

## **ALMA: Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen's Images Linked to Artifacts project**

Alexandra Gaba-van Dongen, curator pre-industrial design and Peter van der Coelen, curator of prints and drawings, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam

The forthcoming ALMA, or *Afbeelding Linkt met Artefact* (Images Linked to Artifacts) website, currently under construction by the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, will go online on 10 October 2010. ALMA links religious, decorative and domestic artifacts and utensils from the pre- and early industrial period (1400-1900) to depictions of the same types of objects in contemporary paintings and prints. This link provides museums, as well as researchers and the general public, extensive information about the typology, functionality and iconography of artifacts depicted in works of art. This documentation system was originally set up in 1989 by the museum's then curator of pre-industrial utensils and decorative arts, Alma Ruempol. Thanks to a recent subsidy from the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen will be able to digitize a selection of about 2500 artifacts, 2000 prints and 300 paintings in its collection. The ALMA project will initially disclose artifacts, paintings and prints in the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, but in the future the website will be expanded and works from other public collections will be included.

### **Biography Alexandra Gaba-van Dongen**

Alexandra Gaba-van Dongen studied museology at the Reinwardt Academy in Leiden (now located in Amsterdam) and art history at Leiden University. She has been working at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, since 1986, where she began as assistant curator. Since 1992 she has been curator of pre-industrial design and has organized many temporary exhibitions and authored publications on the subject of artifacts in relation to the visual arts.

### **Biography Peter van der Coelen**

Peter van der Coelen (PhD Nijmegen, 1998) is curator of Prints and Drawings at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam. He is a specialist in Netherlandish and German printmaking of the 16th and 17th centuries. At the Boijmans, he curated the exhibitions *Prints in the Golden Age: from Art to Shelf Paper* (2006, together with Jan van der Waals and Ger Luijten), *Rembrandt's Passion: the New Testament in Netherlandish Printmaking* (2006-2007), *Images of Erasmus* (2008-2009) and, recently, *Mercenaries and Turks: a Recovered Treasure from the German Renaissance* (2009-2010).