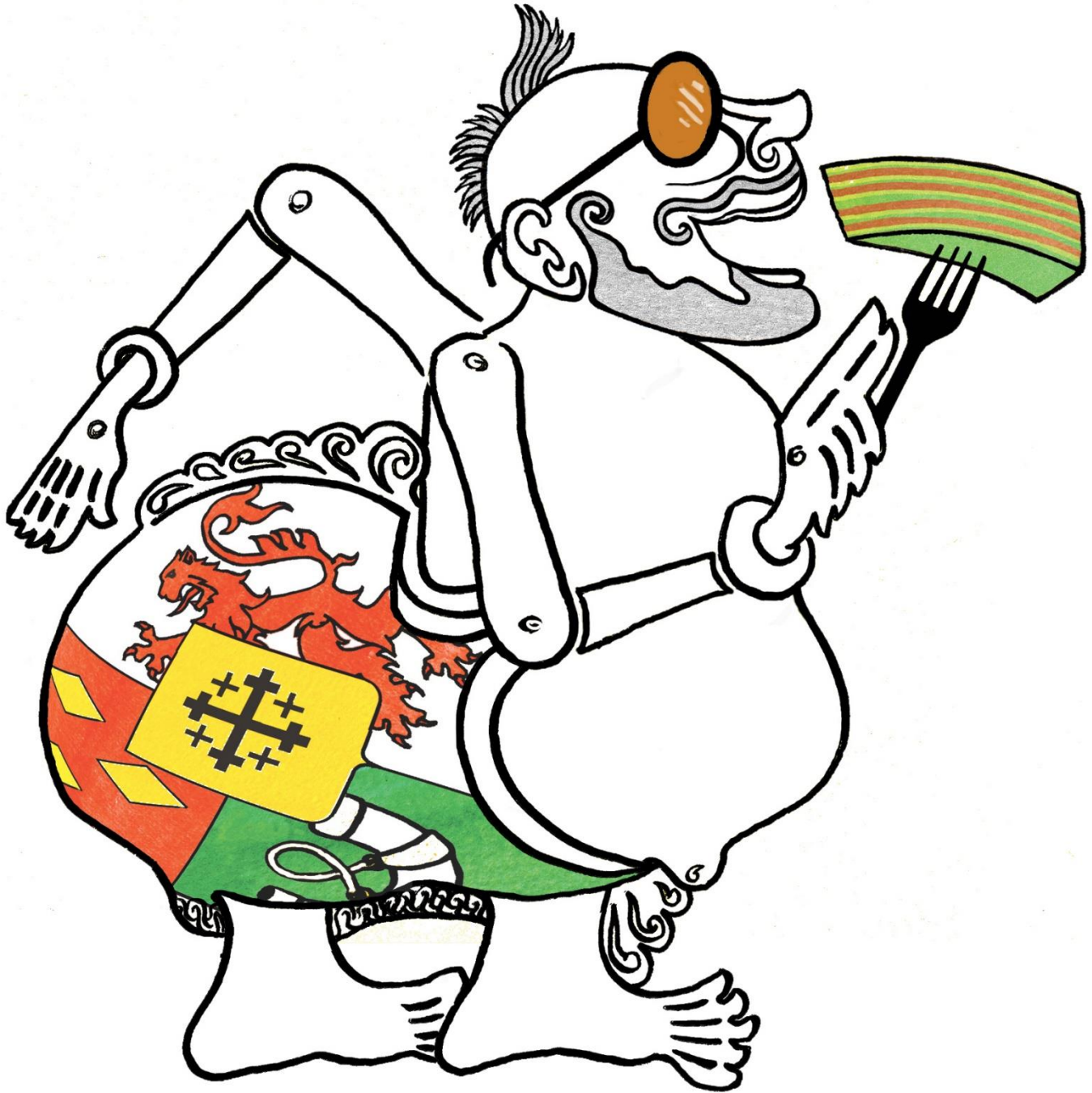


Amazing contrasts in a museum setting

Noteworthy puppetry-related museum activities for blind, partially sighted, and sighted people in 2021-2023

Exhibitions and projects in the Dutch Puppetry Museum



Picture: Semar - Javanese clown (wayang kulit) - while munching away on kwee lapis (a Dutch-Indonesian layered cake), with Otto van der Mieden's (Puppetry Museum director and curator) face. Semar wears a batik sarong (wraparound skirt) depicting the coat of arms of the Van der Mieden family. Semar is also wearing dark glasses because he is visually impaired. Illustration: Elsje Zwart.

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Exhibitions in the Dutch Puppetry Museum

The intimate setting of the Dutch Puppetry Museum's exhibition rooms combines a homely atmosphere with global puppet theatre themes. Various educational exhibitions, which include multimedia and presentations, will be available until the end of 2023: European characters from folk puppet theatre, and gamelan with wayang from Indonesia.

