

Grand Opening 2022

Please join us for our third anniversary celebration at the former American Embassy in The Hague with 4 new exhibitions, performances, films and live music.

→ Friday 25.03.2022

→ 19:00 tot 24:00 hrs.

→ Entry: 5,- euro

→ Tickets: <https://grandopening2022.eventbrite.nl>

→ Location: West Den Haag in the former American Embassy, Lange Voorhout 102, The Hague

PROGRAM:

19:00 Doors open

19:20 — 19:30 Opening speech

19:30 — 23.00 Exhibitions open

20:00 — 23:00 Music Program curated by Alex Andropoulos

EXHIBITIONS OPENING:

1 PIERRE BISMUTH (FR): Everybody is an artist but only the artist knows it

Pierre Bismuth gives us material to wonder why Beuys statement 'Jeder Mensch ist ein Künstler' remained a statement and not a reality to all of us. The question that arises from this is: What is creation, when does it happened and why are we not conscious about it? Bismuth work is based on unblocking matter, or to put it another way, on intuition. Bismuth is known to the general public for winning an Oscar in 2005 for best original screenplay for the feature film 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind'. His exhibition at West varies widely in form and includes readymades, photographs, flags, videos, food and even a modified car that once belonged to a famous Belgian art collector. Visitors can taste a new chocolate with a 'decolonial' flavor, specially manufactured for the Dutch public. Created in collaboration with Centre Pompidou in Paris.

2 ASAD RAZA (US): Coalescence

Dialogue is central to artist Asad Raza's practice, which posits the artwork as a metabolic and active experience. 'Coalescence' is Asad Raza's first solo exhibition in the Netherlands. Raza's exhibition is occupying rooms on various floors where visitors experience works or groups of works in linked mises-en-scene. Combining several new works with older works reimagined for this social context, 'Coalescence' focuses on the struggle to integrate lived experience across barriers and separations. Raza is using actions and processes such as soil-making, tennis, and horticulture, his projects create encounters and have been realized by institutions a.o. the Whitney Museum of American Art, Kaldor Public Art Projects, Gropius Bau and the Serpentine Galleries.

3 ALPHABETUM X: Serving Library

The Serving Library serves as a publishing platform, a seminar room, a collection of framed objects, and an event space. The current editorial team comprises Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey, Stuart Bertolotti-Bailey, Vincenzo Latronico, and David Reinfurt.

4 PAUL ROBESON (US): The Artist as Revolutionary

In the new one-year-long program West is examining the inspiring legacy of Paul Robeson (1898 – 1976). A unique encounter of artistic virtuosity, celebrity, political conviction and leadership. The exhibition features films, documentaries, music and printed archival material from his activist career. As historian Gerald Horne put it, Paul Robeson was an artist and a revolutionary, a man of his time and ahead of his time, a tireless fighter for universal human dignity and a martyr to a world still not able to ensure that dignity to all.

ACTS:

Rhodri Davies

Rhodri Davies is a Welsh harpist working in the fields of improvised and experimental music, recognized for his very physical use of his instrument. His music is unique in its exploration of alternative methods of playing the harp, an instrument less common in the fields of experimental improvisation, while simultaneously reflecting an honest love for traditional folk songwriting, the two of which are seamlessly woven together creating very unique and expressive music. It is for this very reason he stands out as an experimental musician, as his recorded music and live performances, either solo or as part of collaborations, as physical, harsh or loud as they may be, are always driven by a desire to create melodic music.

Yeah You

Yeah You is the British electronic duo consisting of Elvin Brandhi and Gustav Thomas. Having made a reputation for themselves through their video documentations of improvised bursts of noisy beats and aggressive spoken word, often taking place during an evening walk or while driving in their car, they are acclaimed, though slightly feared, members of the UK and European experimental music scene. Although these video performances are most often made in isolation, away from unsuspecting passersbys, the two have no restraints when unleashing the same sonic explosions on live audiences as well, resulting in uncompromising, often very physical aural and visual experiences. Due to the improvised nature of their work, each show is completely unique, influenced by the space and the objects found within it.

Jéricho

Through the use of French folk instrumentation, voices and the stomping of feet, the central France based quartet Jéricho create divine musical experiences while fully embracing the desperate humanity of the act. In their own words: For the troubadours, nothingness was the expression of love's great jeopardy; absence, suspension above a poetic void, the loss of matter and meaning. Only amorous passion can temporarily repel it. But so as to not succumb you must give form to this madness, listen to the cold and the wind, taste the luminous rays and the birdsong. Giving it shape is to create: 'obrar'. Through texts from Marcelle Delpastre, Jan dau Melhau, Guillaume IX d'Aquitaine and traditional folk themes, (we) follow love's pathways, from darkness to dazzling illumination.

West is supported by: City of The Hague, het Mondriaan Fund and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Science.