

PRESS RELEASE



Frans Hals, *The Fisher Boy*, 1632/33
© KMSKA – Lukas-Art in Flanders vzw.
Photo: Hugo Maertens



Michaël Borremans, *Fire from the Sun*, 2017,
Courtesy Zeno X Gallery. Photo: Peter Cox.

REVAMPED FRANS HALS MUSEUM OPENS WITH A RENDEZVOUS WITH FRANS HALS

Haarlem, 9 march 2018 - The Frans Hals Museum and De Hallen Haarlem are getting married on 29 March 2018. The revamped museum at two locations opens with the experimental collection exhibition *Rendezvous with Frans Hals*, featuring contemporary artists' and art experts' personal interpretations of original and imaginary paintings by the master. The exhibition runs from 30 March to 16 September in the Hal (Grote Markt) and until 30 September in the Hof (Groot Heiligland).

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS INTERPRET HALS

The exhibition is part of a flirtatious meeting – a rendezvous – between Frans Hals and twenty-first-century artists and art historians, all of them admirers of the great master. For this exhibition they will reinterpret Hals's work in highly individual ways.

FRANS HALS MUSEUM HOF

MEET AT
**FRANS HALS
MUSEUM**
HAARLEM

Hals remains a great influence on many artists long after his own time. Jan Andriessse looks at Hals as an abstract painter with more than twenty-seven shades of black. Shezad Dawood sees references to work by the Cubists Picasso and Braque and Pop artist Martial Raysse in the portrait of a simple innkeeper's wife. Anton Henning & Jasper Hagenaar use paintings by Hals as starting points for new work and show how well Frans Hals's civic guard works and portraits can be translated into the present. They also involve Verspronck, his contemporary Heda and Kees Verwey – like Hals, born in Haarlem. Hans Aarsman and Roy Villevoeye with twenty medical students and doctors trained by Radboud University Medical Centre together take a look at Hals through a medical lens. Nedko Solakov makes fun of Hals's uncompromising *Zaffius* and for years Laurence Aëgerter has been fascinated by the wedding portraits of Stephanus Geeraerds and Isabella Coymans. Inspired by these portraits, Aëgerter presents stories of men whom circumstances have separated from their loved ones for a long time.

FRANS HALS MUSEUM HAL

Hals's imaginary oeuvre is the backbone of the exhibition in the Hal. In the book he wrote a hundred years after Hals's death, John Berger described a 'nude' that the artist had never painted and in so doing extended his oeuvre. Twenty imaginary Halses will be shown in *Rendezvous with Frans Hals* alongside the existing masterpieces. Depending on which expert you believe, there are anywhere from 145 to more than 220 surviving works by the Haarlem master worldwide. There are also countless works that have disappeared, been destroyed or only exist in novels or in the imagination of art biographers. To provide a broader context, these interpretations of Hals are combined with contemporary films and installations examining the notion of the fictional artwork, 'the artwork that exists purely in the imagination', with contributions from Mieke Bal, Pierre Bismuth, Koos Breukel, Pavèl van Houten, Melvin Moti, Cédric Noël, Saskia Noor van Imhoff, Batia Suter, Pieter Vermeersch, Riet Wijnen and others.

Koos Breukel, for example, takes the alleged meeting between Hals and Anthony van Dyck as the starting point for his work. Batia Suter reworks a supposed Hals from her grandparents' living room. Pieter Vermeersch is making a new wall painting based on his youthful love of Hals. Oscar Winner Pierre Bismuth shows us eleven trailers of his rarely shown film *Where is Rocky II*, which revolves around a mythical and invisible artwork.

Rendezvous with Frans Hals is made possible by the support of the Van Toorn Scholten Foundation.

MORE INFORMATION:

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**FRANS HALS
MUSEUM**



www.franshalsmuseum.nl

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