

# The Everyday Life of Urban Monuments Research Network

## Amsterdam Workshop

### 'Monuments, Commemoration and Participation'

June 2<sup>nd</sup>-June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025



Tinus de Jongh: Fragment Uitzicht op de Dam, 1912, Stadsarchief Amsterdam.

### Sunday, June 1st (early arrivals)

16 – 18: Possibility to join the **Memre Waka – Memorial Walk for the victims of colonialism**

#### Start: Dam Square

Memorial Walk dedicated to 'Recognition, Justice & Restoration', that marks the start of the Ketu Koti month. A month in which activities are planned throughout the country in June to reflect on the Dutch slavery past. The procession walks from Dam Square along memorable places in the city centre where explanations were given about the direct link with the visible buildings and objects in the capital and the Dutch slavery past. The Walk ends at the official residence of the Mayor of Amsterdam, a 17th century mansion, originally built for merchant and slave trader, Paulus Godin of the Dutch Westindia Company.

## **Monday, June 2nd**

**9.30 – 13.00**

### **Commemoration and citizenship – Contested colonial statues and migration monuments**

Location: University of Amsterdam (UvA), Spuistraat 210, 1012 VT Amsterdam,

Room: Venue University Library, Singel 425, Doelenzaal

Chair: Laura van Hasselt

#### **9.30-10.00 Welcome**

Introduction to the network and presentation round

#### **10.00-10.30 The Everyday Life of Dutch Guestworker monuments**

Nina Cornielje, Laura Tacoma and Marije Koppes, History Research Master Students UvA

#### **10.30-11.00 Migrant workers' Monument and Slavery Monument in Utrecht**

Rinske Hordijk (policy advisor art in public space Utrecht) discusses origin and uses of two new monuments in Utrecht: Eerbetoen gastarbeiders (Honoring guest workers) by Aimée Zito Lema inaugurated in 2024 and Vlucht and Verzet (Flight and Resistance), commemorating victims of slavery by Patricia Kaersenhout inaugurated in 2023.



Patricia Kaersenhout: Vlucht and Verzet (Flight and Resistance), 2023.

Aimée Zito Lema: Eerbetoen gastarbeiders (Honoring guest workers), 2024.

11.00-11.30 Break (tea/coffee/stroopwafels)

#### **11.30 -12 Deconstructing relations around the Coen statue in Hoorn**

Markus Balkenhol, ph.d., ethnology researcher at Meertens Institute and Marisela de Cuba

Nicknamed the 'Slaughterer of Banda,' the figure of Jan Pieterszoon Coen has become increasingly contested in recent years. Coen's statue in Hoorn has been a disputed monument since its unveiling in 1893. Markus Balkenhol and Marisela de Cuba unfolds the ongoing work of deconstructing relations around the statue.

### **12.00 – 12.30 Wat met Leopold ? (What with Leopold?)**

Laureline Soubry (Platform Kunst in Opdracht, Vlaanderen) unfolds the fascinating art project around and in reaction to the King Leopold statue in Ostende. This equestrian statue was originally inaugurated in 1931 as a commemoration of one the most controversial colonial figures of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, King Leopold 2<sup>nd</sup> of Belgium. Since 2023 artist have been working on interventions and other ways to reinterpret the controversial statue.



### **12.30-12.50 Roundtable discussion with all speakers**

13.00-14.00: **Lunch** at Café [Luxembourg](#), Spui 24, 1012 XA Amsterdam

## 14.00-18.00: Monument walk-and-talk

From Koningsplein (via Leidsegracht) via Leidseplein with the monument for murdered journalist Peter R. de Vries [Jeroen Boomgaard]



- Monuments around De Balie.
- Vondelpark and its monuments
- The assemblage of statues and monuments around Rembrandtsplein.

**Dr. Paul Knevel, University of Amsterdam** on the Rembrandt monument, one of Amsterdam's earliest statues.

19.00: Dinner at Indrapura, Rembrandtplein 40, 1017 CV Amsterdam [Indrapura](#)



**Tuesday June 3rd**

## **Around Mr. Visserplein**

Meet at **Mr. Visserplein** – a central square in Amsterdam famous for its bicycle-friendly urban planning

10.00-11.00 Exploring the Mr Visserplein graffiti project and walk to the Holocaust Names Monument via various statues and monuments

11.00– 11.30 Metro to Zuidoost, walk to

CBK Zuidoost Art Gallery, Anton de Komplein 120, 1102 DR Amsterdam



**11.45 – 14.30**

## **Monuments and participation in Amsterdam Southeast**

*At Centrum Beeldende Kunst Zuidoost (Centre for Visual Arts Southeast),*

*Anton de Komplein 120, Amsterdam*

With a collection of more than 2000 artworks and 12 exhibitions a year Centrum Beeldende Kunst Zuidoost (Centre for Visual Arts Southeast) is an important institution for contemporary art in Amsterdam and has been so for the last 25 years. During the visit we get a chance to get an insight into the institutions impressive collaborative work, education- and participation projects for young and old, and their management of more than 120 outdoor artworks.

**11.45-12.15: Anton de Kom Monument, Mandela Monument and De Grote Glijbaan**

**Annet Zondervan, director at the CBK**, talk about her work at the gallery, the Anton de Kom Monument and other recent projects involving participation, such as the Mandela Monument and De Grote Glijbaan (The Big Slide)



'Rona Batho' by Mohau Modisakeng (2021), Mandela-park in Amsterdam Zuidoost, *Lotte Bosch*

**12.30 – 13.30:** lunch at CBK ZO or in Mandelapark

**13.30-14.30** visit to Mandela Monument with concluding remarks

**14.30 – 15.30** Transport back to Marineterrein/central Amsterdam