

# Foundation for Cultural Inventory

## Summary of activities 2013

Right: May 27th, the opening of the exhibition 'Marius Bauer (1867 – 1932) Dutch Orientalist Back in Russia' in the Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow. The catalogue was presented by the Dutch Embassy to assistant director Tatiana Metaxa during the reception, which she signed.

Below: Alexander Sedov, director of the Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow; Leonard Wolfsbergen, president of the Bauer Documentatie Stichting; Ron Keller, Dutch Ambassador in Russia; Pavel Kouzmine, senior advisor Dutch Embassy in Russia; Lia Gorter, director SCI.



## Foundation for Cultural Inventory

The bilateral Year of Friendship with the Russian Federation, NL-RF2013 for short, was dominant in setting activities for SCI. On several occasions, SCI has contributed to the success of the cultural year.

### **1 Exhibition 'Dutch - Russian - Russian - Dutch' in Tsaritsyno, Museum and Palace in Moscow, 11 February 2013**

Lia Gorter and Bernard Vermet contributed to the catalogue for the exhibition of Dutch paintings from the collection of private collector Sergey Grigoryants.

The festive opening of the exhibition in the Tsaritsyno museum was also the beginning of many more cultural events that would take place throughout the year in both Russia and The Netherlands. The presentation of the beautiful catalogue 'Dutch - Russian' was followed by a symposium on different objects from the collector Grigoryants.

Lia Gorter was present on behalf of SCI and held a presentation on the goals of the foundation.

*Funding: Dutch Embassy Moscow.*

### **2 Congress CODART in Vienna, 21 - 23 April**

The main topic was the presentation of permanent collections. Since 1999, a year after the establishment of CODART, Curators of Dutch and Flemish Art, SCI has been involved regularly with this organization globally. In the initial period, SCI endeavoured to involve museums in Central and Eastern Europe with this international network. A CODART convention is for SCI an opportunity to meet with many 'old acquaintances' and to engage 'new' curators with CODART. With the curator of the Albertina Museum in Vienna, we discussed organizing a lecture series in the future on the influence of the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs worldwide on collections in museums in unexpected places, such as Mexico and Cuba.

*Funding: SCI.*



**Above: Reception after the opening of the exhibition, with Sergey Grigoryants and Thymen Kouwenaar, Counsellor for the Dutch Embassy of Culture, Science and Education in Russia.**



**Left: Opening exhibition of the Dutch and Flemish collection of Sergey Grigoryants in Museum Tsaritsyno, Moscow.**

**Below: Opening of the exhibition 'Marius Bauer (1867 - 1932) Dutch Orientalist Back in Russia': Alexander Sedov, director of the Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow; Ron Keller, Dutch Ambassador in Russia; Leonard Wolfsbergen, president of the Bauer Documentatie Stichting; Lia Gorter, director SCI.**

### **3 Exhibition 'Marius Bauer (1867 - 1932) Dutch Orientalist Back in Russia'**

**May 27 - September 9 in the Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow and September 23 - December 9 in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan.**

This exhibition was realized in collaboration with The Bauer Documentation Foundation (BDS), and with the help of the Dutch Embassy in Moscow.

The exhibition consisted of 90 objects of which only two came from museums. The remaining 88 came from the collections of private collectors.

BDS has taken care of the coordination of transport and maintained contact with the collectors. SCI maintained contact with the Museum of Oriental Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Kazan.

SCI and BDS organized the weeklong stay of Evgenya Karlova from the Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow in order to visit private collectors and make choices for the exhibition, which was supplemented with objects from the rich collection of objects from the Museum of Oriental Art.

The catalogue is written by Bernard Vermet, SCI, and the translation into English by Myra van der Velde, SCI, the corrections by Marijcke van Dongen, SCI, and its translation



into Russian by S. Lapina. The Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow, carried out the production.

The exhibition was a great success. The Russian press, including tvKultura, have paid ample attention to this special exhibition 'in which Russia is seen through the eyes of a foreigner'. Especially the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II in 1896 and the accompanying entourage were an important part of the exhibition, which was the reason for the event to be held in the Netherlands - Russia Year.

