

## **Zuiderzee tragedy source of inspiration for Frank Koolen exhibition**

**During a retrospective of his work being held in the W139 Amsterdam artists' collective, the artist Frank Koolen will present the film *De wonderbaarlijke reis van Klaas Bording en zijn zoons* (The Amazing Journey of Klaas Bording and his Sons). The art project was realized as a commission from the Zuiderzee Museum.**

Artist Frank Koolen made a short film on the adventures of Klaas Bording and his sons, a true story that fascinated the entire country and inspired many artists. At the beginning of January 1849, the three men went out fishing on the ice of the Zuiderzee. A sudden thaw caused the ice to break up and the men floated for two weeks on an icefloe over the Zuiderzee before they were eventually rescued.

Koolen based his film partly on the painting entitled *Visser Klaas Bording met zijn twee zoons op een ijsschots* by Abraham Van Pelt (1815-95), which is owned by the Zuiderzee Museum, but has been lent out for this exhibition. In addition, Koolen was stirred by the legendary shot from *Fitzcarraldo* by Werner Herzog (1942) in which Klaus Kinski drifts through the South American jungle on a large raft through.

### **Frank Koolen**

After studying at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in Utrecht, Frank Koolen (Maastricht, 1978) completed his education at De Ateliers in Amsterdam in 2003. Koolen lives and works in Amsterdam. With his participation in this exhibition, the Zuiderzee Museum continues the mobility of his collection. In addition, Koolen will develop a sculpture and a performance for the Museum Park in the summer.

### **W139**

The W139 artists' collective was founded (squatted) in 1979 and has offered 'scope for risks' and a laboratory for talent ever since. Young artists are given the opportunity to try out new ideas in the enormous backroom of W139. Hundreds of artists attend the openings, both faithful fans and young art students.

### **Zuiderzee Museum**

The Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen reaches out into the world and displays the Netherlands in all its various facets: art, culture, design and heritage at the interface of land and water. This year, the Museum will focus on the theme of *From Aptitude to Abstraction*, an evolution that is currently making Dutch design extremely successful.

### **W139 and the Zuiderzee Museum**

The co-operation between the W139 artists' initiative and the Zuiderzee Museum began in 2008 with the exhibition entitled *Breakers*, a room-filling installation by Zoro Feigl in W139 that consisted of wooden sloops, undulating hawsers, and antique compasses. The Zuiderzee Museum added the entire installation to its collection.

### **Exhibition**

The first version of Koolen's film *De wonderbaarlijke reis van Klaas Bording en zijn zoons* will be on show in W139, no. 139 Warmoesstraat in Amsterdam, from 31 January to 28 February 2009. De film is a part of his solo exhibition *The Tropical Years*, and will be shown along with the painting *Visser Klaas Bording met zijn twee zoons op een ijsschots* by Abraham Van Pelt.

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*Note for the editor, not for publication:*

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