

Biographies Chairs, Keynote speakers and workshop leaders

In order of appearance

Hedy d'Ancona

Hedy d'Ancona, was as minister of Welfare, Health and Culture (1989-1994). She has been actively involved in building for the health care sector for over 25 years. Besides this she was, amongst others, member of The European Parliament, member of the Dutch senate and lecturer at the University of Amsterdam.

Erik Scherder

Prof. dr. Erik Scherder is professor in Clinical Neuropsychology at the VU University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and is head of the department of Clinical Neuropsychology at the same university. In addition, he is professor in Human Movement Sciences at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. His group develops two lines of research: 1) the relationship between enriched environment among which physical activity and music, and cognition, mood, and sleep-wake rhythm in children with autism and older persons with neurodegenerative diseases; and 2) the influence of neurodegenerative diseases on pain experience.

Dominique Verté

Dominique Verté (PhD in gerontology), is Professor at the Department of Adult Educational Sciences at the VUB (Free University of Brussels, Belgium). He is the founding Director of the Belgian Ageing Studies and supervises several PhD students in the field of social gerontology. His research interests have focused on political, social and cultural participation in old age, community development and volunteering, problems of social exclusion, and issues relating to vulnerability and elder abuse.

Anna Goulding

Anna Goulding is a Research Associate at the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies at Newcastle University and has developed a range of projects exploring the impact of art gallery educational programmes upon participants in terms of shifts in knowledge and understanding and social relationships, including *Contemporary visual art and identity construction - wellbeing amongst older people* and *Dementia and Imagination: Connecting communities and developing well-being through socially engaged visual arts practice*. With a background in teaching and gallery education, she is keen that research has a practical application and feeds into contemporary gallery education practice, providing meaningful experiences for participants. Currently she is investigating *The role of creative interventions in fostering connectivity and resilience in older people*, which aims to critically reflect on a range of approaches to developing resilience including community-led design, visual arts interventions, mapping, gardening and theatre.

Machgiel Bakker

Machgiel Bakker has finished a study in clinical psychology at the University of Amsterdam but never worked in the field, until very recently. He worked in various capacities in the Dutch music industry as well as a decade for the Dutch National Institute of Sound & Images ('Beeld

en Geluid'). Last year August he changed to the practice of music therapist and has since then initiated various activities to help improve the quality of people with dementia.

Rudi Westendorp

Rudi Westendorp studied and obtained his doctorate at the University of Leiden, and became an internist at the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC). Since 2008 he is founder and director of Leyden Academy on Vitality and Ageing. This knowledge centre provides education, conducts research and pursues innovations in the field of human ageing and vitality to advance the quality of life of older people. Since early 2012 he is also director of the VITALITY! Programme of Medical Delta, a consortium of top universities in the west of the Netherlands. They combine their strengths and knowledge with companies and government, and aim to develop and implement new medication, technologies and effective treatments for tomorrow's health issues.

Peggy Ollislaegers

Peggy Ollislaegers has built up a broad experience both as a creator and as a dramaturge in dance, theatre and music productions. Until 2007 she was artistic leader of her own company Ollislaegers & Co, creating multidisciplinary productions, performed in the main theatres in the Netherlands. Formally trained at the Tilburg Academy of Dance she is known for her ability to connect disciplines, and her articulate knowledge of dance and movement, both from the choreographer, performer and audience point of view. Since 2010 she is the director of the festival Nederlandse Dansdagen.

Iris Hendriks

Iris Hendriks obtained her Master in Law degree at the Radboud University in Nijmegen in 2013. Since 2014 she works as a junior researcher at the VU University Medical Centre in the department of Psychiatry, more specifically in the research programme Care and support in dementia. This programme aims to promote need based, person centred care and support for people with dementia and their informal carers. Iris is involved in several research programs, including the project Unforgettable, which evaluates the implementation of guided tours for people with dementia and their carers in 12 Dutch museums.

Stefanie Metsemakers

Stefanie Metsemakers is coordinator of the Onvergetelijk (Unforgettable) program at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven. This program consists of interactive tours and workshops in the museums for people with Alzheimer's disease (and other dementias) and their caregivers. Stefanie was introduced to a similar program during her internship at the education department at MoMA, New York. She conducted this internship as part of her study Bachelor in Fine Arts and Education. Stefanie is also trained as an art historian at the University of Amsterdam. During this study, she gained working experience at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice and closer to home, at De Appel Amsterdam. In her master year she was commissioned by the Stedelijk, to do a literature study on the healing effects of art.

Dominique Willaert

Dominique Willaert is the artistic director of the community arts center Victoria Deluxe at the

city of Ghent, Flanders. The past couple of years Victoria Deluxe made several theatre productions, documentaries, exhibitions. All projects developed bottom-up with groups at the bottom-end of our society (prisoners, political refugees, elderly people).

Alice Thwaite

Alice has been a pioneer in the field of creative ageing in the UK, since developing Equal Arts as an organization that specialises in work with older people in the early 1990s. She is passionate about supporting older people to have opportunities to access the arts.

In 2010 Alice was awarded a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship which enabled her to visit the Bealtaine Festival in Ireland and travel extensively in the USA looking at examples of best practice. In 2011 she was asked to play a coordinating role for the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust's collaboration with The Baring Foundation. She is keen to share good practice and has spoken at Tate Modern, worked with the Royal Academy, presented at MoMa. She is also a Dignity Champion.

Hanne Deneire

Hanne Deneire studied composition, bass clarinet and piano at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp, Flanders. At the Guildhall School of Drama and Music in London she specialised in composition and community art. She developed her own music method (ManiMelo) for teaching music from a very young age and available for every child with every possibility, which she now teaches at her own House of Music. Hanne was project leader of *The voice of our Memory*, a collaboration between House of Music, Expertise Center Dementia Flanders and Choir & Voice.

