



Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk joins the Curatorial Program for Research in Helsinki

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joins the Curatorial Program for
Research in Helsinki

2015

Finland

Dutch curator **Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk** has been selected to the **Curatorial Program for Research** (CPR) in Helsinki, launched in 2015. This international program examines characteristics of different cultural regions from a curatorial point of view. The focus of the first class are Eastern and Northern Europe – Finland and Estonia being the destination countries. Academic research and working locally are combined in this program. The student group of CPR visited Helsinki and Tallinn in October 2015. The Finnish Cultural Institute for the Benelux supported Lekkerkerk's participation in the Finland period of the program.

Altogether 92 people applied for the program, of which ten were selected. One of the founders and educators of the program is the Finnish curator **Aura Seikkula** who is also the Head of Programs and Development of CPR.

During the two weeks in Finland and Estonia, the students visited nearly twenty studios, galleries and art institutions. Aura Seikkula, **Karin Laansoo**, **Kadri Laasand** and academic advisor **Cecelia Thornton-Alson** planned the visits. The study trip was organized together with local partners. In Helsinki, HIAP – **Helsinki International Artist Programme** and **Checkpoint Helsinki** introduced the participants to the Finnish contemporary art field as well as to the local ways of working with and producing art.

Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk has worked as a curator actively already before his studies in the CPR. He studied art history and visual culture at the University of Utrecht and got his Master's degree from the London Metropolitan University. Lekkerkerk has worked e.g. in the Stedelijk Museum Bureau in Amsterdam and David Roberts Art Foundation in London. Currently, he is in

close curatorial research collaboration with the centre for contemporary art, **TENT Rotterdam**. In 2012, he founded **The Office for Curating agency** which organizes exhibitions, publications and acts as an igniter for social discussion. Lekkerkerk considers curatorial work a tool for re-examining society from an artistic point of view. He is particularly interested in socio-political questions.

In collaboration with:
Curatorial Program for Research