Wayang project: 'Je lah je kripoet'

The 'Je lah je kripoet*'. Buffoon, Petruk, and Semar the clown' wayang project is a tangible, musical 'viewing experience'. The exhibition with wayang figures and a gamelan from Indonesia is an activity for both our visually impaired - blind and partially sighted - and sighted museum visitors. The artefacts on display include several flat wayang kulit - shadow - figures, three-dimensional wayang golek puppets, and wayang topeng masks, as well as theatre and other props, curious objects, and tactile - tangible - pictures.



* The expression 'Je lah je kripoet' - laughing so much that you end up with laugh lines - is Indo-Malayan/Indo-Dutch slang (street talk).



Kjai Paridjata: Lord Tree of Life

The over two-hundred-year-old Javanese double gamelan orchestra 'Kjai Paridjata' is a key feature of the exhibition 'Je lah je kripoet'. We acquired this gamelan through the Dutch Municipality of Delft. Around 1800, the gamelan was commissioned by Sultan Pangeran Mangkubumi for his *kraton* (a Javanese palace) in Surakarta (also known as Solo).

Pictures: the Dutch Jan Klaassen figure and the Javanese wayang kulit figure Petruk. Puppets made by: Ledjar Subroto, Yogyakarta (1938-2017); 'Kjai Paridjata' gamelan.

De cium van Katrijn: a wonderful Dutch-Indonesian puppet theatre presentation

'De cium van Katrijn'/'Katrijn's kiss', a colourful, loose-leaf, look-smell-feel-read-listen-and-play puppet theatre book, is suitable for people of all ages. A Dutch-Indonesian tactile audio book: a meeting between two old-Dutch puppetry characters and four Javanese *punakawan* (wayang kulit clowns).

Tableau de la troupe: tactile puppetry figures

In a series of puppetry scenes, Katrijn (the Dutch Judy) first proposes to Jan Klaassen (the Dutch Mr Punch). Next she asks Semar, Nala Gareng, Bagong, and Petruk to marry her, but they all say 'no'. Petruk advises her to marry Jan Klaassen. Jan finally gives in and agrees to marry Katrijn, who then kisses him (*cium*).

The loose-leaf pages of the audio book, which are made of felt fabric, depict ten puppet theatre scenes. The scenes have been created with different, highly tactile fabric textures and materials, to which authentic fragrances from the oriental kitchen were added. Essential elements include music to be listened to, recorded text, and an applause button. The short rhymes have also been put in the speech bubbles: written in braille in combination with synchronously running plain text (printed letter). And, as a bonus: a 'talking pen' with music, sounds, Dutch texts and an explanation of some typically Dutch-Indonesian words and expressions.



Musical compositions: gamelan with a barrel organ

A unique feature of 'De cium van Katrijn' is the musical accompaniment by a street barrel organ and original gamelan sounds. The Puppetry Museum commissioned Sinta Wullur, an Indonesian-Dutch gamelan musician, pianist, singer, and classical composer, to produce a musical composition, which was inspired by the Dutch tearjerker 'De Zuiderzeeballade' with music by Joop de Leur (1959).

See: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/ciumvideo.html>.



Renadi Santoso, a musician and composer specialised in Indonesian music, was the second person we commissioned to produce a musical composition. His composition is based on western and eastern intonations and musical motifs. Sources of inspiration include: the clownesque atmosphere of a traditional European street puppet theatre, a wayang kulit and gamelan performance on Java, and the sounds of a typically Dutch barrel organ. See: http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/ciumvideo_2.html.

For more information, please refer to: <http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/ciumenglish.pdf>.

Pictures: 'De cium van Katrijn'/'Katrijn's kiss', colourful, tangible puppet theatre audio book, and tactile page with Petruk, wayang kulit figure.



Exhibition: A look behind the scenes of puppet theatre

'A look behind the scenes of puppet theatre. Hear, feel, smell, explore, and discover.' is a mini pop-up exhibition suitable for people of all ages. It is an educational heritage project for both visually impaired and sighted people. A bilingual (Dutch and English) tangible meeting with characteristic international puppet theatre figures, with multi-media available both inside and outside the Dutch Puppetry Museum.

Tactile audio books

By means of a bonus: 'De kus van Katrijn', 'De tút fan Katryntsje', 'Katrijn's kiss' and 'Der Schmatz von Gretl': four colourful, tangible look-smell-feel-read-listen-and-play puppet theatre books, which are made of felt fabric. Their loose-leaf pages were created from various fabric textures and materials, to which distinctive scents have been added.



The Dutch, Frisian, English, and German texts in the smoothly framed speech bubbles are written in combined script/double print: braille with synchronously running block capitals. The recorded rhyming texts are accompanied by music clips from 'La musica notturna delle strade di Madrid' - Night Music of the Streets of Madrid ('Minuetto dei Ciechi' - The Minuet of the Blind Beggars) by the Italian composer Luigi Boccherini.

