

Bi-monthly lecture series
Culture with(out) bounds

Art Without Politics? Dutch Representation at the Venice Biennale, 1895-2026

November 17th | 16.00 - 17.30 | Universiteitscampus Spui | Free and open to anyone

The Venice Biennale is more than an international exhibition of contemporary art. For more than 130 years, its national pavilions have provided a platform for countries to present themselves and negotiate their position within the international art world.



Drawing on her recently published book *The Netherlands at the Venice Biennale, 1895–2025. 130 Years of Visual Arts on the International Stage*, Nathalie Zonnenberg explores how Dutch participation has been shaped by artists, curators, commissioners and ministries, and how these choices reflect changing ideas about art, national representation and the interplay between transnational exchange and geopolitical dynamics.From the legacy of fascism and the postwar relationship between art and politics to more recent approaches to national representation, this lecture examines how the Netherlands has navigated the political implications of its presence in Venice. It asks how a country positions itself internationally through art, even when it seeks to keep artistic representation at a distance from politics.

Open Universiteit

If you want to attend, scan the QR-code and fill in the form