

## Museum as Hub Be(com)ing Dutch at a Distance

15/01 – 29/03/2009

New Museum, New York

From 15 January to 29 March 2009, the Van Abbemuseum presents in the New Museum in New York *Be(com)ing Dutch at a Distance*, the Van Abbemuseum's contribution to the international project *Museum as Hub*. *Museum as Hub* is a collaborative project, involving five international art institutions. This partnership is based on a new model for curatorial practice and institutional collaborations. Besides the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven and the New Museum in New York, the partners in this project are Museum Tamayo (Mexico City, Mexico), Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art (Cairo, Egypt) and Insa Art Space (Seoul, South Korea).

### Museum as Hub

*Museum as Hub* is both a network of institutional connections and relationships and a real, physical site on the fifth floor of the Education Centre in the New Museum, New York. Each partner in *Museum as Hub* has taken the topic of "neighbourhood" as a starting point for exchanging ideas about the specific individual local context and the shared global context.

Participation in this project has given the Van Abbemuseum interesting opportunities during its two-year research and exhibition project *Be(com)ing Dutch*. In its presentation at the New Museum, the Van Abbemuseum takes a look back at the course of development of *Be(com)ing Dutch* and its results. In 2006, the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven initiated *Be(com)ing Dutch*, a series of public discussions, seminars, performances and an exhibition, all dealing with the subject of cultural identity and "being and/or becoming Dutch". Visits to each of the partners of *Museum as Hub* made it possible for the museum to consider the implications of transposing the specific context of the Van Abbemuseum and *Be(com)ing Dutch*—the context of Eindhoven and the Netherlands— into a visual art project in the heart of the New York art world. The Van Abbemuseum sees *Museum as Hub* not only as a place to discuss and show artistic practice, but also as a place to reflect on our respective local contexts.

In *Museum as Hub*, the Van Abbemuseum presents the work of three artists from the exhibition *Be(com)ing Dutch* (May–September 2008), one from each of the three sections of the exhibition: *The Imagined Past*, *The Imagined Present* and *The Imagined Future*. The works concerned are *I Love \$* (1986) by Johan van der Keuken, *Freedom of Expression* (2008) and *Brussels, 14/02/2008 (Hirsi Ali)* (2008) by Lidwien van de Ven, and *Exodus 2048* (2008) by Michael Blum. Besides an exhibition of these

works in this new context, there is a Public Programme, which will include a symposium organized by Lidwien van de Ven on 28 March 2009 and the launch of the *Be(com)ing Dutch* publication.



Michael Blum, *Exodus 2048*, 2008.

Exhibition view *Be(com)ing Dutch*, Van Abbemuseum, 2008. Photo Peter Cox

### Be(com)ing Dutch

*Be(com)ing Dutch* is a two year project developed both inside and outside the Van Abbemuseum, involving debates, artists' projects, exhibitions and much more. The Mondriaan Foundation awarded its 2006 Development Prize for Cultural Diversity to the Van Abbemuseum for the *Be(com)ing Dutch* project. Within this project's framework, the museum has organized a diversity of gatherings over the last two years.

The *Be(com)ing Dutch* project was launched in late January at the Van Abbemuseum with *The Gatherings*, a weekend of talks, debates, art projects and presentations. The second phase of the project was staged at the museum in late 2007: the *Eindhoven Caucasus*. Over a period of four weeks there were intensive

discussions and lectures by thinkers and artists from all over the world. The exhibition *Be(com)ing Dutch* was shown in the Van Abbemuseum from May to September 2008.



Mondriaan Stichting  
(Mondriaan Foundation)



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### Editors

For specific information regarding the dates and times of the film screening and the Public Programme, please visit [www.museumashub.org](http://www.museumashub.org).

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