Q&A Rijksakademie 2013

What is the situation now after the merger break-up with the Ateliers?
At the request of the Ministry of Education, the Rijksakademie has submitted a policy program (on October 31). We are now awaiting the advice of the Council for Culture, which is expected in early December. We expect a positive advice.

What are the main points of the submitted policy program?
The development of talent in the visual arts remains the Rijksakademie’s primary focus. Our target group is artists who, after their studies and a few years’ working experience, aim to further develop their work and their artistic practice. The Rijksakademie offers facilities on a technical, artistic and theoretical level.

The policy program further emphasises:
- Our aim to give the public a more clear idea of the activities of artists. This is done through a variety of initiatives, such as, for example, RijksakademieOPEN, but we are developing ideas to see how we can extend these throughout the year. In view of this aim, it is particularly unfortunate that the collaboration with De Ateliers has been cancelled. Being able to dispose of two buildings would have given us the opportunity to develop public programs in one of them. Now we will have to realise this in collaboration with other partners.

It is, however, not only the ‘outside world’ that takes an interest in the Rijksakademie and the thinking and creative processes that occur within its walls. Artists as well, are actively interested in the world around them and actively relate to the public. This forms the basis for the development of programs at the Rijksakademie that create a bridge between the interested public and the international community of artists at the Rijksakademie.
- In the frame of this approach, talks have been initiated for the establishment of collaboration projects with presentation institutions such as the SMBA, Trouw Amsterdam and de Appel arts centre.
- A new circle of friends will be launched during RijksakademieOPEN: the Rijksakademie Pioneers. This is a group of young, ambitious and inquisitive people who seek an active involvement in the developments and innovations in the arts and who are committed to creating an actual linkage between their personal domain and the international network of artists of the Rijksakademie.
- During RijksakademieOPEN, a pilot project centring on art mediation will be set up. Art mediation specifically concerns mediation that occurs between art and audience through dialogue and interaction. The pilot project consists of a group of people with an interest in art and culture who, after having deepened their understanding of art mediation in a masterclass, put their skills and knowledge at the service of the RijksakademieOPEN public during the weekend.

Another point of attention in the policy program is art, science and technology:
There are several artists whose work touches on other disciplines such as science and technology. We want to facilitate and more actively stimulate this in the future.
- Increasingly, collaborations with sponsoring companies become true partnerships, in which the exchange of knowledge, expertise and the out-of-the-box thinking of artists are key elements.
This type of cooperation transcends the traditional sponsor relationship; added value is created for both parties.

**What happens with the artists who have been admitted for next year?**
The idea is that all artists will be given places according to their preference. They may indicate what that is until 1 December. Anyone who wishes to attend the Rijksakademie is welcome from January onwards.

**What will happen to funding after the merger break-up with De Ateliers?**
We do not know. We expect to receive the part we’ve reckoned with. And we’ve taken this into account in the budget for next year.

**Will there be enough money in the case where many artists choose the Rijksakademie?**
We will in any case make sure that all the selected artists have a place here if that is their preference.

**Where does the money come from?**
- The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences, basic infrastructure
- Mondriaan Fund: In 2013-2014, part of the budget of the Mondriaan Fund for the deepening of artists’ practices is reserved for artists who do a residency at the Rijksakademie or De Ateliers. This budget represents a substantial financial contribution. An evaluation is planned to examine whether this support will be continued in 2015-2016.
- City of Amsterdam: Kunstenplan and involvement in the acquisition of the building.
- Rijksakademie Trust Fund from fundraising and sponsorships: For a number of years, the Trust Fund has been able to link an increasing number of companies, foundations and individuals from home and abroad to the Rijksakademie. Together with the successful Fellowships, the support for artists in the residency program, they contribute to the broadening of the range of residencies. Examples are the Ammodo guest-advisors circle and the project budgets for artists by the Stichting Ritsema van Eck Fonds and the Pauwhoffonds. The Rijksakademie also has an active circle of friends; during RijksakademieOPEN they are joined by the Rijksakademie Pioneers: a circle of, and for, young professionals.
Working budgets for artists are provided by the Artists Endowment Fund, the fund that was established in 2010 through the successful auctioning of works by alumni and advisors. RijksakademieOPEN would not be possible without the support of our main sponsor Rabobank, SNS Reaal Fonds, VSBfonds, Stichting ‘De Gijselaar-Hintzenfonds’ and Stichting Kees Verwey.

**What is the status of the building?**
At this time, the final documents are being developed and as of January 1, the Rijksakademie will acquire full ownership of the Kavallerie-Kazerne (cavalry barracks).

**How will the building be acquired?**
The building was a government building; so different ministries are involved in and assisting with the acquisition. That is not to say that all financial aspects have been resolved. The Trust Fund is working on an endowment and will actively involve friends and partners in the acquisition of the building. The City of Amsterdam will acquire the land which it will, in turn, lease back to the Rijksakademie.