

**NEW**  
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**MUSEUM**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW MUSEUM PRESENTS EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY VAN ABBEMUSEUM,  
FOR MUSEUM AS HUB INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

New York, NY...The New Museum is pleased to announce the opening of “**Museum as Hub: Be(com)ing Dutch at a Distance**,” part of the **Museum as Hub** international collaboration. This is the fifth and last partner presentation in the inaugural year’s exploration of neighborhood. “Museum as Hub: Be(com)ing Dutch at a Distance” is also the final iteration of Be[com]ing Dutch, the two-year project organized by the Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven, the Netherlands), examining ideas of national and cultural identity. The exhibition at the New Museum features the installation ***Exodus 2048*** by **Michael Blum**, commissioned by the Van Abbemuseum for the Be(com)ing Dutch exhibition. Additional works in this presentation include: **Lidwien van de Ven’s *Freedom of Expression***, re-imagined here as a photographic insert in the exhibition newspaper and a screening and special presentation with the artist and guest speakers on March 28, and **Johan van der Keuken’s** film *I love \$*, to be screened in the New Museum theater on January 24 and March 7. The exhibition is on view on the fifth floor of the New Museum from January 15-March 29, 2009.

“Museum as Hub: Be(com)ing Dutch at a Distance” presents new artist projects along with related screenings and discussions. As questions of cultural and national identity become ever more of an issue in political and cultural debate, Be(com)ing Dutch asks whether art can offer alternative examples of thinking about how we can live together today. Bringing together thinkers, artists, intellectuals, and citizens from the Netherlands and beyond, the collaborative project looks at the specific local situation in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, as a place where multiculturalism, cosmopolitanism, global capital dynamics, and migration create a fluid and unfixed notion of “Dutchness.” Putting ideas of cultural identity under pressure and examining the process of inclusion and exclusion, the show looks at the possibilities of collectiveness as an instructive model. The work is guided by three broad directional themes—the **Imagined Past**, **Imagined Present**, and

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**Imagined Future**—visualizing a different past and present, and speculating about a hypothetical future. This exhibition and the larger *Be(com)ing Dutch* project concludes with the launch of the *Be(com)ing Dutch* book at the project's closing reception on March 29, 2009, 6-9 p.m. in the New Museum Sky Room. Curators Charles Esche, Director of the Van Abbemuseum, and Annie Fletcher, Exhibitions Curator, will give a keynote address.

Originally installed in the clock tower of the Van Abbemuseum, **Michael Blum's *Exodus 2048*** represents the **Imagined Future**. The work presents a fictional Israeli refugee camp in the Van Abbemuseum after the dissolution of the Israeli state. Blum's installation is crowded with objects of a displaced people—cots, clothing, toys, luggage and other personal items. A fictional interview with a passenger of *Exodus 2048*, written by Blum, appears in the Museum as Hub publication, available in the New Museum exhibition space. In this work, the artist draws parallels to the historic *Exodus 1947*, the ship of Jewish refugees turned away from Palestine and eventually relocated to temporary camps in what was then British-controlled West Germany, which led to international public outcry. Blum creates a fictional “what-if” scenario in the year 2048, when demographic and world political change force Israelis to abandon their country, seeking asylum all over the world. The Van Abbemuseum, requisitioned by the government, becomes a temporary camp hosting a group of 120 refugees. *Exodus 2048* examines the relationship between host and refugee, accommodation and acculturation. Envisioned by the artist and translated through the lens of U.S.-Israel relations, the installation takes on a new context in New York, provoking important questions about the current and future situation in the Middle East, immigration, refugee populations, perceived identity, and self-identification.

For “*Be(com)ing Dutch at a Distance*,” **Lidwien van de Ven** re-imagines her work *Freedom of Expression*, originally a commissioned video and photographic installation at the Van Abbemuseum. Representing the **Imagined Present**, van de Ven created a photographic insert in the Museum as Hub newspaper of her work *Brussels 14/02/2008 (Hirsi Ali)* and will organize a special presentation for the closing weekend of the exhibition. This presentation will include a screening of *Freedom of Expression* and related discussions considering issues of “Islamaphobia” and the politics of immigration with invited guest speakers. The video work, created from original archival material from the press conference in Brussels in which Ayaan Hirsi Ali presents her case for EU protection against threats to her life, examines questions of citizenry.

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Finally, the New Museum will present multiple screenings of **Johan van der Keuken's** 1986 film *I love \$* to represent the **Imagined Past**. Traveling from Amsterdam to New York to Hong Kong, ending in Geneva, van der Keuken investigates the drive to accumulate money in the era of Thatcherite/Reaganite neoliberalism. Extensive interviews with bankers, traders and executives, along with those victimized by economic hardship, are edited into a documentary that reflects on excess and deprivation, and the shortcomings of globalization in the early 1980s.

## **SCREENING DATES**

### **JANUARY 24, 3 PM**

Screening: Johan van der Keuken, *I love \$*, 1986, New Museum theater

### **FEBRUARY 12, 7 PM**

Artist talk: Michael Blum with Regine Basha, New Museum theater

### **MARCH 7, 3 PM**

Screening: Johan van der Keuken, *I love \$*, 1986, New Museum theater

### **MARCH 27, 6-9 PM**

*Be(com)ing Dutch* book launch with keynote address by curators Charles Esche and Annie Fletcher. Followed by reception, New Museum Sky Room

### **MARCH 28**

Lidwien van de Ven, *Freedom of Expression*, New Museum theater  
Screening of Lidwien van de Ven's work and special presentation by the artist with guest speakers.

Additional events organized by *Museum as Hub* Fellow Ivet Reyes Maturano will take place throughout the period of the exhibition in the Museum as Hub space. Please visit [museumashub.org](http://museumashub.org) for more information.

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**ABOUT MUSEUM AS HUB**

Museum as Hub is a new model for curatorial practice and institutional collaboration established to enhance a greater understanding of contemporary art, and is the cornerstone of the New Museum's public programs and the fifth floor Education Center. The Museum as Hub partnership was initiated by the New Museum in 2006, and includes the Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo (Mexico City, Mexico); Insa Art Space, (Seoul, Korea); the Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art (Cairo, Egypt); and the Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven, The Netherlands).

**ABOUT NEW MUSEUM**

Founded in 1977, the New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and among the most respected internationally, with a curatorial program known for its global scope and adventurousness. With the inauguration of our new, state-of-the-art building on the Bowery, the New Museum is a leading destination for new art and new ideas.

**SUPPORT FOR MUSEUM AS HUB**

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