The exhibition was held at a second location in Kazan, Tatarstan. The Museum of Fine Arts in Kazan has an important collection of oriental objects, which gave the works of Bauer an entirely different arrangement to be fully appreciated. This exhibition was held from September 23 to December 9. Responsible curator for the project was Bernard Vermet, SCI.

*Funding: BDS, Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow and Museum of Fine Arts, Kazan.*

**Below: September 23rd, opening of the exhibition 'Marius Bauer (1867 – 1932) Dutch Orientalist Back in Russia' in the Museum of Fine Arts in Kazan, Tatarstan.**





**Above: Opening of the Master Class 'Preservation of Mutual Heritage - The scientific study and restoration of Dutch and Flemish Art' June 10 - 15, in the M. A. Vrubel Museum, Omsk. Participants shown in front: Lia Gorter, director of SCI; Christiaan Vogelaar, member of the board of SCI and curator the Museum The Lakenhal, Leiden; Bernard Vermet, art historian SCI.**



**Above: Seated: Lyudmilla Chekalina, Ministry of Culture Omsk Region; Anna Chernyavskaya, Head of collections of the M. A. Vrubel Museum; standing: Yuri Trofimov, Director of the M. A. Vrubel Museum; Lia Gorter, Director SCI.**

#### **4 Master class "Preservation of Mutual Heritage - The scientific study and restoration of Dutch and Flemish art" June 10 - 15, Omsk**

With the participation of thirteen museums from Siberia, a total of 45 participants, this Master Class led to a sequel with several Russian institutions.

The participating museums held presentations on their Dutch and Flemish collections, which now have a digital platform. This gave our Dutch colleagues a good impression on which works of art are present in the Siberian museums. Lectures on management and conservation of collections and the study of Dutch paintings were held by:

**Bart Ankersmit**, Senior researcher, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE): Risk Management; Climate control; Methods of decision-making for conservation: the Barbara Appelbaum model; Preventive conservation in a museum context; the context for conservation. Workshop with René Hoppenbrouwers: Methods for monitoring.

**Lia Gorter**, Director Foundation for Cultural Inventory, SCI: Introduction of SCI; Documenting Collections; the importance of international collaboration in preserving collections and art historical research.

**Rene Hoppenbrouwers**, Director of Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg (SRAL): Technical capabilities of the SRAL on research and restoration; Preventive conservation to improve the conditions in museum depots; On the management of museum storage - and what might go wrong; Interdisciplinary collaboration between art historians, curators and scholars;

Approach to conservation and development of the profession of restorer.

**Kate Seymour**, Head of Training of the SRAL, lecturer at the University of Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam: Curriculum's for restorers in the Netherlands; New restoration techniques; Filling techniques and the use of glues when relining paintings of two formulas developed by the SRAL; Seventeenth century painting techniques; The imaginary cube: standard technical documentation for paintings.

**Bernard Vermet**, Art historian Foundation for Cultural Inventory, SCI:

Art-historical research over the Internet with a guide on how to use the database of the Netherlands Institute for Art History, RKD.

Advice for attributions to the participating curators of the Siberian Museums.

**Christiaan Vogelaar**, member of the board Foundation for

Cultural Inventory, SCI, curator of Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden:

The importance of Art Historical Research into collections of Dutch and Flemish art in Russia's Regional Museums; Art-historical and technical research: Lucas van Leyden's 'Christ and the Blind of Jericho' from the Hermitage St Petersburg. Advice for attributions to the participating curators of the Siberian Museums.

The contribution of the Russian specialists consisted of lectures given by:

**Tatyana Maximova**, Head of research Lichatjev Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage: The research experience of the study of Dutch paintings in the collections of Regional museums in Russia and former Soviet territories.

**Olga Pichugina**, Ural State University of Architecture and Arts:

Experience with complex analysis of the Dutch and Flemish masters in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in Yekaterinburg.

**Natalya Minko**, Curator of the M. A. Vrubel Museum, Omsk: Restoration and research into the "Forest Landscape" by an unknown artist (circle of M. Hobbema?) as an example of an integrated study.

**Anna Chernyavskaya**, head curator of the MA Vrubel Museum, Omsk: Summary of the first practical seminar 'Preserving Cultural Heritage. The scientific study and restoration of Dutch and Flemish paintings'.

