



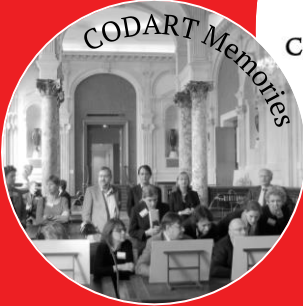
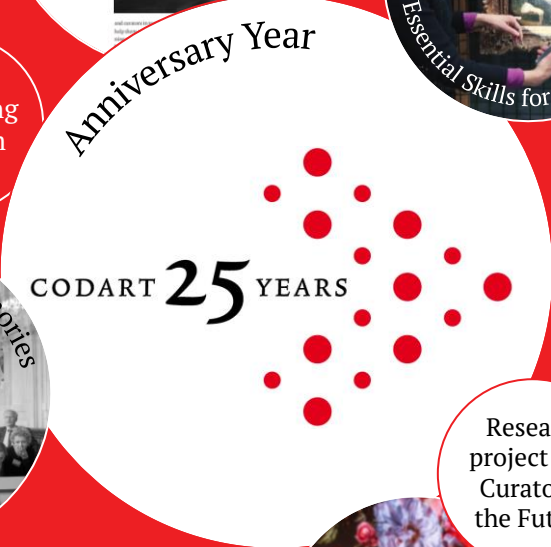


Anniversary Magazine



video series

Mentoring program



Research project 'The Curator of the Future'



Antwerp

Berlin



Activities

Curators Stipend

CODARTcareers



Curator's specializations

Collection summaries

International
network
CODART
for curators
of Dutch and
Flemish art

This document contains a short summary in English of CODART's Annual Report 2023. The full report (in Dutch) is available on the [CODART website](#).

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www.codart.nl

BOARD REPORT CODART 2023

Summary

In 2023, CODART celebrated its 25th anniversary with a wide variety of festive and substantive activities, highlighting Dutch and Flemish art collections in museums and the curators who work with these collections across more than 40 countries worldwide. We not only reflected on CODART's 25-year history but also discussed the present and the future. The museum world and the work of curators are influenced by broader global issues, including sustainability, digitization, and diversity and inclusion. These themes are crucial for everyone in the field to address. The survey "The Curator of the Future," commissioned by CODART in 2023, explores these topics among others. This focus was also evident in the activities of CODART's various bodies, boards, and committees, as well as through our programming and publications. The survey and ensuing discussions have informed the development of the 2025-2028 Activity Plan, which began in 2023 and will be finalized in 2024.

2023 was a festive and successful year that significantly increased visibility for both the organization and for curators of Dutch and Flemish art. This achievement is reflected in the rise in website visits, the number of subscribers to the various news services, and the growth in social media followers. On October 6, CODART celebrated its anniversary with a public symposium at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, focusing on the present and future of the curatorial profession. During the event, research findings on 'The Curator of the Future' were presented and discussed in various panel discussions.

The annual report further details all the anniversary activities, as well as other meetings such as the annual congress and online activities, which brought together curators and others interested in Dutch and Flemish art before 1800, to share their knowledge. This document offers a brief summary in English of the full report, which is available in Dutch on the [CODART website](#).

The CODART Board would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to making this momentous anniversary year a reality. This achievement was made possible by the efforts and flexibility of the office, the commitment of the Board members, the Friends of CODART Foundation and other benefactors (for a complete list, see the Dutch version of the annual report), the support from the Dutch and Flemish governments, and the work of the various committees. Most importantly, we extend our deepest gratitude to the members of CODART. Without its members, CODART would not exist.

Mission statement CODART is the global network of museum curators specializing in Dutch and Flemish art made before 1800. It supports curators in their efforts to enhance the visibility and accessibility of Dutch and Flemish art to an international audience, while also broadening public knowledge of these artistic traditions. To best equip curators for their work, CODART connects and informs them through its website, www.codart.nl, and brings them together at congresses, focus meetings, and study trips. Additionally, it provides a platform for them through online publications.

Vision Through these activities, CODART creates an interactive platform for the exchange of expertise, artworks, exhibitions, and people. Thanks to CODART, exhibitions and research projects are developed that ultimately attract a global audience. The interactive platform forms a solid foundation for developing greater connections with the world outside the network. Always in service of the mission.

ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

Website

The website stands as CODART's flagship product, serving as the hub where all information converges and where members connect. Concurrently, it acts as an invaluable resource for curators and other enthusiasts of Dutch and Flemish art worldwide. Throughout 2023, CODART continued to engage a diverse international audience of *aficionados* of art from the Low Countries via its website. Providing a platform for the substantive background of our activities, the website also offers accessible entry points for general visitors to explore Dutch and Flemish art worldwide.

Our ongoing project to compile collection descriptions for the museum pages on the website, initiated in 2019, aims to furnish comprehensive descriptions of Dutch and Flemish old art collections across all museum pages on the CODART website. In 2023, as part of our anniversary project, descriptions of collections in Belgian and Dutch museums were added to the website.

