

Backstage at the Van Abbemuseum!

Special tours during Transition II

07/09 – 23/09/2010

In the museum a lot of daily "action" and diverse activity takes place, but this is usually hidden from visitors, who are mainly exposed to the pristine, finished exhibitions. How are these exhibitions installed? What roads do artworks travel? And what kinds of stressful moments are part of every exhibition process? During Transition, we invite visitors to come behind-the-scenes of the museum and share the live excitement with us. The Transition programme offers meetings with the staff of the Van Abbemuseum who will dispense their knowledge and professional secrets, visits to the bustling activity in the "museum kitchens" – archive, transport, workshops and library, and a special architecture tour through the hidden passages of the museum building, given by an Eindhoven architect. Transition is the bridge between Part 2 and 3 of the exhibition programme *Play Van Abbe*. From 7 until 23 September there will be five different types of behind-the-scenes tours. Next to these, visitors can experience the museum on its transformation mode and observe the installation activities up close.

Special tours

During Transition the museum offers five special behind-the-scenes tours:

- ◆ **Installation Techniques** - Visit the museum workshops and the different installation halls to find out more about processes and techniques of art installing. Tour by Theo Wajon, head of technical services.
- ◆ **The Curator's Path** – Find out all the ins and outs of the curator's work of preparing and assembling an exhibition. You will get inside information about the artists and artworks featured in the next part of *Play Van Abbe*. Tour by Galit Eilat, curator of *Play Van Abbe* Part 3.
- ◆ **Handling The Goods** – Discover what happens to artworks once they are no longer on display. What kind of special treatment do they demand? What kind of new challenges contemporary art present to conservators? And how artworks travel the world?? A tour by Louis Baltussen, head of conservation and Bettine Verkuijlen, registrar.
- ◆ **Treasure Of Paper** – Hear the stories behind the special books, posters and documents in the museum library depot, where over 130.00 items are stored. What these papers from the past can tell us about our reality today? Tour by Willem Smit, senior librarian and archivist or Diana Franssen, curator and head of research.
- ◆ **The Architect's Story** – Find out more about the special architecture of the museum, climb the characteristic clock tower and discover the hidden museum passages in a tour by an Eindhoven architect.

All visitors are invited to join the special tours for a small fee. The programme of these tours can be found on the Van Abbemuseum website and advanced booking is necessary.



Observing the installation process up-close. Photo: Van Abbemuseum

The museum "Under Construction"

Normally the galleries are closed to the public when exhibitions are under construction - that is not the case during Transition. Visitors will witness the live action when employees of the technical services are installing the artworks under the guidance of artists and curators. Also in the halls, special information stands will feature short movies about previous installations as well as fragments of sneak previews of the artworks and projects that will be part of Part 3 of *Play Van Abbe*, which opens on 25 September.

For more installation insights visitors are invited to join the free, daily 2 o'clock tour where they can hear more details from the guides.

Transition

Transition is a programme which functions as a bridge between the different parts of *Play Van Abbe*, the 18-month programme of the Van Abbemuseum that started November 2009. *Play Van Abbe* is comprised of four

parts with three Transition-periods between them (Transition I, II, III).

Transition offers visitors the opportunity to experience the museum inside-out, presenting a broader look into what the museum is and how it operates. One of the key ambitions with *Play Van Abbe* is to include as many participants as possible, professional as well as non-professional, in the discussion on the role of the museum in the 21st. century.

Transition is short and quick – don't miss it!

Play Van Abbe Part 3

Following Transition II, the third part of *Play Van Abbe*, called *The Politics of Collecting - Collecting of Politics* will open on 25 September. The focus is on collecting as the core activity of the museum. This exhibition offers the opportunity to look again at the highlights of the Van Abbemuseum collection and compare them with collection and archives created by artists and other institutions.

Sponsors

Play Van Abbe is made possible by contributions from The Mondriaan Foundation, BankGiro Loterij, Provincie Noord-Brabant, VSBfonds and SNS REAAL Fonds.



A designated information station is waiting for visitors in the installation halls, displaying relevant information on current and upcoming exhibitions. Photo: Peter Cox

The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is one of the first public museums for contemporary art to be established in Europe. The museum's collection of around 2700 works of art includes key works and archives by Lissitzky, Picasso, Kokoschka, Chagall, Beuys, McCarthy, Daniëls and Körmeling. The museum has an experimental approach towards art's role in society. Openness, hospitality and knowledge exchange are important. We challenge ourselves and our visitors to think about art and its place in the world, covering a range of subjects, including the role of the collection as a cultural 'memory' and the museum as a public site. International collaboration and exchange have made the Van Abbemuseum a place for creative cross-fertilisation and a source of surprise, inspiration and imagination for its visitors and participants.

Van Abbemuseum

Bilderrijkslaan 10
Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 11:00 – 17:00
Thursday 11:00 - 21:00
On Thursdays, entrance to the museum is free from 17:00

Entrance

Adults: € 9,00
Groups of 15 persons or more, senior citizens: € 6,50
Students; holders of the Dutch young people's cultural pass (CJP): € 4
Thursdays from 17:00 - 21:00: free entrance

For more information please look at our website www.vanabbemuseum.nl

For the editors

More information and images can be downloaded from:
www.vanabbemuseum.nl/pers.

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