Ten European puppet theatre scenes

In a series of ten puppetry scenes, the traditional Dutch Katrijn character proposes to five European puppetry characters. First she asks Jan Klaassen (the Dutch Mr Punch), next she also asks the French Guignol and his friend Gnafron, the cobbler from Lyon, and then Vitéz László from Hungary to marry her. They all say 'no', but the Neapolitan Pulcinella – the last person she asks - strongly advises her to marry Jan Klaassen. Jan eventually gives in and agrees to marry Katrijn, who plants a big kiss - *kus*, *tút*, *Schmatz* - on his lips. Applause!

Education: publications with tactile figures

Educational puppet theatre publications for people of all ages, with tactile images and texts in combined script/double print (braille with synchronously running block capitals) on swell-touch paper can be provided for use in classrooms. Materials in relief print with braille are also available. These publications contain abstract illustrations of puppet theatre and kulit figures, complemented with small texts in Dutch and in English. The collection also includes a wayang and gamelan ABC with an explanation (in Dutch) of more than eighty names and words, several question games with multiple-choice answers, and tactile puzzle figures with audio support.





Website: multilingual pages

Exhibition details, documentation, pictures and videos with puppet theatre and wayang kulit theatre scenes, and gamelan, barrel organ and Indo music (*krontjong*) can also be referred to online on the Puppetry Museum website.

For more information, please refer to:

http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/blinden_EN.aspx.

Films: exhibitions and activities

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/gld.html>

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Eenkijkjeindepoppenkast.FilmsMovies.pdf>

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/schierstins.html>

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/sfeerbeelden.html>

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/tentoonstellingen.html>

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak293a.pdf>

<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/pdf/Doepak293d.pdf>

Welcome

Of course you are more than welcome to visit our Museum in the Dutch village of Vorchten. Reservations required. Have lots of fun viewing, listening and reading. Applause!

With kind regards,
Otto van der Mieden
Director-Curator



Pictures: 'De kus van Katrijn'/'De tút fan Katryntsje'/'Der Schmatz von Gretl'/'Katrijn's kiss', six traditional European table top figures - Gnafron, Jan Klaassen, Katrijn, Vitéz László and Pulcinella. Concept puppets: Birgit Tomesen and Otto van der Mieden; two wayang kulit figures, Jan Klaassen and Katrijn. Puppets: Ledjar Subroto (Yogyakarta).

Production and contributions tactile projects

- The multi-language tactile listen books were created by Birgit Tomesen and Otto van der Mieden - concept and implementation.
- Recommendations: Elsje Plantema - gamelan.
- Illustrations: Elsje Zwart - tactile pictures.
- Technology: Arno Beumer, Herald and Thomas de Graaf, Frank Hogenkamp, Robbe van der Mieden - hardware, digitalisation, animation, film, sound, and music editing.
- Translations: Susanne Findenegg - German and voice-over. Lia Fletcher - English and voice-over. Janneke Spoelstra, Haye Bijlstra and Cornelis van der Wal - Frisian and voice-over.
- Language advice: Edith Baartmans-Otten - Dutch-Indonesian.
- Musical compositions and recordings: Sinta Wullur and Renadi Santoso - gamelan with a barrel organ.
- Music multi-language tactile audio books: 'La musica notturna delle strade di Madrid'/'The minuet of the blind beggars'. Composer: Luigi Boccherini (ca. 1780).
- Barrel organ music: Sébastien Cochard - organ book production.
- Textile designs: Rien Bekkers, Ellen Buijvoets, Sophie Dirven, Vera van der Meer, Rosa Mol, Sabine Staartjes, Birgit Tomesen, Nina Veluwenkamp, Marthijn Westrup a.o. - including costume design, sculptures, 3D, knitwear, tactile books, figures, and so on.
- Printed matter: CBB and Transkript - combined script and relief prints.
- Concepts, coordination and implementation of projects: Otto van der Mieden
 - design and implementation of exhibitions, scripts, mise-en-scène, presentations, audio texts, and documents.



Picture: relief print and text (braille and printed letter) with Nala Gareng - wayang kulit figure from Java.
Illustration: Elsje Zwart.



Stichting Het Poppenspe(e)lmuseum (ANBI)
Musée de Marionnettes et de Guignol Puppentheatermuseum Puppetry Museum
Kerkweg 38 8193 KL Vorchten NL Tel./Tél.: +31(0)578 - 56 02 39/63 13 29
info@poppenspelmuseum.nl www.poppenspelmuseum.nl www.poppenspel.info
www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs www.poppenspelmuseum.nl
<http://www.poppenspelmuseumbibliotheek.nl/Blinden.html>
www.geheugenvannederland.nl/poppenspel2

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With thanks to

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Vrienden van het Poppenspe(e)lmuseum
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Stichting Het Poppenspe(e)lmuseum (ANBI)

Musée de Marionnettes et de Guignol Puppettheatermuseum Puppetry Museum
Kerkweg 38 8193 KL Vorchten NL Tel./Tél.: +31(0)578 - 56 02 39/63 13 29
info@poppenspelmuseum.nl www.poppenspelmuseum.nl www.poppenspel.info
www.poppenspelmuseum.nl/onderwijs www.poppenspelmuseum.nl
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