

MIDNIGHT CONSTELLATION

Paula Kouwenhoven - Masahide Kudo - Dodog Soeseno

Midnight Constellations in Art

Midnight constellations offer us earthlings an unlimited set of signs. A sailor in the midst of the ocean feels grateful when he sees the Big Dipper, the constellation that leads him to the Pole Star and thus to the North. Orion and the Southern Cross are helpful constellations to those trying to find their way in the southern hemisphere. Astrologists recognize familiar constellations such as Taurus, Gemini and Virgo as astral signs that inspire reflections about destinies and psychological characteristics.

Many people make a wish when seeing a so-called falling star, which in reality is a meteorite. A scientist will draw conclusions from astronomic observations.

We may reasonably assume that nobody can look at a midnight constellation without being profoundly impressed.

The French philosopher Blaise Pascal once said that the human response when confronted with the eternal silence of infinite space is dread. But also he stressed that surrendering to this reality is a proof of wisdom and good religious feelings.

Midnight constellations bring us awareness of the cosmos, in which we have our very modest place. Something of this concept is present in the exhibition that brings together works of Paula Kouwenhoven, Masahide Kudo and Dodog Soeseno.

Their art tells us that midnight constellations can be considered to be messages of beauty and harmony.

It is interesting that at the moment in which they conceived the idea of an exhibition of their recent works of art under the collective title Midnight Constellations, an exhibition in the Vincent van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam was showing paintings by Vincent and his contemporaries under the title Van Gogh and the Colours of the Night. The paintings by Van Gogh from his Arles and St.Rémy-de-Provence period in particular feature unforgettable midnight constellations painted during clear star-lit nights. These nightly constellations, depicted in a realistic-cum-expressionistic manner, appear to send cosmic messages to the diminutive earthlings below and even to the landscapes.

More than a century later, Dodog Soeseno, Masahide Kudo and Paula Kouwenhoven give a fundamentally similar meaning to their art, albeit, of course, in a very different way.

Despite their different approaches, the works display a shared awareness of the fact that as human beings we have a place in universe from which the midnight constellations are shown to us in their overwhelming beauty.

Beauty is essential in the paintings of Paula Kouwenhoven and it is colour above all that makes this visible. Colour is brought to us by light, the light that provides us with the messages of the stars as signs from far away worlds and from long ago. Thus we reflect on the origin of the world. Courbet's famous painting The origin of the world

(L'origine du monde) suggests that this origin is metaphorically represented in the world of mankind by the female vulva, as a door to the vagina. We find symbolic vulvas in Paula's paintings, but we may see them as mouths, the organ by which we can make ourselves heard. People familiar with earlier work by Paula may notice that the forms and colours in her recent work are more outspoken than previously. There is change, evolution.

The same thing is evident in the artistic development of Dodog Soeseno's work. His research has led him from the romantic-erotic dream performances of some seven years ago to his Diary of Expectations. These expectations relate to his dealings with Japan, its culture and its artists. Dodog has exhibited in Japan, from Tokyo by way of Shikoku and Nagasaki, through to Okinawa. His works demonstrate that the French philosopher Jacques Lacan was right in suggesting that each of us lives in three different worlds, that of reality, that of the imaginary and that of the symbolic. In his former period his representations and symbols were closer to reality than they are in his most recent works. However, the implicit dream survives in Dodog's abstract forms: they suggest mysterious movement and evolution, just as the heavenly constellations do. The colours add the beauty of the dream.

Meditation is a permanent existential tradition in the life of Masahide Kudo and this has its effects on his art. He provides spontaneous evidence of his love and respect for what nature means for mankind.

When he gives expression to his inner observations of the universe, we find explosive images. The implicit passion in these images provides with a further insight: movement and violent changes are part of cosmic evolutions and

revolutions. What was real and radiant one day explodes and disappears later in a black hole. This explains the black in Kudo's paintings, whereas his colours speak of the splendour of life. Do black and colour fight or do they dance a cosmic dance? That is the fascinating question we ask when looking at Kudo's artwork.

