

MARIANNE OF THE NETHERLANDS – THE PRINCESS FROM THE FUTURE

Meet our speakers!

Vita Teunissen, MA MSc (born 1994) is a partner at SteenhuisMeurs, a consultancy office in the field of cultural heritage. Vita studied Architecture at the Technical University in Delft and Architectural History at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. She applies her dual background to bringing together the languages of heritage and architectural research. She started at SteenhuisMeurs during her studies and joined the founders Marinke Steenhuis and Paul Meurs as a partner in 2022. SteenhuisMeurs conducts research on buildings, urban areas and landscapes, aiming to identify the existing qualities and to establish principles for adaptation and transformation. The office has served as advisor and researcher for over 600 sites across the Netherlands and contributes to the international discourse on cultural heritage and its future values. Additionally, Vita lectures at various educational institutions and is a member of the Advisory Committee for Spatial Quality in Delft.



About the lecture:

The Dutch excel in adaptive reuse. In keeping with the continuously changing landscape that they have shaped and inhabit, they have developed a comprehensive methodology for dealing with heritage. For example, the Binnenhof in The Hague is an ensemble of monumental buildings that has housed the national government in its various forms since the thirteenth century, being adjusted to represent the values of the time: from power and grandeur to democracy and transparency. Using various projects as examples, Vita will illustrate the variety of approaches to renovation, redevelopment and research in the Netherlands, linking the Dutch heritage approach to Princess Marianne's inspiring mindset and charitable projects.

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Julia Wollner, literary scholar, italianist, journalist. In 2015 she founded 'Lente' – magazine dedicated to Mediterranean culture and lifestyle; in 2022 she started a podcast of the same name. She sits in the jury of the Leopold Staff Prize for Literature, awarded yearly to the best publications about Italy. She has published articles in 'Zeszyty Literackie', 'Tygodnik Powszechny', 'Zwierciadło'. Julia Wollner collaborates with the Artes Liberales department of Warsaw University.



Apart from the Mediterranean, she is interested in mental health and social problems connected with exclusion, discrimination and antisemitism. She is fascinated by historical female figures. Her PhD dissertation (2010, Warsaw University) focused on the myth of Cleopatra in Italian literature, cinema, art and music. In 2023 she published two podcast episodes dedicated to empress Elisabeth of Austria.

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Anna Witczak, psychologist who specializes in neuropsychological therapy and rehabilitation. She represents Dutch Studies at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Wrocław. Anna Witczak focuses on psychological and linguistic research. As part of the research project, she analyzes anonymous letters and looks for answers whether there are psychological and linguistic determinants and characteristics of letters written by unknown authors who consciously try to conceal their own identity.



Anna Witczak studied clinical psychology at SWPS University in Wrocław and Dutch and German Studies at the University of Wrocław. She is currently working as a police psychologist in Szczecin as well as a lecturer at the University of Wrocław.

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The interest in life and works of Princess Marianne of the Netherlands has been traditionally great in the municipality of Voorburg, where she resided during her life whenever she was in the Netherlands. In 2020 a connoisseur and collector, Kees van der Leer, took an initiative to establish the Princess Marianne Heritage Foundation with the aim of increasing knowledge about this versatile personality, who left her footprints not only in the Netherlands but also elsewhere in Europe.



Tilly Zwartepoorte will take the floor on behalf of the **Princess Marianne Heritage Foundation**.