

Press release, Tuesday 9 February 2021

## Museum van de Geest's 'New Dutch Masters' Exposition opens on Chinese 'Ocean Flower Island' in Hainan

One of the eight impressive new museums on 'Ocean Flower Island' in Hainan opens its doors this week with the exposition 'New Dutch Masters'. The exhibition was opened on February 8 2021 and will last for 6 months, till August 8 2021. The exposition has been compiled by the Museum van de Geest and consists entirely of pieces from the museum's own collection. It is an inspiring and substantive match for the museum in China, which is entirely dedicated to outsider art. With 'New Dutch Masters', a combination of present day art and portrait photography by Sander Troelstra, Museum van de Geest is the first Dutch museum to present an exposition on Ocean Flower Island showing work from its own collection.

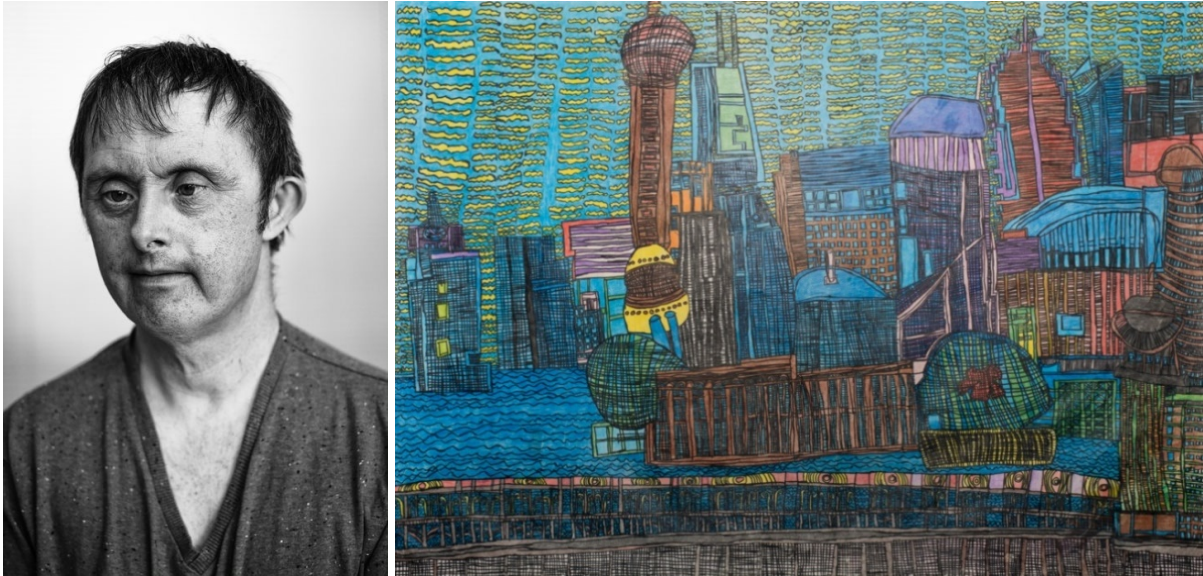


The museum on Ocean Flyer Island, a group of artificial islands in the shape of a flower to the north-west of the island Hainan, does not yet have its own collection and wants to build an outsider art collection in cooperation with Museum van de Geest. With more than 10 years of collecting, Museum van de Geest has great expertise in this field and gives people in society, who previously have not been represented in the cultural landscape, a voice. Later this year Museum van de Geest will share its knowledge during a congress on 'outsider art' in Hainan, as soon as the COVID-19 situation allows for this. The cooperation came about with help of the China Connector.

In 'New Dutch Masters' the visitor meets the person behind this pure, contrary art form and gets to know their hyper-sensitivity and extraordinary creativity. Who are these artists? What are their motivations? In the exposition, artists are given a face and you enter into a new world. You experience extraordinary art made by people who are often not trained as artists. In an open-minded way, you experience people's creativity and get to know their unconventional imagination.

'New Dutch Masters' is a rich combination of contemporary art and beautiful photography by photographer Sander Troelstra; he has won the Silver Camera several times and in 2015 was the winner of the prestigious National Portrait Award. Inspired by the unusual, Troelstra applied himself to portraying people with a frayed edge: eccentrics who, for whatever reason, fall just outside

society. He portrays the artists purely and authentically.



### **Museum van de Geest**

Museum van de Geest has had intensive contacts with cultural and social organisations in China for several years. One of the first expositions in China was in the Wan Li Museum in Wuhan (2015) with work by artist Jefke Dijkstra, followed by the 'Sino Dutch Art Brut' exposition in Nanjing (2016) and a year later 'Cityscapes' in Shanghai (2017). All exhibitions involve intensive cooperation with local organisations.

In the Netherlands, Museum van de Geest has two branches, one in Haarlem and one in Amsterdam. In the museum in Haarlem, you discover more about your own mind and that of others in an interactive way. There are exhibitions of outsider art in Amsterdam, in which artists show their inner world.

### **Biography - Sander Troelstra**

Sander Troelstra graduated from the Fotoacademie in Amsterdam in 2011. Troelstra has a number of special awards to his name, including first, second and third prizes of the Silver Camera. With the portrait of artist Ben Augustus, one of the New Dutch Masters in the exhibition, he won the National

Portrait Prize 2015.

## Ocean Flower Island Museum



The Ocean Flower Island museum is part of a large project constructed in Hainan by the project developer, Shunde. The prestigious Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing is the head curator of the eight museums to be opened on Ocean Flower Island. The 'Haihuadao Museum Island' aims to promote and deepen international cooperation in the fields of art, culture, research and creative therapy. The international exhibition 'New Dutch Masters' of Museum van de Geest has been made possible entirely by funding from the Chinese partners.

Museum eight, which has no specific name, focuses on promoting the art movement 'Art Brut', introduced in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century by the famous French artist Jean Dubuffet to describe art made outside the academic tradition of the visual arts. It emphasises the raw expression of a vision or an emotion, unhindered by conventional ideas. As an ecologically and environmentally friendly island, Haihuadao is an ideal place for developing raw art.

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### ***Note to the editor, not for publication***

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