Through our publication platform, *CODART features*, we extend our reach beyond our membership base, boasting 3,082 subscribers and 17,440 readers in 2023. Each month, a new article is published, delving into current curatorial topics or showcasing notable collections of Dutch and Flemish art.

In 2019, we unveiled the CODART Canon, presenting an overview of one hundred masterpieces of Dutch and Flemish art across museums worldwide. In 2021, an expansion of the website (canon.codart.nl) and the publication of the Canon book, published by Lannoo, followed. Since its online inception in 2021, we've consistently featured videos highlighting Canon works on our website. In 2023, we produced four videos, collectively amassing over 12,500 views across various platforms. To commemorate our anniversary year, eleven Canon videos were also shared through the channels and websites of 'the low countries' and 'les plats pays' – publications associated with the Flemish-Dutch cultural institution Ons Erfdeel vzw.

Congress

In collaboration with the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp (KMSKA), CODART organized the annual congress from 12-14 March, centered around the theme 'Flemish Art: Local and Global'. A cohort of 137 members from 20 countries engaged in three days filled with lectures, excursions, and networking opportunities. The congress commenced with a celebratory opening at the recently renovated Antwerp City Hall, followed by lectures held on Monday and Tuesday at the KMSKA, which reopened its doors in 2022. Excursions took place at various cultural institutions in and around Antwerp. On the Wednesday following the congress, participants were offered two optional excursions: one group traveled to Ghent, while another visited the churches in Zoutleeuw and Geel.

CODARTfocus

In 2023, CODART organized three *focus* meetings. On 8 May, a meeting took place at the Gemäldegalerie in Berlin, centered around the exhibition 'Hugo van der Goes: Between Pain and Bliss'. In addition to exclusive tours of the exhibition led by its curators, the CODART *focus* session featured two insightful lectures.

On 10 and 11 September, a two-day CODART *focus* event was held in Paris. During the first day, we focused on an introduction to the Fondation Custodia, while the subsequent day we

delved into the exhibition 'Jacobus Vrel: Enigmatic Forerunner of Vermeer'. Attendees not only explored the exhibition spaces but also enjoyed lectures delivered by the exhibition curators and other experts.

On Monday, 27 November, we visited three exhibitions in Antwerp in a single day. The day began at the MAS, where guest curators of the exhibition 'Rare and Indispensable' guided us through the exhibition. Next, we ventured to the Museum Plantin-Moretus to experience the exhibition 'From Scribble to Cartoon: Drawings from Bruegel to Rubens'. We concluded the day with a visit to the exhibition 'Turning Heads: Bruegel, Rubens, and Rembrandt' at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts (KMSKA).

Anniversary Year

With the anniversary project 'The Curator of the Future', CODART aimed to explore and showcase the value and role of museum curators specializing in Dutch and Flemish old art. The organization underscores the importance of preserving and promoting shared heritage, Dutch and Flemish visual art predating 1800, which has transcended geographical boundaries and gained global recognition over the centuries. For 25 years, CODART, alongside its members, allies, and partners, has remained steadfast in this endeavor. The anniversary project shone a spotlight on curators while also exploring how this genre of art can maintain relevance in the future.

The apex of the anniversary project was marked by a public symposium held at the Rijksmuseum, where the findings of the research on 'The Curator of the Future' and a special anniversary magazine were presented. Additionally, the commemoration of 25 years of CODART included online initiatives such as the video series '25 Essential Skills for Curators' and 'CODART Memories'. Moreover, the website underwent significant enhancements, introducing new sections like 'Curator's Specializations' and 'CODART careers', alongside the addition of over a hundred collection descriptions from museums in the Netherlands and Belgium. This ambitious anniversary project was made possible through the generous support of the Friends of CODART Foundation, het Cultuurfonds, the Delegation of Flanders in the Netherlands, and the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam.

Mentoring program

CODART is committed to fostering talent development and facilitating knowledge exchange between emerging and seasoned professionals, aiming to ensure the future sustainability of the curatorial profession. While activities such as the annual congress and CODART *focus* meetings already provide platforms for such interactions, feedback from evaluations and other sources revealed a barrier between individual curators of varying experience levels during these events, hindering the opportunity for meaningful professional exchanges.

In response, following a successful pilot phase, CODART officially launched its mentoring program during the congress in Antwerp. Running from May to the end of October, the program concluded with three collaborative online evaluation sessions.

Mentors and mentees alike reported engaging in enriching valuable discussions with their colleagues that would not have transpired without the program. Many expressed a desire to maintain connections beyond the program's conclusion. Conversations spanned practical facets of the profession, while also delving into topics such as fostering a balanced work-life dynamic.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Operating result

CODART concludes the year 2023 with a deficit of € 32,140, primarily due to the planned additional expenses associated with the anniversary celebration. As per the commitment, the earmarked reserve 'Anniversary Year' of € 63,547 was eliminated at the end of 2023. The Board has decided to allocate the remaining amount of € 31,407 to the earmarked reserve 'Digital Strategy' (previously designated as the 'Website Renewal' reserve), which now stands at € 72,728 as of the end of 2023. The digital strategy has been identified as a key policy focus for the upcoming years; necessitating appropriate investments in new systems and applications.

