



New youngest museum director of the Netherlands: Charlotte Rixten (25) director of Villa Mondriaan

Museum Villa Mondriaan, Winterswijk, January 16th, 2019

The board of governors of Museum Villa Mondriaan in Winterswijk appointed Charlotte Rixten as the new director. Until recently Charlotte Rixten (25) worked in the Scottish Highlands after studying at the University of Edinburgh. She has previously worked at Villa Mondriaan as a successful junior-director. Rixten succeeds Judith Kadee, who has been appointed as curator of Museum Escher in the Palace in the Hague, Villa Mondriaan has chosen another young and promising director with international experience in the cultural world. Rixten is happy 'to return to museum Villa Mondriaan with fresh knowledge and experience. Villa Mondriaan pays attention to both well-known artists and experimental art of young promising artists.'



Charlotte Rixten studied at the University of Groningen where she obtained two bachelor degrees in *International Relations and International Organisation* and *Art History*. She graduated with distinction from the research master *Collections and Curating Practices* at the University of Edinburgh. She organised a number of exhibitions, including a pop-up exhibition on creative therapy for people with dementia. Rixten: 'Art does not exist in a vacuum, but is an active element of our society. How art affects us and how we can affect art is a relevant question for everyone.'

During her studies she worked at the University Museum Groningen and did an internship as an assistant curator at museum De Buitenplaats in Eelde, as well as an internship at the Cultural Department of the Dutch Embassy in Canberra, Australia. The board of Villa Mondriaan is confident that Charlotte Rixten will further develop the museum in its organisational and artistic aspects. Rixten is excited to continue the growth of the museum: 'I will do my utmost to continue its success and to show what Villa Mondriaan can do.'

This year Museum Villa Mondriaan will exist six years. The museum was opened in 2013 by Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix and focusses on the early work of Piet Mondriaan, which partly came into being in Winterswijk and surroundings. Mondriaan spent his youth in Winterswijk where his parents lived in the villa at Zonnebrink that is now houses part of the museum. Each year about 15,000 visitors come to see his early work and the work of his first teachers, his father and uncle. Moreover, the museum is a platform for innovative young artists, offering them a platform to display their work and connect with other artists. Around 1000 primary and secondary school pupils take part in educational programmes in the museum.

Now on show until March 3rd, 2019: *The Spiritual Path*, which illustrates Piet Mondriaan's philosophical and spiritual orientation. This exhibition was composed by Benno Tempel, director of Gemeentemuseum The Hague.

Note for the editor: further information can be obtained from Charlotte Rixten, director (tel 31 (0)6 188 274 88) and Hans Esmeijer, chairman of the board (tel 31 (0)6 211 667 91)

For further information and pictures please contact the department of communication at communicatie@villamondriaan.nl

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