

**PRESS RELEASE**

16 September 2013

*Rooms with a view ...*

The Dutch Cultural Ministers Jet Bussemaker for Education, Culture & Science, and Frans Timmermans, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will officially open the offices of two international organisations working with contemporary artists from the Netherlands and across the globe.

International Foundation Manifesta, the only roving European Biennial for contemporary art, and DutchCulture, centre for international cooperation, are now jointly housed at Herengracht 474 on the 'Golden Corner'. To celebrate the official opening of the building they have invited Amsterdam-based gallerists Pietje Tegenbosch and Martin van Vreden to install works across the building that reflect the international cultural policies of both organisations.

*Rooms with a view* is the first exhibition of the Kunst Kantoer, a rolling programme of international contemporary art that occupies intriguing and unconventional spaces in the working offices at the Herengracht 474, from the cleaning cupboard to the basement. Ranging from videoworks, sculptures, painting and installation, the exhibition explores artists who have a special view of the relationship between culture and society.

Situated above the door of one of Manifesta's offices stands *Tankman*, 2013, a miniature statue of the man who refused to move from an oncoming tank in Tiananmen Square on 5 June 1989, known from the iconic image from those protests. In the inner court the epic projection *La Libertée raisonnée*, 2009 by Spanish artist Cristina Lucas, based on the famous work by the romantic painter, Eugène Delacroix.

The main focus in *Rooms with a view* is the concept of international cultural collaboration and the special role art can play in a development towards social cohesion and mutual understanding. The 'rooms' in the title of the show refer to the different positions of the participating artists regarding this subject. Some of the artworks present a direct critical attitude towards politics and culture - both in a historical and a contemporary context - while others more indirectly react to mutual influences and human behaviour in general.

Hedwig Fijen, Director of International Foundation Manifesta, said today;

"In 2014 we will celebrate 20 years of Manifesta, with Manifesta 10 opening 28 June hosted by The Hermitage in St Petersburg, Russian Federation. We are delighted to have worked together with DutchCulture to present this inaugural exhibition in the historic 300-year-old Baroque building that now houses both of our organisations. It is exciting for us both to live and work amongst these exceptional artworks by artists resident in The Netherlands."

Participating artists are: Marie Aly // Sander Breure & Witte van Hulzen // Aníbal López // Chaim van Luit // Cristina Lucas // Tatiana Macedo // Marc Oosting // Anna Ostoya // Emma van der Put // Sanne Rous // Fernando Sánchez Castillo // Dieuwke Spaans // Rinus Van de Velde

Room with a view can be seen by appointment. Please contact [assistant@manifesta.org](mailto:assistant@manifesta.org)