogue *Van Doesburg and the International Avant-Garde: Constructing a New World*, in English only, edited by Gladys Fabre and Doris Wintgens Hötte, is available at € 25. Gladys Fabre, Vicente Todolí and Doris Wintgens Hötte have put the exhibition together.

The exhibition has been made possible through an indemnity grant provided by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and by the generous support of the main funders Turing Foundation and Mondriaan Foundation, which supports visual arts, design and cultural heritage projects; the sub-funders SNS Reaal Fonds, Straver Foundation (of the Prince Bernhard Cultural Foundation), Cultural Foundation Leiden and partners 'Stichting VSBfonds' and the city of Leiden.



Admission to De Lakenhal is free until 20 October 2009, due to the preparations for the *Van Doesburg and the International Avant-garde* exhibition. Not all galleries will be open to the public, but the following exhibitions are:

Maps as Art
8 through 27 September 2009
Dutch wall maps from the 16th to the 21st century highlight the uniformity of map images and decorations.

To mark the Leiden Pilgrim Year, **The First Thanksgiving** by Jenny Brownscombe is on display outside America for the first time since it was painted in 1914. It is on view in De Lakenhal until 4 January 2010.

The **Holland Society of New York** presentation, a part of the *Holland Mania* event, was extended until 7 December 2009.



Float | through 27 September 2009

To mark the Leiden Pilgrim Year, visual artist Rachel Bacon executes the art project *Float*, in which she links the Pilgrims with today's refugees. For the *Float* exhibition, Rachel Bacon constructed a cut-out of the ship with which the Pilgrims left Leiden for Delfshaven in 1620, and a paper folding model of the rubber dinghy that many contemporary refugees use. Scale-models of the few belongings that the Pilgrims were able to take with them, including a cradle and a bible, are shown together with images and belongings of today's boat refugees.

On 15, 16 and 17 October 2009, Scheltema and various locations in the city organise the art and knowledge festival *Key of Life*, related to the Mateusz Herczka exhibition.

On 2 and 3 October 2009 the *Levend Spookhuis* (Live Haunted House) stages a spectacular show in Scheltema around Darwin's collection of curiosities. On 3 October 2009, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., De Lakenhal has free guided tours which take in the highlights of *The Relief of Leyden*.

31 October through 19 November 2009 De Lakenhal takes Dropstuff.nl to Leiden. This platform for freedom of speech in relation to art, presents a live broadcast with interactive works by Maze de Boer, Teun Castelein and Dstruct. Opening 31 October at 5:00 p.m., on 7 November JAM; on 11 November debate in Scheltema on freedom of speech and new (art) media.

Also see www.dropstuff.nl

Laboratory to Ascertain Plausibility of Jim's Basement Floor Anecdote, 2009

26 September through 8 November 2009

Aquariums with floors that simulate various post-human surfaces; a table with accessories and material to keep killifish; and a video installation that acts as a scientific experiment to document the jumping of the *Rivulus Punctatus*.



Mateusz Herczka works on the cutting edge of art and science. Recently, he became fascinated by the world of the killifish, a species that seems to have managed in an inimitable way to cut itself a place in the era of the cultural (rather than natural) evolution, that is among the human species. The killifish roused enough attention by humans to create a worldwide network of clubs, associations and interest groups. Killifish eggs, covered in wet peat, are sent around the world in envelopes. Even though many natural biotopes of the killifish are currently being destroyed, it survives thanks to its infiltration into the human culture. Herczka's installation illustrates this infiltration. It was commissioned by Fundación Ortega Muñoz and MEIAC (Spain), and Scheltema is the first location outside Spain in which it is on display.