These three artists are showing recent works, the latest facets of their artistic evolution. They share fundamental creative ideals and ideological presuppositions.

Paula, Kudo and Dodog are fellow-artists, friends.

The last time they met, together with many other artists, was in 2008 in Delft, Holland, the city of Vermeer.

It was for a Symposium that laid the foundations for an exhibition named Recycle Art.

Both the preparatory symposium and the exhibition itself were held at World Art Delft, the home of a foundation created by Paula Kouwenhoven. This lovable, softly spoken person is not only a creator of fine art who has worked and exhibited the world over, but is also a very energetic and inspiring art manager.

In collaboration with her running mate Dodog Soeseno she has realized substantial educational and creative art projects.

The two curators are organizing a Symposium Art under the Volcano at the end of 2009. The volcano being Mount Merapi in Central Java, Indonesia, near the city of Yogyakarta. For information: www.worldartdelft.nl.

Aart van Zoest
semiotician

Sterren in de nacht maken ons bewust van de kosmos, met daarin onze bescheiden plaats.

Paula Kouwenhoven

The Netherlands, Delft

Paula Kouwenhoven keeps going all over again the way back through her art.

It is a process of always looking for tension and balance within colour, contrast and composition.

Her canvases are composed out of layered structures with a power of expression. Marks from the past are used from her own perception.

We pick out themes like excitement within a landscape, symbols, primeval figures fetish signs.

Kouwenhoven never has the intention to impose something to somebody, but the identification by the spectator will be rather an indication of a very private emotion.

Her art doesn't interpellate.

It just makes interpretation possible !

The artworks of Kouwenhoven can be understood as crossroads of cultures where one will meet the other and cultures could have a cross-pollination.

The creative power of Paula Kouwenhoven has no limits and is boundless.



Riflesso del Cielo, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 45 x 60 cm



Landscape in Blue, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm



Landscape in Red, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm



Landscape in Balance, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 80 cm



Midnight Constellation, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 80 x 80 cm



Midnight constellations bring us awareness of the cosmos, in which we have our very modest place.

Masahide Kudo

Japan, Yokohama - Kanagawa

I draw nature and space, event that I sense it
bodily somewhere and experienced, time when I passed
in paper in the hand.

Then they sink to the depth as memory and accumulate
as memory.

When I face a canvas and the paper, I have the
memory that I accumulated and manual movement with
the end coming at the same time with my DNA.

And, it becomes shape and a color and it is ex-
pressed.

I recognize as for me and memory once again.

I want to connect the world in the outside for the
memory.

I think of the ancient people who faced the wall in a
cave of Lascaux.



The Woods of Memory 1, 2008, acrylic, indian ink, pencil on paper, 27 x 27 cm



The Woods of Memory 2, 2008, acrylic, indian ink, pencil on paper, 27 x 27 cm



The Woods of Memory 3, 2008, indian ink, pencil on paper, 27 x 27 cm



The Woods of Memory 12, 2005, acrylic, pencil on film, 42,5 x 30,5 cm



The Woods of Memory 14, 2005, acrylic, pencil on film, 27 x 37 cm



Les étoiles dans un ciel nocturne nous font prendre conscience de l'univers dans lequel nous avons notre très modeste place.

