

An exhibition of American-Dutch Art

Last week the official opening of the Exhibition of 'American-Dutch Art' took place at the residence of His Excellency Mr. Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the United States of America. This exhibition was part of the Art in Embassies Program of the State Department, which was established in 1963 in collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art and was formalized by President John F. Kennedy.

By Bonnie Klap

In his welcome speech Ambassador Broas touched on the centuries-old ties between the United States and The Netherlands, which started with the establishment of the first Dutch colony in America at New Amsterdam and on the deep cultural ties between the two countries. He also spoke of the very active role that the State Department had played in promoting American Art in Europe that embodied

energy, freedom and dynamism. Surrounded by the most beautiful works of art on the walls of his residence, Ambassador Broas said he was particularly proud of the piece by Willem de Kooning. The Ambassador is an avid story teller and shared a fascinating personal anecdote about the way in which he was able to finally acquire the De Kooning painting. It was a tale of persistence, persuasiveness and luck, but it obviously had been very much worth it. The Ambassador's

passion for art was obvious as he mentioned several of the pieces at his residence, such as the maps in the family room, which are on loan from the Bank of America Collection. Other impressive pieces were the objects made by the Dutch-born American artist, Sarah Couwenberg and are inspired by the collars of the 17th Century Dutch paintings. The American-Cambodian artist Pagan Penn has a special place in the Ambassador's heart as the two are also friends.

After the Ambassador Mrs. Ellen Susman, Director of the Art in Embassies Program, took the floor and explained how art often is a conversation starter. 'Art as smart power,' according to Mrs. Susman. Mrs. Susman also praised the Ambassador's keen interest in and knowledge of art. "It is unusual for an Ambassador to have much interest in art and it is often passed on to the wives," she laughed. Mrs. Susman then walked the guests along the works of art, sharing some of her extensive knowledge about the pieces.

Following this short tour, Mr. Jan Rudolph de Lorm, Director of Collections at the Singer Museum in Laren, gave a short presentation on the four unique pieces by William Henry Singer on display.

All in all it was an impressive exhibition of both American and Dutch Art, or, as Ambassador Broas eloquently put it: "A transatlantic cross-fertilization between American and Dutch artists."



US-Ambassador Broas in front of painting of Pagan Penn (Ambassador's private collection). (Photo: By Fotostudio Anton van der Riet.)

Visiting tour Corps Diplomatique

"We have ordered the sun for you today and it came out just in time for the beginning of our tour." With these words Mayor Jan Hoekema started his welcome speech for the group of Ambassadors, who had come to participate in the annual visiting tour, organized by the Municipality of Wassenaar.

By Bonnie Klap

First the Ambassadors, some of whom had come with their spouses, enjoyed coffee and cakes in Town Hall 'De Paauw.' It was indeed a gorgeous late-summer afternoon as the group embarked on the tour. Bicycles were available for the Ambassadors to experience their afternoon in Wassenaar in true 'Dutch style.' Apparently fully integrated in The Netherlands, a surprisingly large number of Ambassadors chose to ride the bicycles. A small luxury coach was available for those, who chose not to. Led by Mayor Hoekema, who is known for his environmentally-friendly behavior, using the bicycle for transportation whenever he



From left to right: Ambassador Ben Becher of Tunisia, farmer Oliehoek with rabbit, Ambassador of Nigeria Dr. N. Akanbi. (Photo: Fotostudio Anton van der Riet.)

can, the first leg of the bicycle-trip through the woods was to the 'Carefarm' Oliehoek. Initiated by farmer Gerard Oliehoek and his wife Sandra, mentally disabled people come to work at this Carefarm, taking care of the animals, growing (organic!) vegetables and doing various other daily tasks. This excellent initiative benefits everybody, as the disabled people, or - as they are preferably called - clients are being kept busy and take part in the community, while farmer Oliehoek has some much-needed help.

The Ambassadors walked around the farm and could see the cows, goats and rabbits up close. Farmer Oliehoek was particularly proud of the special breed of Dutch cows, called 'Lakenvelder' cows. Perhaps less appealing to animal-lovers and vegetarians, a piece of interesting information was the fact that the meat of Lakenvelder cows is particularly tender and is being sold to top-restaurants and hotels.

