

Dutch Art Has Connections With Dubai

DUTCH ART comes to Dubai in a big way this May, when the Mina A' Salam Hotel at Madinat Jumeirah will host an exhibition of the works of a wide range of well-known artists spanning the last 110 years.

Several aspects of the show exemplify Dutch links with Dubai. Photographer Anita van der Krol lived here over 30 years ago, and was inspired by her stay. Her photographs take us back to the time just before the 'Great Dubai Boom'. And then there are the intriguing digital photo-creations made by Henriette Dingemans and Sjoerd Bras, the couple who make up The Living Image and who have created some very large scale works for public buildings and spaces throughout the Netherlands. Their work in the show is an enormous digital print, almost 5.5 metres by 2.5 metres, featuring a paradisaal garden in the foreground, backed by the Dubai skyline.

And a 'show within a show' allows a rare public view of the nineteenth-century collection of sculpted models of the ancient seven wonders of the world, echoed by the Falconcity plan for seven full-scale wonders of the modern world. (See panel)

The exhibition, which showcases works by 21 artists, will open on Wednesday 2 May. An invitation-only private view and official opening will take place from 7.30pm, and the exhibition will then be open to the public until the evening of Saturday 5 May. Opening times are 10.00am to 11.00pm.

Painters, sculptors in bronze and glass, photographers, makers of etchings and screenprints, are all featured, together with the most advanced cutting-edge creations of the new century.

A Show Within A Show: Seven Wonders

WITHIN the main exhibition, a very special and unique exhibit will take place. The Seven Wonders of the World, a series of sculptural models of the ancient seven wonders, will also be on view.

In the 16th century a Dutchman, Maarten van Heemskerck, made sketches and engravings of the Seven Wonders of the World. Professor Chris Blackwell, fascinated by these, brought together a dozen English artists, each a specialist in his own discipline, to create exquisite models of these wonders. The works took one and a half years to create, and were then exhibited in the windows of Fortnum & Mason in London, where they caused a sensation.

Fortnum & Mason subsequently emptied their antiques department in order to continue the show — it drew crowds for another six months.

How appropriate, then, that this amazing and beautiful creation should be brought to Dubai, where a new city of wonders, with life-size replicas of seven wonders of the world, is being built.

Assembled by the renowned Dutch artist and art promoter Josine Croin, the show brings together the works of fourteen living artists and seven whose cultural legacy lives on after their deaths. All 21 artists are well-known in their native Netherlands, many have works in some of the premier art museums across the world, and all are valued by discerning collectors.

The exhibition will be opened by the Dutch Ambassador, His Excellency Mr David de Waal, and the ceremony will be presided over by the president of the Dubai Cultural Council, His Excellency Mr Mohammad Al Murr. Art lovers and collectors who would like to attend the opening should contact Ms Josine Croin at info@art-acquire.com.

Among Dutch artists of the past who are represented are the painters Ernst van Leyden (1892-1969), whose works can be seen in the Tate Gallery, London, the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Museo d'Arte Contemporaneo in Lisbon and many others; Elias Boonen (1860-1931), who has work at the Dordrecht Museum of Art; and Marius Richters, another nineteenth century artist much admired by his contemporaries.

Then there's the modern painter Harjo Martinus, who uses colour exuberantly to depict cows in a meadow, and Wim Zorn, whose modern landscapes have the persistent quality of drawing the viewer into the scene.

Two modern glass sculptors are here: Han de Kluijver, whose inspiration comes from visits to the North Pole and who captures the icy hues of the Arctic, and Tineke van Veen, who expresses the vulnerability of existence in the delicacy of her glass. Two sculptors take horses as their subjects — Anton ter Braak and Gabriel Sterk — and Loek Prins sculpts birds of prey, all captured in bronze.

Etchings and silk-screen prints by Leentje Linders and Marcus van Hoorn, both completely different in their approach to their material and both creating fascinating works, will intrigue the viewer and delight the collector.

Art lovers will also enjoy paintings by Emmy Eerdmans, Joop Kropff, Floris Jaspers, Karin van Leyden, Theo van der Horst and Cor Noltee, all of whom have gained the recognition of art collectors in the Netherlands and beyond.

All the works in the exhibition are for sale, with the exception of the 'Seven Wonders of the World' series.

ENDS

For more information including photographs contact:

Basil Miller of publicEye media at +353 1 2877782 or +353 86 8182082 or e-mail basil@publiceye.ie

Josine Croin of Art-Acquire at +31 70 3475335 or e-mail info@art-acquire.com

See also <http://www.art-acquire.nl/en>



News release issued by publicEye media on behalf of Art-Acquire