

Press Release

## 2012 Paper Biennial Rijswijk in Rijswijk & The Hague – the Netherlands

**Museum Rijswijk** 4 September – 25 November 2012

**Museum Meermanno The Hague** 1 September – 25 November 2012

The start of the 2012 Paper Biennial on 4 September coincides with the opening of Museum Rijswijk's new extension. This exhibition of international paper artists will run till

25 November and opens at the partner museum Meermanno in The Hague on 1 September. During the 2012 Paper Biennial, Museum Meermanno will focus on artists who work with books and type to create their spectacular installations, films and artworks.

### **Museum Rijswijk**

Constructing, folding, cutting and sculpting paper and cardboard, it can all be seen at the 2012 Paper Biennial. The first exhibition in Museum Rijswijk's new extension will show just how much the amazing versatility of paper and cardboard can inspire artists!

Pillars of card, so elaborate you won't believe your eyes. Hundreds of layered, one-millimetre-thick cardboard sheets designed and generated on the computer. The digital architecture of **Michael Hansmeyer** takes him to the limits of both art and science.

A metropolis floating in space like a Fata Morgana; geometrical and resembling a computer circuit board. Dehumanised. The architectonic sculptures of thin card by **Katsumi Hayakawa** symbolise the isolation of human beings in the modern city.

Origami works with sculptural eloquence in two individual styles. A background in technology and a passion for paper are united in the geometrically folded creations of

**Eric Gjerde**. In his most recent work he experiments with paper produced by bacteria. In contrast the more organic objects folded by **Georgia Gremouti**, seem to grow like crystal formations.

A sense of the blues portrayed in paper and card. **Peter Bes** constructs life-size figures: groups of blues and soul singers, and of immigrants and migrant workers. Melancholy and imposing, they stand immortalised as if in a frozen frame of film.

**Frits Achten** spends years adding to his sculptures of papier mâché. They grow gradually like the nest of paper wasps or the outer skeleton of coral polyps, taking on organic shapes with sensual curves and hollows.

Papier mâché sculptures depicting hugely magnified parts of pistols and machine-guns made from newsprint – the bearer of bad news. **Jacqueline Overberg** uses this visual form of cultural critique to demonstrate the close relationship between beauty and violence.

From a distance the arresting works by **Johnny Beerens** look like realistic paintings of a magnified detail in the landscape. But at close range they become three-dimensional topographies, low reliefs in paper, created by pouring wet paper pulp over natural materials like boulders, branches or fence posts, which are then painted.

### **Museum Meermanno**

The installation by **Alicia Martin** looks like a torrent of hundreds of books frozen in mid-flow. Outside, exposed to wind and weather, where books are normally not seen. 'Sculptures of letters', 'typographical mobiles' or 'visual poems' are how the installations by **Ebon Heath** are described. He removes type from its two-dimensional context and suspends it in swirling structures in space.

**Jérôme Corgier** and his associates at **Atelier Pariri** also make sculptures using letters.

They experiment to see to what extent letters can exist as autonomous symbols.

**Ros Rixon** works like a true book surgeon. With a scalpel, she literally and metaphorically cuts the sentences from their binding and forms them into objects in which the still legible sentences take on a new meaning. **Peter Collingridge** and his studio created a humorous animated film, in which the hundreds of books used to make it, play the leading role.

Both museums will be presenting work from the **Combat Paper Project**, a series of workshops to assist American war veterans in reconciling their experiences of war. The paper on which their work is printed is made from their old combat uniforms.

### **List of all participating artists:**

**Museum Rijswijk:** Frits Achten (the Netherlands), Marlies Adriaanse (the Netherlands), Sophie Arup (United Kingdom), Johnny Beerens (the Netherlands), Peter Bes (the Netherlands), Eric Gjerde (France), Georgia Gremouti (Greece), Michael Hansmeyer (Switzerland), Katsumi Hayakawa (Japan), Jacqueline Overberg (the Netherlands), Anne van de Pals (the Netherlands), Katrien Vogel (the Netherlands), Debra Weisberg (United States), Marleen van Wijngaarden (the Netherlands)

**Museum Meermanno:** Laura Behar (Israel), Peter Collingridge|Apt Studio (United Kingdom), Jérôme Corgier|Atelier Pariri (France), Ebon Heath (United States), Alicia Martin (Spain), Ros Rixon (United Kingdom).

**Both museums:** Combat Paper Project (United States).

### **Activities:**

**The Hague Museum Night** in **Museum Meermanno** on 1 September with performances and workshops starting at 20.00.

Traditional **Rijswijk Paper Fair** in the front courtyard of Museum Rijswijk and in the Oude Kerk (Old Church) opposite the museum on 9 September from 13.00 till 17.00.

**Catalogue:**

A catalogue (Dutch/English) will accompany the 2012 Paper Biennial Rijswijk.  
Author: Frank van der Ploeg.

**Opening times both museums: Tuesday – Sunday 12.00 – 17.00**

Museum Rijswijk  
Herenstraat 67  
NL-2282 BR Rijswijk  
[www.museumrijswijk.nl](http://www.museumrijswijk.nl)

Museum Meermanno | Huis van het Boek  
Prinsessegracht 30  
NL-2514 AP The Hague  
[www.meermann.nl](http://www.meermann.nl)

**More information and/or press photos:**

Museum Rijswijk            +31(0)70 3903617 or [a.kloosterboer@museumrijswijk.nl](mailto:a.kloosterboer@museumrijswijk.nl)  
Museum Meermanno        +31(0)6 23637101 or  
[boerma@meermann.nl](mailto:boerma@meermann.nl)