Next stop was the meadow near the Castle Oud Wassenaar, where cows could be seen grazing with the Castle in the background. Mayor Hoekema provided the Ambassadors with some interesting insights on the history of this Castle.

After a visit to beekeepers, the tour was concluded with a reception at one of Wassenaar's most famous landmarks: 'De Molen.' This Windmill is still in use to grind wheat but also houses an Art Gallery. Here the Diplomats were treated to drinks and (organic) canapes and were given a short art-lecture. And those who had enough energy left, climbed all the way to the top of the windmill to enjoy an unparalleled view of historic Wassenaar.



(Photo: Fotostudio Anton van der Riet.)

Cultural Agenda Wassenaar

26 Sept, 4-6 pm. Opening of the exposition 'Sur le Motif' by mayor Jan Hoekema. The participating plein air artists also paint between 12-4 pm around Raadhuis De Paauw on September 27 and 28. Raadhuislaan 22, Wassenaar. Information 088-6549208.

27/28 Sept, 12-4 pm. Plein air atelier. Those who like drawing or painting are invited to join the plein air painters who will be painting around Raadhuis De Paauw. Participation is free, but please bring your own material. Information 088-6549208.

27 Sept, 4 pm. Opening Exposition in Galerie in de Molen with paintings by Leo Schepens, ceramics, glass and bronze by Marianne Hartemink and jewelry by Malou Paul. Thea Messemaker will

open the exposition. Galerie in de Molen, Molenplein 10a, open Thursday to Sunday from 2 - 5 pm. www.kunstgroepwassenaar.nl.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS:

Until 10 Oct, Exposition 'The Gift of Time', ambient photography of abandoned buildings by Daan Oude Elferink. Galerie Patries van Dorst, Landgoed de Wittenburg 3. Open daily by appointment via 06 50292150 or 06 50504809. www.patriesvandorst.nl

This agenda is also available via www.wassenaar.nl. For further information read the local press and check www.CIPVW.nl To add or change information, please send an e-mail to Annette Kalkman, annette@kalkman.name

The Tax Jungle

TOECD PUBLISHES HIGHLY ANTICIPATED 2014 PART OF BEPS ACTION PLAN

The OECD released today its first recommendations for a co-ordinated international approach to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises, the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project designed to create a single set of international tax rules to combat the erosion of tax bases and the artificial shifting of profits to low-taxed jurisdictions (I call them the 'anti-Starbucks rules').



Secretary-General Angel Gurría said: "The G20 has identified base erosion and profit shifting as a serious risk to tax revenues, sovereignty and fair tax systems worldwide. Our recommendations constitute the building blocks for an internationally agreed and co-ordinated response to corporate tax planning strategies that exploit the gaps and loopholes of the current system to artificially shift profits to locations where they are subject to more favourable tax treatment."

The BEPS Action Plan sets out 15 key elements to be addressed by 2015. The project aims to help governments protect their tax bases and offer increased certainty and predictability to taxpayers, while guarding against new domestic rules that result in double taxation, compliance burdens or restrictions to legitimate cross-border activity.

The OECD recommendations have been a key item on the agenda when G20 finance ministers convened at a meeting on 20-21 September in Cairns, Australia.

The proposed measures were agreed by the OECD after a transparent and intensive consultation process between OECD, G20 and developing countries and stakeholders from business, labour, academia and civil society organisations.

These recommendations may be impacted by decisions taken with respect to the remaining elements of the BEPS Action Plan, which are scheduled to be presented to G20 Governments for final approval in 2015.

BEPS may seriously impact multinationals with group companies located in the Netherlands - and therefore also their expats located here - as the Netherlands plays an important role in international tax planning. Every multinational group is seriously reconsidering their tax planning and group structures and if the Dutch government stays fast asleep, the Netherlands could very well lose out in these upcoming restructurings.

For any tax related questions please contact me. My firm Van Baal Tax Services provides all-round tax advice and compliance in Wassenaar for:

- 'expatriates' and individuals;
- Family business and its owners;
- Dutch subsidiaries of non-Dutch groups;
- Dutch companies with cross-border activities.

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