Dodog Soeseno

Indonesia - the Netherlands, Utrecht

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East side of Stones, 2006, acrylic, indian ink on paper, 24,5 x 32 cm



Part of Daily Story, 2008/9, acrylic, silkscreen on paper, 24,5 x 32 cm



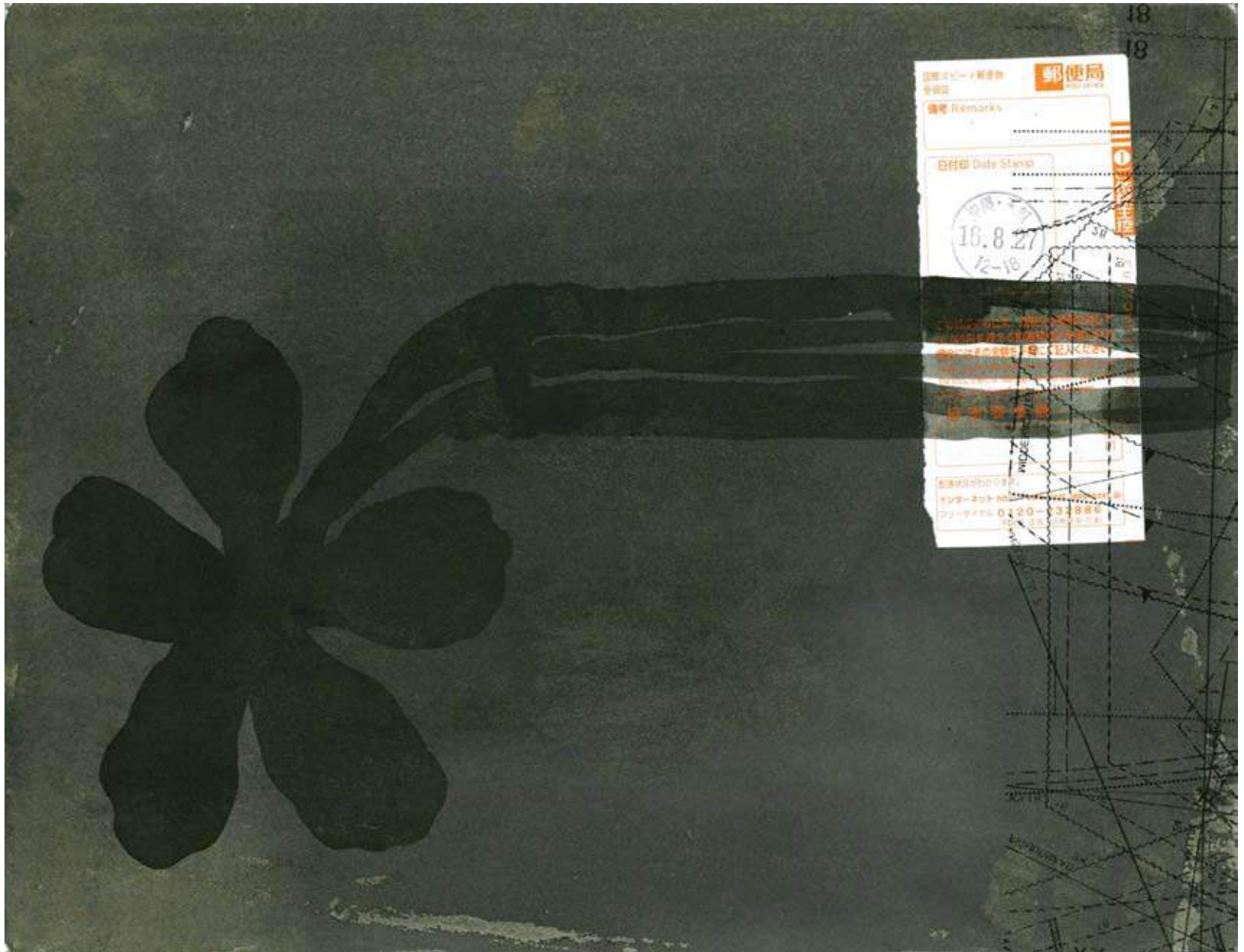
Sincerelly I love you, 2007/8, acrylic, silkscreen on paper, collage, 24,5 x 32 cm



5 Shape, 2008, acrylic, silkscreen on paper, 24,5 x 32 cm



Constellation of black flower, 2004, acrylic, silkscreen, collage on paper, 24,5 x 32 cm



Stelle della mezzanotte portano presa di coscienza del cosmos, dove abbiamo un posto modesto.

