

Dutch-German Culture Dialogues: Hetty Berg & Sasha Waltz

During the Dutch-German Culture Dialogues we will be bringing Dutch and German artists and *cultuurmakers* together to talk about their work, inspiration, and the cultural landscape in both countries. Which themes occupy the cultural sides of the Netherlands and Germany? Where can they learn from the other? The first edition on April 25 (5 pm) in SPUI25 (Amsterdam) will consist of a dialogue with Hetty Berg, director of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, and Sasha Waltz, choreographer and founder of the international dance company 'Sasha Waltz & Guests'. Moderation: Hanco Jürgens (DIA).

Who inspires you? And who would you like to have a dialogue with? This is what we asked Dutch museum director Hetty Berg. She answered promptly: a conversation with German choreographer Sasha Waltz, that would be amazing. Both were enrolled in the same dance school in Amsterdam, without having knowledge of the enrollment of the other, and both are currently working in Berlin. And there are more parallels, which we will be finding out during this dialogue.

Moreover, we will be talking about the cultural scene in Berlin and wonder: in what state is the cultural climate in the Netherlands and Germany, and what about the appreciation of culture and how it is embedded in society? We will be asking our speakers about their *muses*, the current state of the cultural exchange between the Netherlands and Germany, the interface between dance and museums, and we will take a look at the future of cultural relations.

About the speakers

Hetty Berg has been director of the Jewish Museum Berlin since April 2020. Before that, she worked in various positions at the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam for over 30 years. In 1989 she started there as a curator – in the course of her career at the museum, the cultural historian curated more than 30 temporary exhibitions and was responsible for the conception and realization of five permanent exhibitions. In 2002 she became museum manager and chief curator of the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam, which was expanded in 2012 to include the Jewish Cultural Quarter. The Dutch director is a member of various academic advisory boards and committees. Her work and research focus on museum studies, Jewish cultural history, and Jewish people in the Netherlands.

Sasha Waltz is a choreographer, dancer, and director. She studied dance and choreography in Amsterdam and New York. Together with Jochen Sandig she founded the company Sasha Waltz & Guests in 1993. She is co-founder of the *Sophiensæle* (1996) and the *Radialsystem* (2006) in Berlin. From 2000-2004 she was a member of the board of directors of the *Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz*. For the 2019/20 season, Sasha Waltz took on the artistic direction of the *Staatsballett Berlin* together with Johannes Öhman. In her current choreographic work, Waltz focuses on the condensation of collaborative processes, such as the synchronous development of choreography and music (e.g. *Kreatur*, 2017). In 2021, Sasha Waltz was appointed *Commandeur de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Ministry of Culture.

Hanco Jürgens (moderator) is a researcher at *Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam* (DIA). He studied history in Utrecht and Mainz, taught at Radboud University Nijmegen and is now a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam. Jürgens focuses on the modern history of Germany from a European perspective. In

2014 he published the book *'Na de val. Nederland na 1989'*, and in 2017, together with Ton Nijhuis, he published the collection *'De vleugels van de adelaar. Duitse kwesties in Europees perspectief'*. Jürgens is a regular guest on radio and television to interpret and comment on German political and cultural-social issues.

You can register via the [SPUI25 website](#).

This meeting is in collaboration with Genootschap Nederland-Duitsland.