

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Rotterdam, August 2011**

**MELANCHOTOPIA**  
3 September – 27 November 2011

**Press preview Thursday 1 September 2011 (12 .30 – 2 pm)**  
**Grand opening Friday 2 September 2011, starting at 1 pm**

**Between melancholy and utopia**

Today, Rotterdam seems to be a city on hold, caught between its past and its future: filled with nostalgia for the pre-WWII city, waiting for the utopian future that is perpetually stalled in unfinished developments and reconstructions. Projections about yesterday and tomorrow drive the image of the city, which seems to lack a present. Witte de With's *Melanchotopia* is an exhibition that "performs" the present of the city through the specific practice of over forty artists.

These international artists have been invited to work with different locations in Rotterdam. Throughout the inner city, their works are on display in sites that are part of everyday life: venues ranging from a supermarket to the chic lobby of an office building, from the playground of a primary school to a platform of the central station, from a louche hotel bar to city hall. Most of the works in *Melanchotopia* were especially developed for their locations.

The Witte de With building is the epicenter of the exhibition. Here you can find out more about all the participating artists and their projects for the different venues. Several art works and installations are also on show inside the epicenter and here visitors can obtain the exhibition guide, map and the free audio tour. The epicenter is the site for numerous *Melanchotopia* events and also hosts a pop-up art book store. Every Wednesday and Sunday at 3 pm free guided tours start at the epicenter, and in addition there is a busy program of lectures, artist talks, workshops and masterclasses.

To see all of *Melanchotopia* – to visit its forty venues, listen to the stories of its audio tour, attend its many accompanying events and explore the epicenter – would take several days. Therefore we have created a special pass-partout card, to enable you to come back as many times as you wish. Alternatively, you can choose your own route through this program and spend one afternoon, or even one evening exploring a selection of the ideas and works on offer.

The list of artists and locations is to be found [here](#) and in the appendix. For a preview of the exhibition guide please send an e-mail to [press@wdw.nl](mailto:press@wdw.nl).

**Curated by**

Nicolaus Schafhausen and Anne-Claire Schmitz  
Assistant curators: Thomas Cuckle, Amira Gad, Fabian Schoeneich and Sam Sterckx.

The *Melanchotopia* logo is a hybrid composition of Witte de With's cloud, a design by Gerard Hadders (Hard Werken), and the *Melanchotopia* rain by Sarah Morris, composed by Markus Weisbeck (Surface).



**melanchotopia**

Witte de With



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## PRESS

For press enquiries please e-mail [press@wdw.nl](mailto:press@wdw.nl) or ring + 31 (0) 10 411 01 44. Click [here](#) for more information about the exhibition, participating artists and [here](#) for high-resolution images.

## Press Preview/VIP preview

**Thursday, 1 September (12.30 – 2 pm)**

Lunch with the team and the participating artists at Witte de With followed by a preview of the exhibition through the city. RSVP via [press@wdw.nl](mailto:press@wdw.nl) or telephone 010-411 0144, preferably before 30 August.

## Grand opening

**Friday, 2 September 2011 starting at 1 pm**

- 13:00-17:00 Witte de With, the starting point for guided tours of the exhibition all afternoon
- 17:00 Drinks at Witte de With
- 18:00 Official opening at Witte de With
- 19:00 Premiere of *Music for Melanchotopia* for soprano and string ensemble by George van Dam and Claron McFadden in the Rotterdamse Schouwburg
- 21:00 *It's all downhill from here on*, a performance from sunset to sunrise by Filip Gilissen. Look for the crane, at the corner of Karel Doormanstraat and Crispijnstraat.
- 22:00 *Melanchotopia* party at Witte de With with DJ sets by Guillaume Bijl, Tobias Donat, Filip Gilissen, Kate Newby, Tobias Spichtig and Zin Taylor.

## Dates

3 September to 27 November 2011

## Price (includes exhibition guide)

- € 5.00 Melanchotopia epicenter at Witte de With
- € 2.50 under 18/students/CJP/ 65 +/ groups >10
- Free for under 12s/CKV/Rotterdam pass /MJK
- € 10.00 Passe-partout valid throughout the exhibition period, including access to all lectures and artist talks.

## Audio tour

Veldwerk film + educatie + beleid has developed an audio tour especially for *Melanchotopia*. Some audio clips directly connect to an artwork or artist, others refer to the themes explored in the exhibition. A mix of stories and city sounds.

Find out more and keep up to date with the schedule at [www.wdw.nl](http://www.wdw.nl).

***Melanchotopia* is supported by**



## Sponsors



**With special thanks to all locations.**

**Witte de With is supported by the Municipality of Rotterdam and The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.**



## APPENDIX

### Artists

Michael Van den Abeele, Saâdane Afif, Harold Ancart, Danaï Anesiadou, Sven Augustijnen, Dirk Bell, Michael Beutler, Guillaume Bijl, Pierre Bismuth, Monica Bonvicini, George van Dam, Thea Djordjadze, Jean-Pascal Flavien, Olivier Foulon, Murray Gaylard, Filip Gilissen, Adam Gillam, Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys, Arnoud Holleman, Peter Hutton, Adrià Julià, Leon Kahane, Erik van Lieshout, Minouk Lim, Sarah Morris, Alex Morrison, Kate Newby, Ricardo Okaranza, Henrik Plenge Jakobsen, Nina Pohl, Tomo Savi -Gecan, Markus Schinwald, Slavs and Tatars, Mårten Spångberg, Tobias Spichtig, Nasrin Tabatabai & Babak Afrassiabi, Zin Taylor, Octavian Trauttmansdorff, Kostis Velonis, Lidwien van de Ven, Peter Wächtler, Lawrence Weiner.

### Locations

Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art, SPAR Corandewal, Pathé Schouwburgplein, Weenink Bedrijfskleding, ROTTERDAM.INFO, Museum Rotterdam, Robeco, Bar Mon Cheri, Shop Erotica, Avondwink Alexia, Galerie VIVID, Willibrordschool, Rotterdamse centrum markt, Grotekerkplein, Beurs - World Trade Center, Stadswinkel Centrum Stadhuis, GRAND HOTEL CENTRAL, Q-Park Weena, Het Schieblock, The Manhattan Hotel, Nationale - Nederlanden, Rotterdam Centraal, Groot Handelsgebouw & Engels Grandcafé Restaurant Zalen, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Mauritsplaats, Pauluskerk, Van Urk - Piano's & Vleugels, Jan Segeren herenmode, De Karel Doorman, Queens of Rings, Bilderberg Parkhotel, Buro Rietveld / Dutch Style Company, Stiltecentrum