45 staff members of thirteen Siberian museums have participated in the Master Class and received a certificate. The enthusiasm, both of the museums and of the organizers, was often felt in the room during lectures and discussions after.

*Funding: The Ministry of Culture of the Omsk region, the M.A. Vrubel Museum, Omsk, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE), Dutch Embassy in Moscow.*

**Below: During the daily rounds of discussions, René Hoppenbrouwers, Director Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg (SRAL) and Lia Gorter are listening to questions of the participants.**



## **5 CODART 15 years, the world of Dutch and Flemish Art** **Rijksmuseum, 14 – 15 October**

For this occasion it was possible to fly in Oscar Antuña Benítez from Cuba. He used the opportunity to finalize his research for the publication of the 'Nineteenth century art of painting from Holland and Belgium' from the collection of the National Museum in Havana. He wrote in CODART's online magazine sZine: Curators Collection, The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de Cuba: conservation and exhibition' in which he highlighted the activities of SCI in the museum.

*Funding for visiting The Netherlands: Dutch Embassy in Havana, CODART, and SCI.*

## **6 Visualisation of Cultural Heritage**

SCI, celebrating its 16th anniversary, has made inventories in different continents: Asia, India, Kazakhstan, Central America, Cuba, Central Europe, Estonia, Latvia, Serbia and in the Russian Federation, the country where most Dutch and Flemish art is outside the Netherlands and Belgium. For this collection to be accessible to a wide audience, the website of SCI has insufficient international reach. The board of SCI has decided to collaborate with the Netherlands Institute for Art History, RKD, to make the collections accessible and to include them in the RKD databases.

From 2013 on we are working on the accessibility of the collections. One obstacle was that the SCI files are in English while the RKD data are entered in Dutch. The RKD databases will also have an English version in 2013 to facilitate matching files and imports from SCI.

*Funding: Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Gravin M.A.O.C van Bylandt Stichting, Dr Hendrik Muller's Vaderlandsch Fonds, K.F. Hein fonds.*



**Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de Cuba, inv. no. 90-3410, Marinus van Reijmerswaele, Moneychangers, panel 91 x 64 cm, detail.**



## **7 Continued plans for 2014 with Siberian museums in Omsk.**

The response to the Master Class, both from the Russian and Dutch side, was overwhelmingly positive. In consultation with the Director of the M.A. Vrubel Museum, SCI approached the interested parties and asked if they were willing to organize a second Master Class or help organizing. This has resulted in a three-stage approach.

For 2014, the M.A. Vrubel Museum signed up as a member of CODART. With financial support from the Friends of CODART, Anna Chernyavskaya, chief curator of the Museum Vrubel, was able to visit the CODART congress in 2014.

### **Guest visit DutchCulture**

SCI has in cooperation with RCE made an application to DutchCulture, for organizing a visitors program in February/March 2014 for representatives from two Russian institutes: GOSNIIR, the State Scientific Institute for Restoration in Moscow and the M.A. Vrubel Museum in Omsk and the Department of Archaeology at the University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. This is to achieve further international cooperation.

Lia Gorter, secretary of the board SCI



## **8 Members of the Board:**

**Mr A. van Hellenberg Hubar, chair**

**A. Gorter, secretary**

**P. Vink, treasurer**

**Drs Chr. Vogelaar, member**

**Drs W. Jacobs, member**

**Mr J. Hesseling, member**

**Dr S. Scheijen, member**

### **Become a friend**

Support from private individuals forms an essential basis for the continued existence of the foundation. To this end, SCI would be delighted to welcome you as a valued contributor. As a Friend of the foundation, you will be regularly informed via e-mail about the projects and activities of the foundation and you will receive a newsletter twice a year via ordinary mail. You can become a Friend by transferring €25.00, or more, onto our bank account (see “Business Information” below) mentioning the word ‘Friend’ and your name plus (e-mail) address.

### **Financing**

SCI is an independent non-profit foundation. It relies on sponsorship, subsidy per project and donations of private persons in order to achieve its objectives. SCI is categorised as a General-Benefit Objectives Organisation (GBOO) by the Dutch Tax Authorities.

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