

**What do we do when we are doing it?
Models for a Future School of Curating
January 30, 2014, 2:00 - 6:00 pm**

Location: Teijin Auditorium, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam
Language: English

De Appel Curatorial Programme, in close collaboration with the Stedelijk Museum, proudly presents the symposium *What do we do when we are doing it: Models for a Future School of Curating*. This program brings together artists, curators, and researchers to reflect on current developments and urgencies within curatorial practices and challenge to what extent these professional tendencies are reflected in the curricula of curatorial education structures.

The following questions are suggested for the presentations and conversations. How can a renewed interest in the position of the audience – in a time when populism is also gaining territory – inform the education offered to young curators? Should curatorial research be an integral part of curatorial programs, or should these focus more on the practical aspects of the profession? How does education for the non-profit sector relate to curating in the commercial domain? And how can curatorial education approach the issue of curating in the public sphere, where local and context-specific questions play out against the backdrop of an increasingly global climate? What is currently emerging in contemporary art and curating that will be an essential part of future curatorial pedagogies?

Rather than focusing on the pedagogical systems employed within existing curatorial education programs, the speakers are invited to speculate on the ideal curriculum for a potential curatorial program.

Programme at the Stedelijk Museum, Museumplein 10, Amsterdam

14:00	Welcome by Hendrik Folkerts Opening by Ann Demeester
14:15	Keynote by Prof. Patrick. D. Flores
15:00	Pitch: Clare Butcher
15:15	Pitch: Vesna Madzosi
15:30	Pitch: Louise Schouwenberg
15:45	Intermission
16:15	Pitch: Jonas Zakaitis
16:30	Pitch: Bassam el Baroni
16:45	Panel discussion: Maria Hlavajova, Jan Debbaut, Victoria Walsh, Antonia Alampi. Moderated by Ann Demeester and Hendrik Folkerts.
17:00	Conclusion: Vivian Sky Rehberg
18:00	End

Additional background information:

Most cultural producers feel a need to re-evaluate how they work and how processes can be optimized even if the methodologies they use seem to be working without major flaws. De Appel arts centre's Curatorial Programme is no exception. Since 1994, the Curatorial Programme has functioned as a curatorial "bootcamp" and aims to offer young curators a condensed package of experiences and skills to enhance the development of their professional careers. The ten-month-long Curatorial Programme's current form goes back to 2006, when director Ann Demeester reshaped it with a reformatted curriculum, an extended tutorial team, and a specific focus on "curating in the expanded field" and the notion of "context-responsive" curating. In collaboration with the Fair Gallery, a parallel trajectory was added, the Gallerist Programme, which functions as a curatorial and professional development program for gallerists or operators in the for-profit field.

In 2014, de Appel's Curatorial Programme celebrates its 20th anniversary. Over the past 20 years, Western Europe and North America have witnessed a "boom" in curatorial programs, ranging from non-formalized courses to MA studies, PhD positions, and other postgraduate forms of education. Despite de Appel Curatorial Programme's continued popularity and the fact that experts still often refer to it as an exemplary "archetypical" model for curatorial education, the team and director of de Appel still feel the desire to regularly survey their own system and methodology to ensure the program keeps up with the latest developments in the curatorial field. In light of the appointment of the new director, this conference wants to single out issues for discussion that might serve as pointers for a possible reformatting of the program in the future.

What do we do when we are doing it? is part of a three-year research project about the future trajectory of the Curatorial Programme of de Appel arts centre, which includes a series of (closed) expert and alumni meetings, workshops, and (public) conferences. This research project is supported by the AMMODO Foundation.