

FRAMER FRAMED

SYMPOSIUM

In the future everything remains uncertain

A panel discussion on contemporary art collections in flux

Saturday 22 April, 16:00 - 18:00 at Framer Framed



On Saturday 22 April, **Framer Framed** presents a discussion on collection policies of museums in the Netherlands. The symposium is a closing event accompanying the current exhibition "In the future everything will be as certain as it used to be" (16.03-23.04 2017 at Framer Framed), a collaboration with **AAMU - Museum of contemporary Aboriginal art**, curated by **Georges Petitjean**.

In June 2017, **AAMU - Museum of contemporary Aboriginal art** (Utrecht, NL) has to close its doors after 16 years. The aim of **AAMU** is to present work by Aboriginal artists in a contemporary art museum context, critiquing the pigeonholing of Aboriginal art as 'ethnographic'. In the 2008 'Theme Park' exhibition, for example, artist **Brook Andrew** looked into the perception and development of stereotypes and presented a dialogue between the local & the global, the East & the West and 'high art' & 'low art'. The unique collection of **AAMU** will now go to the **Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen** (National Museum of World Cultures), a Dutch ethnographic museum.

The case of the **AAMU** raises questions regarding collection policies in the Netherlands more generally. Why, for instance, does Australian Aboriginal art even 'need' its own museum, rather than being incorporated in national Dutch contemporary art and cultural heritage museums? Why is the collection now going to an ethnographic-, rather than contemporary art museum? Underlying this issue are restricting either/or categorizations of art, such as 'contemporary', 'modern', 'ethnographic', 'traditional', which require critical assessment. An example is the decision by **Kees van Twist** (director **Groninger Museum** 1999-2011) to give the **Groninger Museum's** contemporary Aboriginal art collection

on a long-term loan to the AAMU because 'the Groninger Museum is not an ethnographic museum'.

In this debate, we will discuss several questions emerging from the AAMU case. What is the current status of collection policies in the Netherlands and what are the recent developments? What strategies can we employ to advance a decolonial, global and more inclusive collection policy? What can we learn from international initiatives, such as the *International Joint Acquisition Program for contemporary Australian art*, an active collaboration between Tate, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Qantas, to acquire work by Australian contemporary artists - including Aboriginal artists - to incorporate into the museum's collection?

Confirmed panel members:

- **Dr. Sook-Kyung Lee** - Senior Research Curator at Tate Research Centre: Asia. Lee is one of the initiators of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Qantas and Tate International 'Joint Acquisition Program'. Info: <https://www.mca.com.au/artists-and-works/mca-qantas-tate/>
- **Dr. Thomas Berghuis** - Curator and art historian; currently Visiting Fellow at Tate Research Centre: Asia. Berghuis formerly taught Asian art history at the University of Sydney; was curator at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC, and director of Museum MACAN, Jakarta, RI.
- **Dr. Georges Petitjean** - Curator AAMU; curator of current exhibition "In the future everything will be as certain as it used be" at Framer Framed
- **Dr. Wonu Veys** - Curator Oceania at Research Centre for Material Culture/ Museum Volkenkunde
- MODERATOR: **Dr. Esther Captain** - Head of Centre for Applied Research on Education, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (HvA)

MORE INFO & SIGN UP:

Entry:

Entry is free, but please sign up via reserveren@framerframed.nl

Address and route:

Framer Framed exhibition space

IJpromenade 2, 1031 KT

Framer Framed is located in cultural building the Tolhuistuin, and can be reached from Amsterdam Centraal Station with the ferry 'Buiksloterweg'. The entrance is located directly at the IJ riverside. The exhibition space is located on the first floor adjacent THT restaurant. Admission to the Framer Framed exhibitions and public program is free.