Paula Kouwenhoven

Born 1953 in The Netherlands

1981 Graduated Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, The Netherlands

Exhibitions (selection)

2009 Midnight constellations, Verbania, Italia

2009 WAD dichter bij Delft II Delft, the Netherlands 2009 A Bridge to China, The Hague, the Netherlands

2008 Artists Books and the Artistic Book, Cairo, Egypte

2008 Recycle Art, Delft, The Netherlands

2008 Poesia in Blu, Verbania, Italië

2008 International Convention of Modern Arts, Stuttgart, Duitsland

2008 Dichter bij Delft, Delft, the Netherlands

2007 Borstbeelden, Delft, the Netherlands

2007 Moderne Kunst, Mallnitz, Oostenrijk

2007 Da Mozart e De André, Verbania, Italië

2007 Identity, Schiedam, the Netherlands

2007 WAD Aqua, Delft, the Netherlands

2006 Kunstcentrum Abtswoude, Delft, the Netherlands

2006 Het Koorenhuis, Rijswijk, the Netherlands

2006 Het licht op Saskia, Delft, the Netherlands

2006 Nieuwe Kerk, Den Haag, the Netherlands

2005 Gallery Number Nine, Naaldwijk, the Netherlands

2005 Art in Red Light, Oude kerk, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2005 Be Vrij Ding, Delft, the Netherlands

1999 Contemporary Art Gallery, Seattle, USA

1996 Galerie Bernack, Wopswede, Duitsland

1996 Schmutzer Art Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesië

1995 Lineart Art Fair 95, Gent, België

1995 Galerie Artec, Mannheim, Duitsland

1992 World Trade Gallery, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

1992 Byward Art Gallery, Ottawa, Canada

Art Commissions

2009 YPSE, the Netherlands

2007 UNESCO IHE, the Netherlands

Casa de Vries, Delft, the Netherlands

2007 Hoogheemraadschap Delfland, the Netherlands

2004 PriveWaterhouseCoopers, Almere, the Netherlands

1996 Châteaux Blanc, Delft, the Netherlands

1996 Coopers & Lybrand, Utrecht, the Netherlands

1996 Estec Space Centre, Noordwijk, the Netherlands

1995 A+B Architects, Mexico City, Mexico

1994 Valos Architects, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

1993 Fimex Foundation, Cancun, Mexico

1992 World Trade Centre, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

1990 Rabo Bank, Nootdorp, the Netherlands

1990 Nederlandse Badminton Bond, Nieuwegein, the Netherlands

1988 Rulewave Shipping, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

1983 Peugeot, Paris, France

Guest lectures:

2004 Trainer ABC project Bulgaria

2003 Trainer ABC project Bulgaria

1987 School of Art Canada

Symposia:

2008 Artists Books and the Artistic Book, Cairo, Egypte

2008 Symposium SIEVERA 2008, Verbania, Italia

2008 Recycle Art, WAD Delft

2008 Stuttgart, Germany

2007 Symposium SIVIERA 2007, Italia

2007 1-ste Mallnitzer Symposium für moderne Kunst, Austria

Study trips:

2006-2007 Australia 1996 Indonesia

2004 Syria 1992 Mexico

2002 Yemen 1992 Turkey

1999 Cuba

Awards

2000 Winner of the "Klaverblad" price, for cultural and social welfare

2003 Winner of the "A.J. Prins Culture Price", for renewing initiatives in the Art and Cultural Area for Delft,

Masahide Kudo

1952 Born in Japan

1975 Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University of Art

Exhibitions

2009 AND HE CAME TO LIVE AMOUUS US, Brescia, Italy
Dichter bij Delft II, World Art Delft, The Netherlands

2008 ATELIER·K ART SPACE, Yokohama, Japan
GALLERY FUJI, Osaka, Japan
Dichter bij Delft II, World Art Delft, The Netherlands
New wave Kudo Masahide·Matsuura shuichiro,
ATELIER·K ART SPACE, Yokohama, Japan
INTERCONTINENTAL BIENNIAL OF SMALL GRAPHICS, Aiud·Romania
4th SYMPOSIUM REYCYCLE ART DELFT 2008, World Art Delft,
Delft·The Netherlands

