

GEM Netherlands Study Weekend

From 18.00 on Wednesday 14 May to 15.00 on Saturday 17 May 2008

This study weekend is for experienced educators who wish to study the engagement of education departments in the development of exhibitions and associated learning activities, and the career development of educators in The Netherlands. It will also be an opportunity to visit many different types of museums and to see varied examples of learning programmes and activities. Delegates will be expected to participate in discussions and various problem-solving activities throughout the study weekend.

Focus points:

- Engagement of education department in the development of exhibitions (facts, procedures, role and responsibilities, organisational structure, historical development, background and training);
- Simultaneous development of learning activities and an exhibition (pros and cons);
- Career development of education/learning officers (facts, training, background and experience, future).

The role of Dutch training institutes (bachelor and master) will be explained and delegates will see different types of museums, exhibitions, and learning programmes and activities. Please note that although some of the labels may be in English, the learning activities aren't!

In Holland the following names for an education department are also used: dept of communication; dept of exhibitions and interpretation; and dept of visitor services and interpretation.

Outcomes:

- How to play a role in the exhibition development process;
- The different roles and tasks an education officer can have in this process;
- The use of learning theories (Constructivism, Kolb, Gardner) in both exhibitions and educational programmes;
- Knowledge of competences of education and interpretation staff;
- Use and training of volunteers and freelancers;
- Examples (Dutch) of community (building) projects;
- Role (influence) of local and national policies on target groups, activities, focus points.

The fee for the study weekend (£345) includes bed and breakfast for three nights, two evening meals, and travel between venues. Delegates are expected to make their own travel arrangements to the hotel in Amsterdam, preferably via Schiphol Amsterdam Airport, as Eindhoven Airport (Ryan Air) is a long and expensive way from Amsterdam as is Rotterdam Airport. Visit www.gem.org.uk or call the GEM Office on 01634 853424 or email gemoffice@btinternet.com for the latest information.

Places on the study weekend are limited to 25, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Please note that in order to reduce costs by avoiding the expense of staying Saturday night, the study weekend is being re-scheduled to begin at 18.00 on Wednesday and to finish at 15.00 on Saturday (however, there is an option of staying Saturday night if you wish). The content will remain more or less the same although we do not expect to visit Rotterdam. The final programme will be available quite soon.

Thursday **AMSTERDAM**

09.00 **Reinwardt Academy**

- introduction on Dutch Museological issues in a broader context by lector Peter van Mensch
- introduction on learning and interpretation in Dutch Heritage by Nico Halbertsma and Ruben Smit

11.00 Group A: **Tropenmuseum**

- reception by Paul Voogt and his team (exhibition developers and education officers)

11.00 Group B: **Amsterdam Historic Museum**

- reception by Mila Ernst and her team (education department including the website, with strong links to the exhibitions planners)

15.00 **Museum Ons Lieve Heer op Solder**

- reception by Judikje Kiers (director, and former Rijksmuseum education officer and Reinwardt Academy lecturer) on their integrated approach to exhibitions, learning and collection management

Evening: Free

Friday **THE HAGUE (Den Haag or Gravenhage)**

08.30 Depart by train from Amsterdam Central

10.00 Group A: **Museum of Communication**

- reception by Caroline Breunese, head of learning, interpretation and exhibitions (former head of education of the Van Gogh Museum) and her team

13.00 Group A: **Museon**

- reception by Bert Molsbergen, director and Rob van den Berg (head of exhibitions)

10.00 Group B: **Historic Museum of The Hague**

- reception by Antoinet Visser, director (former education officer of the Rijksmuseum and head of education of the Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem) and Diana Timmer, education officer on the refurbishment of the museum and becoming the "Rijksmuseum at the Court Pond (Hofvijver)"

12.30 Group B: **Mauritshuis**

- reception by Pia Westgren (education officer)

15.00 **Haags Gemeentemuseum**, exhibition *De Wonderkamers*

- reception by Jet Overeem, head of education and her team

Evening: A "Dutch East Indies dinner" or a visit to the Van Gogh Museum (tbc).

Saturday **ROTTERDAM**

10.00 Group A: **Architecture Institute**

- reception by Annette ter Haar (head of education) and her team on the difficulties in making children and adults understand architecture

12.00 Group A: **Natural History Museum**

- reception by either the director or the education officer

10.00 Group B: **Villa Zebra** (art museum/centre for children)

- reception by Fred Wartna, director

12.00 Group B: **Historic Museum** (either Schielandshuis or Dubbele Palmboom)

- reception Jacques Burger (head of education and exhibitions) and his team

15.00 **Maritime Museum**

- reception by staff members from exhibition (Lucie Kuypers), education (Hanneke Kempers) and visitor services and security (Marieke van Bommel)

Evening: Finish with a "borrel"

Sunday An opportunity to visit all those museums you didn't see in the last three days.