Piet Vanhecke

After teaching for some years, Piet Van Hecke (master Arts sciences, University of Ghent) started working as a guide and workshop organizer at the Middelheimmuseum and the M HKA (Museum of Contemporary Art) in Antwerp, Flanders. He also writes about contemporary art. In 2013 he coordinated the project *Meet Me @ M HKA*, the first visitors program in Belgium for people in an early stage of dementia and their caretakers. He is currently working as a mediator at the M HKA.

Chris Rogier

Chris Rogier studied social nursery and obtained a master degree in the medical-social sciences and hospital policy. He is director of the housing and care centre for the elderly De Hazelaar at Kontich, Flanders.

Rik Debonne

Rik Debonne studied piano and music theory didactics at the conservatory of Ghent (Hogeschool Gent, Flanders). He was teacher for several years at academies for part-time arts education, followed advanced training courses and is guest lecturer at the conservatory. Rik built up a large expertise as vocal coach and accompanist to singers at lots of schools, theatres, renowned cultural institutions, professional and amateur arts companies, community arts projects.

Gregory Caers

Gregory Caers is a Flemish actor and director, known for several roles in series at national television. In 1997 he graduated from the drama department at the Highschool of Ghent. He worked for several theatre companies and together with a co-actor and choreographer, he founded the international theatre-company "Nevski Prospekt". In 2011 he directed Honderd ("Hundred"), a performance made by 100 people above 60 years old, including his own parents, at Ternat, Flanders.

Bie Hinnekint

Bie Hinnekint (1963, master Social Work, Ghent University) is currently working as staff-member for the Department Elderly Care at the Public Centre for Social Welfare at the city of Ghent. Her expertise lies in co-creating projects and (art) manifestations concerning the concept of ageing in the field of elderly care, active ageing, and intergenerational solidarity aimed to mobilise strength and competences of elderly people in the local community, creating intergenerational neighbourhoods.

Rudy Blauwbloeme

Rudy Blauwbloeme studied social work and is active in the elderly sector since 1998. Currently he is the general manager of FEDOS vzw. Being a trained artist Rudy organizes lots of artistic workshops for the elderly. As an interpreter in Flemish sign language he also presides a theatre company that brings musicals for deaf and hearing people.

Bob Collins

Bob Collins was Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland between August 2005 and January 2012. He is a former Director-General of RTÉ, the Irish national broadcasting organisation, in which capacity he initiated significant organisational change. He played a key role in developing RTÉ's approach to the Arts, including the place of the performing groups within the organisation and the introduction of a new music and arts radio service, Lyric FM. He has a keen interest in the arts.

Bob Collins is Chair of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. He has served as a member of the Boards of the National Concert Hall, the National Library of Ireland and of the Ulster Orchestra Society. He was also a member of Comhairle Theilifís na Gaeilge.

Jan Jaap Knol

Jan Jaap Knol directs the Netherlands Fund for Cultural Participation. As its name implies, the Fund promotes participation in culture, especially by encouraging people to engage in the arts and culture themselves. Good quality cultural education in primary schools is a high priority for the Fund. Other subsidy schemes of the Fund include talent development for youngsters, cultural programs for elderly people and cooperation between professionals and amateurs, including forms of participatory arts. The Fund is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and based in Utrecht.

Jayne Howard

Jayne has been Director of Arts for Health Cornwall, an award-winning charity which seeks to improve health and wellbeing through creativity, since 2004, during which time it has expanded rapidly in the range of services and support it offers. The early part of her career

was spent in the Midlands in the public sector, initially in secondary education as a teacher of English and Head of Drama. She then spent 18 years in the NHS in a variety of senior management and leadership roles, including Director of Public Health and Lead Director for children's services. Whilst in the NHS she led Cornwall's Health Action Zone programme, which supported the establishment of Arts for Health Cornwall as an independent organisation harnessing the creative talents within the county to help address health inequalities. She is also a Board Director of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society and has just taken up a role as Chair of Healthwatch Cornwall.

Helen Featherstone

Helen Featherstone has worked in the arts sector for over 15 years in numerous arts development and project manager roles, including Senior Arts Development Officer at Kirklees Council. She has a strong background in engaging people, from a wide variety of communities, in the arts and she is very passionate about this area of work. She has worked at Arts Council England for over 5 years, and is also the Chair of Ignite imaginations, a Sheffield based participatory arts organisation.

David Cutler

David Cutler has been the Director of the Baring Foundation since 2003, one of the UK's best known independent funders. The Foundation seeks to overcome discrimination and disadvantage through strengthening civil society. Since 2010 its arts programme has focused on older people and currently has a unique set of strategic partnerships with all four of the UK's arts Councils. Educated at Oxford and the LSE, David has occupied a number of roles relating to social justice in the voluntary and public sectors. He is a member of the BBC's Charity Appeals Committee and is chairing the Arts group for the Prime Minister's Dementia Friendly Challenge.

Els Messelis

Els Messelis (1965, master Social Gerontology, Free University of Brussels) is currently working as coordinator of the training for senior consultants and lector Gerontology at HUB, Brussels. She is director of LACHESIS, Office of Expertise on Ageing and Gender, and member of the Belgian Society for Gerontology and Geriatrics, of the Commission for social participation of the elderly (Flemish Council for Older People) i.a. She is author of different books and articles on ageing.

Wies Rosenboom

Wies Rosenboom studied Social Science/ Pedagogical Science at Radboud University Nijmegen, and modern dance and dance teaching at the Amsterdam School of the Arts / HKA, faculty Dance. Since 2013 she is head of the department amateur arts/participation in cultural activities of LKCA, National Centre of Expertise for Cultural Education and Amateur Arts.