2007 GALLERY FINE, Pusan, Korea, Japan
Gallery MUTU, Chiba, Japan
GALLERY FUJI, Osaka, Japan
Alex Hall, Kagawa, Japan
CROSSING, The Museum Of Kyoto·Kyoto, Japan
1st, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF MODERN ARTS, Stuttgart, Germany

2006 GALLERY FUJI, Osaka, Japan
Galerie VERGER, Kanagawa, Japan
Kudo Masahide (painter) Yagi Mikio (poet) Exhibition
The harvest festival of the picture and the poetry
Art Cottage Papyrus·Kanagawa, Japan

2005 PINK LADY exhibition, Gallery Azabu·Tokyo/Okinawa/Toyama
JAPAN-KOREA Contemporary Art Exhibition (MARINE Gallery·
Pusan/ATELIER·K ART SPACE/Yokoham,Oya materials palace·
Utsunomiya

2004-05, Kyuman Museum, Kagawa, Japan
ATELIER·K ART SPACE, Yokohama, Japan
"The memory of the Orient,hand of a look" Urasoe City
museum/Okinawa,Japan

2003 Gallery URANO, Tokyo, Japan

2002 Modern Poetry Library Mahoroba Gunma, Japan
KOREA-JAPAN Exchange of Nation Memory"KOREA-JAPAN
Contemporary Art Invitation Exhibition", Donga Gallery/Taegu·
Korea
JAPAN-KOREA Contemporary Art Exhibition The Eye of The

Orient,Memories of The Hand, Tagawa Museum of Art·TagawaAsian
International Art Exhibition in Memory of the 2002 Pusan
Asian Games, Asian Spi rit Exhibition,Nationality and
Tradition,Busa Culture Center/Busa, Korea

2001 Kyuman Museum, Kagawa, Japan
Okumonobe Museum, Kochi, Japan
Gallery URANO, Tokyo, Japan
Galerie VERGER, Kanagawa, Japan
International Contemporary Art Festival"Exhibition of
spirit of Asi",Gunmin Museum ·Kuwang, Korea
7st,International Contemporary Artist Group Exhibition,Busan
Metropolitan Museum Yondusan Gallery,Busan, Korea
Lineart, Gent, Belgium

2000 Contemporary Art Exhibition,Modern Museum·Shanghai
Azian Art Now 2000, Las Vegas, USA
Japan Contemporary Art, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Lineart, Gent, Belgium

1999 Art Box, Yokohama, Japan
5st,International Contemporary Artist Group
Exhibition, Busan,Korea

1998 4st, Capping Exhibition, Meguroku Museum Gallery, Japan

1997 3st,International Contemporary Artist Group Exhibition, Busan,
Urusan·Korea, Syanghai, Tokyo/Yokohama, Japan

1992 Kanagawa Prefecture Gallery, Yokohama, Japan

1989'94'~'00 Nissin Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

1988 IMPACT3'88, GALERIE humanite Tokyo·Tokyo, Japan

1985 3st,Busan Biennale, Busan,Korea

1981'83~'88 Gallery Yo, Tokyo, Japan

1980 '86 Kungi Gallery Tkyo, Japan

1977 The Modern Art Exhibition The Best Exhibition,Yubin Cyokin
Hall/Kanagawa, Kenmin Hall, Gallery·Yokohama, Japan

1975 9st, Selection of Contemporary Art (Nara Prefecture Art Museum
Miyazaki Prefectur Museum,Iwaki City Cuiture Center,Kanagawa
Prefectur Gallery

