



# HollandNews



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Dear all,

Although we've advanced a bit into the new year, I'd still like to wish you a happy 2009! We're absolutely packed with new plans, ideas and ambitions so we're ready to make it a highly successful year! Obviously, I hope to continue the good collaboration by regularly informing you, mainly through my newsletters, press releases or special themes like for instance the already much talked about art project Holland Art Cities (<http://www.hollandartcities.com/>). If you, on the other hand, need information on a subject, plan to visit Holland or just require some inspiration, don't hesitate to contact me! Hereby, I send you this year's first newsletter. Feel free to use it for publications or reference. Note that hi-resolution pictures to support your articles can be obtained.

With best regards,

Martijn Balzer,

Press & PR  
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## Starry nights at Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam



From an early age, Vincent van Gogh loved the mood conjured up by the evening and the night. He associated the night time with feelings of security, solace and the poetic. It gave him energy and inspiration for his works. The exhibition *Van Gogh and the colours of the night*, from 13 February to 7 June at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, is the first

exhibition to be devoted to Van Gogh's representations of the evening and night, a theme which recurs throughout his oeuvre. Famous works from international collections in the exhibition include *The starry night* (MoMA), *Eugène Boch* (Musée d'Orsay), a series of three sowers against a setting sun (of which one from the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection) and *The potato eaters* (Van Gogh Museum). The exhibition is organised in collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.

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**Celebrate an early Spring at the Holland Flowers Festival**

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## Rotterdam shows artistic side at 10th edition of Art Rotterdam

Holland's second largest city starts the new year traditionally in an artistic way. In 2009, *Art Rotterdam* celebrates its 10 year anniversary. From 5 - 8 February, the old Cruise Terminal building of the Holland America Line will once again be the stage for this internationally renowned art fair. *Art Rotterdam* is one of the most energetic art fairs for contemporary arts in Europe. The fair will keep you up to date with the latest developments in contemporary arts and will provide a perfect way to discover fresh talent. 75 galleries from ten different countries will present their most exciting artists. During the fair, the city of Rotterdam hosts several other cultural activities. The Kunsthal presents a large-scale retrospective of Giacometti and Center for contemporary art Witte de With hosts a large-scale exhibition trilogy of Ian Wallace. Also, the international fair for autonomous design, Object Rotterdam, will take place in the nearby Las Palmas. At Object Rotterdam you can find the latest developments in unique, or limited edition functional objects of international designers.

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## Floating Dutchman takes a splashing tour through Amsterdam

Discover Amsterdam in a splashing new way! During the spring of 2009, the Amsterdam-based Boat Company Lovers will launch the amphibious bus *Floating Dutchman* in cooperation with Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. This tour has been specially developed for transfer passengers with a transfer time of 5 hours or more, and offers them the possibility to discover Amsterdam in a very spectacular way. The Floating Dutchman offers a tour which starts at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and travels through the canals of Amsterdam's city centre, before returning to the airport within approximately 3 hours. Passengers will stay on board of the amphibious bus for the entire duration of the tour. The amphibious bus first drives to the Oosterdok, in the centre of Amsterdam, where it enters the water with a 'splash'. From there, the cruise takes about 45 minutes and takes you along the world famous Amsterdam canals. Audio guides are available to get a good impression of the country and the city. A ticket for this tour will cost about €40. The Floating Dutchman tour is not exclusively for transfer passengers. Anyone interested in experiencing the Floating Dutchman tour is welcome to buy a ticket for this splashing way to experience Amsterdam at our office at Schiphol Plaza.

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## Newly found photographs of John Lennon's Bed-In for Peace on display

Although it still is mid-winter, Holland is already preparing for Spring. The traditional Holland Flowers Festival in Zwaagdijk from 25 February to 1 March is an excellent way to get into the mood for the new flower season. Each year, this huge indoor exhibition attracts thousands of visitors to the town in North Holland to enjoy a scintillating spectacle of blossoming bulb flowers, trees, shrubs and other ornamental cultivation products. For the Holland Flowers Festival 2009, the theme is *The Sound of a Spring Melody*. The 4500 m<sup>2</sup> flower garden offers more spring ideas than ever for garden, patio and balcony. The splendid compositions of landscape gardeners and bulb nurserymen are the guarantor for a true spectacle. Under the supervision of the tone-setting garden designer, Mr. Robert Broekema, they demonstrate their talents in the colourful show gardens.

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**Six more months of fashion in Amsterdam's red light district**

Beatles-singer John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono spend seven days in bed in room 902 (now 702) of the Amsterdam Hilton Hotel during their honeymoon in March 1969. During this so-called *Bed-in for Peace* they address the international press on the issues of world peace and the war in Vietnam. This action made the front page of newspapers all over the world. Forty years later, their historical deed is put in perspective with three photographic exhibitions. *From Holland with Peace* is shown at the Hilton Hotel from March 21 to 29.



Also in March, another exhibition on this theme takes place in Amsterdam at Galerie Moderne, displaying a series of newly recovered photographs of the *Bed-In*. During his visit to the Hilton, John Lennon gave Dutch photo journalist Nico Koster time in abundance to make a unique photographic document of the *Bed-In*. But the pictures of this exclusive photoshoot never saw the light of day as the negatives mysteriously disappeared. Only last month, almost forty years later to the date, the photographer's daughter found the long lost negatives in a box with old childhood photo's. Finally, they will be shown to the public.

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It was the most talked-about Dutch fashion initiative in a long time, a project not without its fair share of controversy. Red Light Fashion Amsterdam (RLFA), the showrooms for young Dutch fashion designers in the middle of Amsterdam's red light district, was supposed to end at the beginning of 2009. However, because of the huge success of the project, RLFA will be extended for at least another six months. A joint initiative between fashion recruitment and consultancy agency HTNK, building corporation NV Stadsgoed and the City of Amsterdam, the project continues to fascinate the public both locally and internationally. Red Light Fashion Amsterdam has been incredibly beneficial in promoting the work of the designers involved and has no doubt been a major conversation topic in Holland and abroad during 2008.

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