
Potsdam, April 27, 2023

Potsdam “in oranje”: Start of theme year “Holland in Potsdam”

Exhibition, events, blog, and audio walk: in 2023, some twenty Potsdam cultural institutions with over fifty participants celebrate Dutch art and influence in Potsdam with the theme year “Holland in Potsdam.” The program begins on April 27, the Dutch national holiday *Koningsdag*, a date that also marks the launch of a blog to accompany the cultural summer.

The Dutch Quarter in Potsdam is world-famous – but the influence of the Netherlands in Potsdam goes much further. From April through the late fall of 2023, the project “Holland in Potsdam” will showcase a wide range of connections between Potsdam and the Netherlands, from tulip festival to migration, from fine art to gardening.

The multifaceted program represents the collaboration of over twenty institutions with more than fifty participants from Potsdam’s cultural life, including the Museum Barberini and the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation as initiators of the program as well as the Potsdam Museum, Jan Bouman House, Lindenstraße Memorial Foundation, Filmmuseum, Berlin-Brandenburg Mill Association, Friends of the Stern Hunting Lodge, and the Liebermann Villa on the Wannsee. All participants will contribute to a blog accompanying the program of events, with articles, videos, and photo galleries posted each week from now through the fall, highlighting a mix of contemporary and historical themes.

The point of departure for the theme year is the exhibition *Clouds and Light: Impressionism in Holland*, on view at the Museum Barberini from July 8 to October 22. The exhibition brings together around a hundred masterpieces by forty artists including Johan Barthold Jongkind, Vincent van Gogh, Jacoba van Heemskerck, and Piet Mondrian. Beginning April 27, an audio tour of Potsdam is available free of charge on the Barberini App, taking listeners on a walk to twenty different locations in the city with fascinating connections to Holland. Like the previous city walks “Italy in Potsdam” and “France in Potsdam,” the tour will be permanently accessible on the app as an audio guide and will also appear in print later this year as a brief art guide in the publication series of the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation.

Ortrud Westheider, Director of the Museum Barberini, says of the theme summer: “We are thrilled that the idea of imagining a Potsdam cultural summer ‘in orange’ with our exhibition as the point of departure has been so well-received by our colleagues from

other cultural institutions in Potsdam. The enthusiasm that all the participants have shown in putting together the city walk, blog, and program of events inspires us all and heightens the anticipation for the multifaceted program, which will culminate on September 10 in a major cultural festival on the Alter Markt.”

The patron of the exhibition is **His Excellency Ronald van Roeden, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Germany**: “As ambassador of the Netherlands and patron of the exhibition, I am delighted to open the exhibition *Clouds and Light: Impressionism in Holland* this summer. I am impressed above all by how the cultural institutions gathered here have uncovered an unbelievable number of connections to the Netherlands, layer by layer, with archaeological precision. This marvelous initiative of the Museum Barberini showcases the Netherlands in a diverse and very attractive way.”

This year’s Schössernacht in Potsdam also focuses on the Netherlands. During the weekend of August 18–19, visitors are invited to experience the opulently decorated palaces and park of Sanssouci under the motto “Prachtig” (“Splendid”).

Manja Schüle, Minister of Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg: “Potsdam is a cultural capital of Europe – and has always been shaped by international exchange. The traces of our Netherlandish neighbors are most visible in the Dutch Quarter. But there is much more to discover than just *poftertjes* and *pankook*, and not just at the tulip festival or the *Sinterklaas* Christmas market. The cultural summer of 2023 brings visibility to ‘Holland in Potsdam’ – with readings, concerts, film screenings, walks, and exhibitions. Thank you to the Museum Barberini and the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation for initiating this theme year!”

Burkhard Exner, Mayor of the City of Potsdam: “The Dutch Quarter is proof of the historical connections to the Netherlands that have existed since the time of King Frederick William I – and even that of his predecessors. In those days it was craftsmen and architects who came to our city; now it is students, scientists, and of course artists. The motives of those who come to us now are different than they used to be, but one thing has stayed the same: the interaction between our guests, whether temporary or long-term, and the people who live here creates value – value that you can see, in which you can live and work, as well as intellectual and cultural value. All of you have set out to show the complexity of this value – through exhibitions, tours, informational programs, and not least of all the cultural festival in the center of Potsdam in September. I would like to express my sincere thanks for your efforts and, of course, for the support of the embassy of the Netherlands. I look forward to the various events and even now wish all of you the best of success.”

Initial highlights of the event program include tours focusing on the women of the Dutch Quarter, organized by the Jan Bouman House, as well as tours on garden art and Dutch tiles offered by the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation.

Complete information on the project and program of events is available starting April 27 at <https://holland-in-potsdam.de>

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