Dodog Soeseno

Oct -1953 Surabaya ,Indonesia
Lives and works in the Netherlands/Japan/Indonesia

Exhibitions:

2009 Diary of expectations revisited, Gallery FUJI Osaka ,Japan
Dichter bij Delft II, World Art Delft, the Netherlands
6 artist Exhibition, Atelier- K Yokohama ,Japan
E Venne ad abitare in mezzo a noi, Centro Arte Lupier, Italy

2008 Recycle Art, World Art Delft, the Netherlands
Dichter bij Delft, World Art Delft, the Netherlands
Arte quasi clandestina, Banco popolare di Novara Verbenia,
Italy
TPPE, Werfkade 16, the Netherlands

2007 Pink ribbon, World Art Delft, the Netherlands
Sculptures for nature, World Art Delft, the Netherlands
TPPE, World Art Delft, the Netherlands, Het Gebouw Leidserijn
Grafisch Atelier Utrecht, Cityhall Utrecht
AQUA, World Art Delft, the Netherlands

2006 Diary of Expectations, Gallery de Boog, Fulco theatre,
the Netherlands
Malaspina gallery, Grandville island, Vancouver, Canada
Capilano College gallery, North Vancouver, Canada
The Pendulum Gallery, HSBC bank, Vancouver, Canada
Kochi Paper Museum, Paper museum, Agawa-gun, Kochi, Japan
Nagasaki Peace museum, Nagasaki, Japan
R_EVOLUTION 1956-2006 International mail art project of the
Spanishflu@rt, Spain
Klein Grafiek van Grafiek NU, Voerman Museum Hattem,
the Netherlands
Licht on Saskia, World Art Delft, the Netherlands

2005 St Paul Gallery, Maebashi
Cellest gallery, Yokohama, Japan
J-Trip gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Gallery OM prints studio, Yokohama, Japan
Yamawaki Gallery Tokyo, Japan
Future of Papers -Kochi Paper museum Paper museum ,
Agawa-gun, Kochi, Japan
Culturen in Contact 2, Museum Oude Raadhuis, Leerdam,
the Netherlands

2005 LIberation BE-vrij-ding, World Art Delft, the Netherlands

2004 The hand of memories from Okinawa, Urasoe art museum,
Okinawa, Japan
Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2003 Tiga sahabat, Sudo Art Tokyo ,Japan
Soeseno, Montyn, Brand, Holstein, Beijen, Museum Oude Raahuis,
Leerdam, the Netherlands

2002 Foot Prints, Gallery De Boog ,Ijsselstein ,the Netherlands

2001 Taman Tertutup, Duta Fine Arts Foundation, Jakarta

2000 Culturen in Contact, Museum Oude Raadhuis Leerdam,
the Netherlands
TIA Toronto, Canada
Dutch national prints biennale, Grafiek Nu 9, Singer museum
Laren, the Netherlands

Activity

2008 Participation symposium Sivera VIII Edizione International
Art Factory Verbenia Italy
Participation Recycle Arts, International art symposium,
World Art Delft, the Netherlands

2005-2007 GAU artist Coordinator 'Trilateral Prints Exchange
Exhibition 'an international printmaking exhibition for
SPA.MPS.GAU, Yokohama , Canada , Netherlands
Workshop meeting the childrens of Kochi painting on Japanese
paper, Agawa-gun Kochi, Japan

2004 Workshop meeting the childrens of Okinawa painting on long
white paper , Urasoe Art Museum , Okinawa, Japan
Participation Symposium " Asian Art " The Hand of Memories
sent from Okinawa, Japan
Coordinator Masterclass workshop Baren no Ugoki Japanese
woodcut print at Grafisch Utelier Utrecht, The Netherlands
Coordinator Exhibition Modern Japanese Printmaking, Grafisch
Atelier Utrecht, the Netherlands

Colofon

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 www.nymfaeumpers.nl

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