At the close of 2023, the General Reserve holds € 31,842, with an additional Continuity Reserve of € 10,000, bringing CODART's total assets to € 114,570.

The General Reserve is designed to absorb fluctuations over time, such as unexpected decreases in membership contributions or setbacks in fundraising efforts, while also being available for seizing unanticipated opportunities and essential investments.

The Continuity Reserve serves as a safeguard against calamities and irregularities that could jeopardize the organization's survival. The Board plans to increase this reserve in the future, in the event of positive financial results, with the goal of covering several months of fixed organizational expenses.

The full financial report is available in the Dutch version of the Annual Report 2023.¹

Subsidies

The Netherlands

Since 2001, CODART has been primarily subsidized by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science (OCW). As of January 1, 2022, CODART's earmarked subsidy has been administered by the Ministry of OCW through the subsidy structure of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam. To facilitate this transition, a cooperation agreement was signed between CODART and the Rijksmuseum on November 8, 2021.

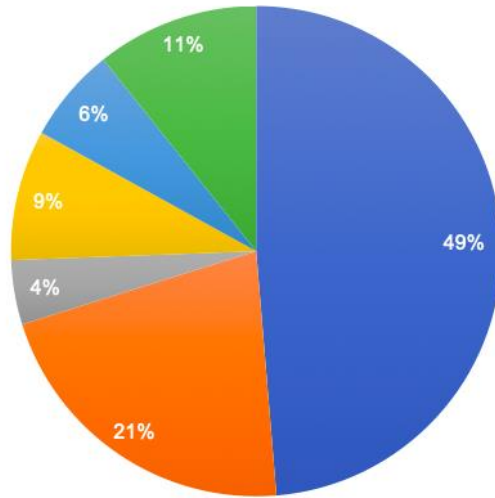
Flanders

In the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, CODART received subsidies from the Flemish government to support its ongoing operations. At the end of 2023, CODART received the good news that the Flemish government decided to provide structural support to CODART instead of annual grants. This dedicated funding will be administered through the subsidy structure of the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp starting in 2024.

¹ See: www.codart.nl/about-codart/annual-reports-and-policy-plan

Income²

INCOME 2023



- Subsidy Dutch government (OCW)
- Subsidy Flemish government
- Individual membership fees
- Institutional Membership fees
- Friends of CODART Foundation
- Other

² Income related to the Anniversary Year is not included in these charts.

Governance Code Culture

The Board adheres to the *Governance Code Culture* (2019) and upholds its eight principles.³ Information regarding the current Board members and their retirement schedule is available on the CODART website.⁴

Additionally, the Board complies with the legal requirements outlined in the 'Wet normering bezoldiging topfunctionarissen publieke en semipublieke sector' (WNT). Further details regarding the Director's remuneration is provided in the financial report, which can be found in the Dutch version of the Annual Report.⁵

On behalf of the Board,

Marjan Scharloo, Chair

³ See: www.cultuur-ondernemen.nl/storage/media/English-Translation-GCC2019.pdf

⁴ See: www.codart.nl/about-codart/board/

⁵ See: www.codart.nl/about-codart/annual-reports-and-policy-plan

Thanks to our benefactors

Institutional Members

Amsterdam Museum
Centraal Museum, Utrecht
Dordrechts Museum
Drents Museum, Assen
Fondation Custodia, Collection Frits Lugt, Paris
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Glasgow Museums
Groninger Museum
Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
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Koninklijke Verzamelingen, The Hague
Kunsthhaus, Zürich
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna
M Leuven
Mauritshuis, The Hague
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Musea Brugge

Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art, Luxembourg
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam
Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht
Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Museum Het Rembrandthuis, Amsterdam
Museum Het Valkhof, Nijmegen
Museum Hof Van Busleyden, Mechelen
Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder, Amsterdam
Museum Prinsenhof, Delft
Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent
Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design, Oslo
Nationalmuseum, Stockholm
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

Nivaagaards Malerisamling, Nivå
Het Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch
Oude Kerk, Amsterdam
Patrimonio Nacional, Madrid
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Prentenkabinet Universiteit Leiden
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Enschede
Royal Łazienki Museum, Warsaw
Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels
Het Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam
Staatliches Museum Schwerin
Städel Museum, Frankfurt
Stedelijk Museum Alkmaar
Stedelijk Museum Breda
Szépművészeti Múzeum, Budapest
Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford
Zamek Królewski w Warszawie, Warsaw

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Ministry of Education, Culture and
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Flanders
State of the Art

RJKS MUSEUM