
Published in conjunction with two related exhibitions held at The Museum of Modern Art in New York, In and Out of Amsterdam: Travels in Conceptual Art, 1960-1976 and In and Out of Amsterdam: Art & Project Bulletin, 1968-1989, this publication covers Conceptual art in Amsterdam during the 1960s and 1970s, when Amsterdam served as a significant, European art capital, where cross-pollination of ideas and influences occurred. While foreign artists were attracted to Amsterdam because of its innovative museums, up-and-coming gallery scene, and progressive socio-political policies, many of the city’s local artists traveled and studied abroad, oftentimes fleeing what they perceived as the “provincial” nature of the Dutch capital (p. 18-19).

Presenting more than 120 works on paper, installations, photographs, and films, the catalog addresses the historical significance of Amsterdam and travel to the creative personalities who were influenced by the Dutch and American art scenes. This publication also draws attention to ten, mostly American and European artists, Bas Jan Ader, Stanley Brouwn, Hanne Darboven, Jan Dibbets, Ger van Elk, Gilbert and George, Sol LeWitt, Charlotte Posenenske, