

# *Challenging the curriculum: Towards a structural conversation on inclusivity and diversity*

Arthur Crucq | Leiden

20 May 2022



Universiteit  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

**Raden Saleh, *forest fire*, 1849, oil on canvas, 300 x 396 cm (Singapore, National Gallery Singapore)**



# Discover the world at Leiden University

# Kunstgeschiedenis/ Arts, Media and Society

- Kunstgeschiedenis in Leiden: traditionally strong in decorative arts, object-based but also theory, World Art Studies
- Arts, Media and Society: English taught track within BA KG, established in 2017, with more focus on contemporary art and its interrelatedness with media and societal issues (but with attention for historical context)
- For instance: Bio-art, Activist art,
- Students letter to the Board June 2020 – signed by 60 students

# Students' letter: main concerns

- Western/ European centered worldview
- Promise of 'discovering the (art-) world' not fulfilled
- Inclusivity of the art world
- Traditional art history classes not self-reflective enough (for instance, museums and collections – colonial past)
- More diverse academic resources needed – non-white authors/ lecturers
- More social themes needed (AMS)
- Ratio attention European art – arts from Africa, Asia, Oceania, South America - unequal



**Bartholomeus van der Helst, *Company of captain Roelof Bicker...*, 1639-1642,  
oil on canvas, 235 x 750 cm (Amsterdam, Rijksmuseum)**



# Students' letter: demands

- More lectures on colonial history artworld/ inclusion different perspectives – other epistemologies
- Guest lectures academics specialized in these fields
- More attention for these topics in lectures by current staff
- More diversity within the staff
- Provide students with the competences to be worldly/ critical citizens

# Response board

- Two discussion meetings with students and staff
- Course Inclusive curriculum
- Inventory on what we as lecturers can do in our courses
- BA curriculum reform (2022)



# Challenges - opportunities

- *More lectures on colonial history artworld/ inclusion different perspectives*
- BA program is limited (in terms of EC/time) – we want to be inclusive but not superficial
- *Guest lectures academics specialized in these fields*
- Budget
- *More attention for these topics in lectures by current staff*
- Awareness, willingness, expertise - but many opportunities
- *More diversity within the staff*
- How to bypass the usual suspects?
- *Provide students with the competences to be worldly/ critical citizens*
- Perhaps the letter exemplifies they have acquired these competences themselves already





Marc and Nadia Breitman, Westermoskee, Piri Reisplein, Amsterdam, start construction 2013, opening 2016





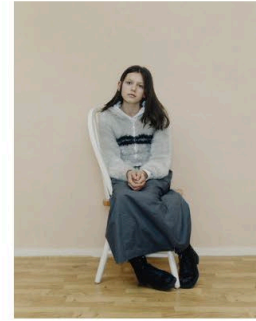
**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Asylum Center,  
 Leiden, The Netherlands*  
 March 14, 1994



**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Wormer,  
 The Netherlands*  
 June 23, 1996



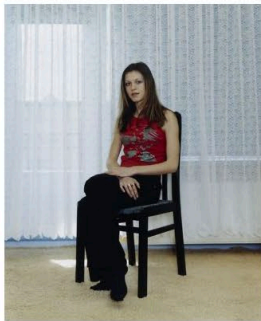
**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Wormer,  
 The Netherlands*  
 February 21, 1998



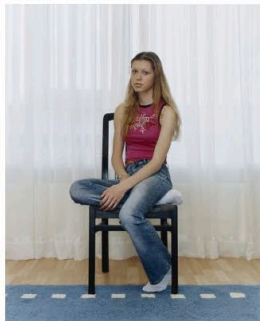
**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Leidschendam,  
 The Netherlands*  
 March 19, 2000



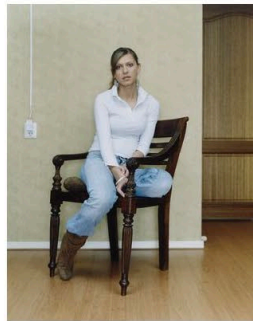
**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Leidschendam,  
 The Netherlands*  
 December 9, 2000



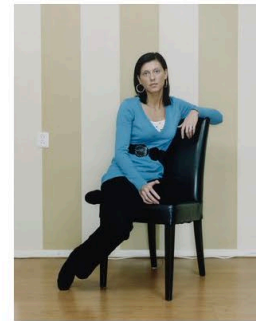
**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Leidschendam,  
 The Netherlands*  
 April 13, 2002



**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Leidschendam,  
 The Netherlands*  
 June 25, 2003



**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Leidschendam,  
 The Netherlands*  
 March 29, 2005



**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Zoetermeer,  
 The Netherlands*  
 March 24, 2007



**Rineke Dijkstra**  
*Almerisa, Zoetermeer,  
 The Netherlands*  
 January 4, 2008

Rineke Dijkstra, Almerisa series, 1994-2008, New York, Museum of Modern Art



Erwin Olaf, *The Bank*, part of the series *Palm Springs*, 2018, Chromogenic Print, 100 x 178.

the total number of my steps in	monaco
the total number of my steps in	mongolia
the total number of my steps in	montserrat
the total number of my steps in	morocco
the total number of my steps in	muscat and oman
the total number of my steps in	nauru
the total number of my steps in	nepal
the total number of my steps in	netherlands
the total number of my steps in	netherlands antilles
the total number of my steps in	new caledonia

Stanley Brouwn, *The total number of my steps...*



## Ernst Lalleman

- ▼ Documentaire
- ▼ Foto American - Wie zijn wij
- blog
- Info



© 2022 Ernst Lalleman

Using Format

Ernst Lalleman, *Foto American – Who we are*, 2022