



2015: The year of Vincent van Gogh

2015 will see the 125th anniversary of the decease of the internationally renowned painter Vincent van Gogh. The Stichting (foundation) Van Gogh Europe, a form of collaboration between some 30 institutions, will honour this Dutch artist by means of an international program. Central theme of this program will be '125 years of inspiration'.

The foundation includes various museums and (cultural) institutions from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Great Britain which have played a role in the artist's life and work. As part of the program, three museums in the Netherlands will organize beautiful exhibitions with original works of art by Van Gogh.

The activities taking place in the Netherlands are organized by, among other institutions, three institu-

tions that establish the basis of the Stichting Van Gogh Europe: the Van Gogh Museum, the Kröller-Müller Museum and Van Gogh Brabant (the fourth founding institution Mons 2015, Cultural Capital of Europe, is the capital city of the Walloon province of Henegouwen in Belgium).

From 25 April to 27 September 2015 the Kröller-Müller Museum will host the exhibition *Van Gogh & Co.* This exhibition focuses on the traditional genres at the end of the 19th century: still lifes, landscapes and vistas, nature, city views and portraits. Paintings and drawings by Van Gogh from various periods will be combined with those from contemporaries from the museum's own collection, such as Jean-François Millet, Henri Fantin-Latour, Paul Cézanne, Auguste Renoir, Paul Signac, Jan Toorop and Johan Thorn Prikker.

This year, in the scope of the Van Gogh Year, The Noordbrabants Museum organizes four exhibitions, of which two will be held in the fall. The exhibition 'Waar is Van Gogh?' (Where is Van Gogh?) shows how artists,

designers and product developers have been inspired by this artist. Sometimes funny and casual, but often also stylish and refined. 'Rondom de pastorie - een zaal vol Van Goghs' (Around the vicarage – a room filled with Van Goghs) pays extra attention to the museum's regular Van Gogh presentation that is shown in a separate room and to which surprising pieces on loan are added. The central theme is the development of Van Gogh as an artist in the province of Brabant. Both exhibitions can be visited from 3 October 2015 till 10 January 2016.

Earlier, Studio Roosegaarde developed a 600 meters long innovative cycling path for the Eindhoven region, inspired by the famous painting 'Starry night' (Museum of Modern Art, New York), as part of the interactive Van Gogh cycling route that was opened in May 2013.

The Van Gogh Museum, in collaboration with the Munch Museum, goes all out with the exhibition Munch : Van Gogh (25 September 2015 to 17 January 2016). Munch : Van Gogh is a grand exhibition that brings together the works of Vincent van Gogh and Edvard Munch for the first time in history. More than 100 iconic top pieces from all over the world that are seldom lent out, are on display. Both Vincent van Gogh and Edvard Munch (1863-1946) are known for their emotionally pregnant paintings and drawings, their personal and innovative style and life full



of hardships. In April this year, it was announced that The Cry, the world famous painting by Edvard Munch, will be part of this exhibition.

Source of inspiration

Apart from these exhibitions, numerous organizations and initiatives have taken up Van Gogh as a source of inspiration. This fall, inspired by Munch : Van Gogh, ten leading Amsterdam cultural institutions (EYE, Toneelgroep Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Koninklijk Concertgebouw Orkest, De Balie etc.) will show, by means of film, performance, debate and music, that the influence of Munch and Van Gogh on art and culture is very much alive. The Keukenhof horticultural event will be paying special attention to Van Gogh in 2015 by planting tulip arrangements inspired by Van Gogh's self-portraits. At the initiative of the community of Ede, the nature, art, culture and food of the Veluwe region will be combined in a varied programme entitled 'Taste of Van Gogh'. The Tuinen van Appeltern gardens will be designing ten Van Gogh gardens in 2015. Works of art inspired by Van Gogh will be on show during the GLOW light festival in Eindhoven, and Festival Boulevard in 's-Hertogenbosch will give young theatre producers the chance to develop Van Gogh program. Even the Flower Parade in Zundert, the Redhead Days in Breda and dance event Wish Outdoor are taking inspiration from Van Gogh. ■

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