

## "Artist's Biography on Film" (Amsterdam, 1.11.2004)

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[x-post H-Museum]

Artist's Biography on Film

Filmmuseum Amsterdam

1 November 2004

The international symposium The Artist's Biography on Film will discuss several aspects of the phenomenon of the so-called biopic. Films about the lives of real artists are always a combination of fact and fiction. To what extent can the life of an artist be dramatised without losing its historical foundation? During the symposium, the speakers will discuss the advantages as well as the difficulties and boundaries of the genre. What sources does one use when making a biopic: biographies, letters, fiction? What artists are regular protagonists? Are they always portrayed as the stereotype of the romantic, troubled artist? How much historical truth is needed to make a biopic convincing?

The speakers have different professional backgrounds; film, history, art history, media studies and film theory. This symposium should be of interest to a broad range of specialists working in many different disciplines.

### Programme

Monday 1 November 2004

10:15 Reception

10:45 Opening

Ivo Blom, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

11:00 Introductory lecture

Lives of the Artists on Screen

Sandra Kisters, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

11:45 Celluloid Hagiography: Reading the Cinematic Mobilizations of Rembrandt

Thomas Y. Levin, Princeton University / Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Basquiat on Scarlet Street: Notes on the Bad Reputation of the Modern Art World in American Films  
Ansje van Beusekom, Utrecht University

14:15 Imagining Vermeer: Fact and Fiction in Girl With A Pearl Earring  
Peter Webber, Film Director, London

15:00 Coffee/Tea

15:15 In Praise of the Biopic (with reference to Frida)  
Robert A. Rosenstone, California Institute of Technology

16:00 Discussion

16:30 Drinks at Vertigo

The symposium is supported by the Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), the Faculty of Arts of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and the Dutch Postgraduate School for Art History (OSK).

Organisation:

Sandra Kisters (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam), Ivo Blom (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam), Ruud Priem (Dutch Postgraduate School for Art History)

Applications:

Applications can be made here or by E-mail via <osk@let.uu.nl> or regular mail addressed to Secretariaat Onderzoekschool Kunstgeschiedenis, Kromme Nieuwegracht 29, 3512 HD Utrecht, mentioning Symposium Filmmuseum.

Costs:

Admission to the symposium costs Euro 10, payable at the entrance of the Parisienzaal.

Number of participants:

The number of participants is limited to 80. Applications will therefore be dealt with in chronological order based on postmark date. Confirmation will be sent to participants upon receipt of application.

Reference:

CONF: "Artist's Biography on Film" (Amsterdam, 1.11.2004). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 20, 2004 (accessed Dec 16, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/26731>>.