Opening up! Collection Centre Strategies (online, 28 May 21)

online, May 28, 2021

Sandra Kisters

Opening Up!
Collection Centre Strategies

Friday 28 May 2021
Online symposium, 15:00 - 18:00 hours / 3 - 6 p.m. CET

As a museum professional, how often have you invited a visitor into your museum's storage facility? Probably never. As a museum visitor, how often have you thought: 'I'd really like to see the works in storage? Undoubtedly very often. Museum storage facilities have traditionally been invisible and inaccessible to the public, usually housed in anonymous warehouses outside the city or in cellars beneath the museum's building. But there have been changes in recent years.

An iconic example is the new Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam, which will open in the autumn of 2021. This storage facility will be fully accessible to the public and occupies a prominent position, right next to the museum. The Netherlands is not alone in developing new ideas about preserving collections and opening them up to the public. The Foundation for the Conservation of Contemporary Art (SBMK) and Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen have organised the online event Opening Up! Collection Centre Strategies about interesting international developments in the field of museum storage.

An international panel of six speakers will share their experiences of combining collection care with public access within their storage facility. How did they conceive and design the building? To what extent is it publicly accessible? How do they guarantee the safety of the collections? And how do they approach their visitors? The symposium will conclude with a round-table discussion with all speakers. As a participant, you will be actively involved in the online event: there will be lots of time for questions and comments from the international audience. The event will have a strong visual component with videos of the buildings' architecture and internal layouts.

Participation
Participation in Opening up! Collection Center Strategies costs €25. You can register via the online form: https://www.sbmk.nl/en/activities/registration-opening-up
Students pay €12.50. When registering, also send a copy of your student card to aanmelden@sbmk.nl, otherwise the registration will not apply. The symposium is free for a number of museum employees who pay an annual contribution to the SBMK.

program

2.45 - 3.00 p.m. / 14:45 - 15:00 virtual walk-in

3.00 - 3.10 p.m. / 15:00 - 15:10 welcome by moderators
Paulien 't Hoen, Coordinator SBMK and Sandra Kisters, Head of Collections and Research, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

3.10 - 3.30 p.m. / 15:10 - 15:30 'Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen: a new typology in reconsidering art and conservation?'
Sjarel Ex, Director, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen - Depot, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

3.30 - 3.35 p.m. / 15:30 - 15:35 questions

3.35 - 3.55 p.m. / 15:35 - 15:55 'Clarifying Collections - an Approach in 7 Acts'
Joachim Huber, Consultant, Prevart GmbH, Konzepte für die Kulturgütererhaltung (Concepts for the Preservation of Cultural Assets), Winterthur, Switzerland

3.55 - 4.00 p.m. / 15:55 - 16:00 questions

4.00 - 4.20 p.m. / 16:00 - 16:20 'Designing a new paradigm for access to the nation's attic'
Tim Reeve, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer, Victoria and Albert Museum, Londen, United Kingdom

4.20 - 4.25 p.m. / 16:20 - 16:25 questions

4.25 - 4.45 p.m. / 16:25 - 16:45 break

4.45 - 5.05 p.m. / 16:45 - 17:05 'The Swiss National Museum's Collections Centre Our approach to collections care and public access'
Markus Leuthard, Head of the Collections Centre, Swiss National Museum, Affoltern am Albis, Switzerland

5.05 - 5.10 p.m. / 17:05 - 17:10 questions

5.10 - 5.30 p.m. / 17:10 - 17:30 'Shimmering Shelves and Tiffany Lighting: Glamming-up Luce Visible Storage'
Jane Dini, Senior Curator of American Art, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA

5.35 - 6.15 p.m. / 17:35 - 18:15 round table with speakers
and Isabel Friedli, curator at Schaulager, Basel, Switzerland

6.15 p.m. / 18:15 closing

Download the full programme (pdf): https://www.sbmk.nl/source/documents/programma_OpeningUp.pdf

Reference:
CONF: Opening up! Collection Centre Strategies (online, 28 May 21). In: ArtHist.net, May 14, 2021 (accessed Nov 25, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/34092>.