

Less and more

Paul Spies

With museum presentations in mind, I will forward ideas inspired by Alessandro Baricco's volume of collected essays entitled *The Barbarians*, in which the Italian philosopher describes "the new people". In his view, educated people's specialized concern with only a few subjects has evolved into a superficial interest in many subjects. I will discuss the consequences of this change of mentality for museums, suggesting that they will have to develop more products (exhibitions and events), while limiting their size and depth. For the presentation of more scholarly information I will give examples of (less expensive) alternatives for reaching specific target groups.

About Paul Spies

Paul Spies has been director of the Stichting Amsterdams Historisch Museum since 1 January 2009. This foundation exploits and manages the Amsterdam Museum and the Museum Willet Holthuysen, a period canal house on Amsterdam's Herengracht.

In 1987 Spies founded the art historical advisory bureau D'ARTS, which organizes exhibitions, compiles books, produces television programs and runs publicity campaigns. In the years 2006-2008 Spies was also director-manager of the *Stichting Openstelling Paleis Soestdijk* (Foundation for the Public Access of Soestdijk Palace).

Amsterdam plays a central role in Spies' publications, such as in *Het Grachtenboek* (two volumes, 1991 and 1992), the first volume of which is being revised within the context of the *400 Jaar Grachtengordel* (400th anniversary of Amsterdam's 17th-century canal ring area) celebrations in 2013. He has also published about topics like the art collection of the Hoogheemraadschap Rijnland (1987), the Amsterdam University Library building (1992), the Waag at Nieuwmarkt (1994), Zorgvlied cemetery (1995), the Jordaan district (1997), Dutch painting (1997), Dutch architecture (1998), Rembrandt along the Amstel (1998), and the Amstel (2002).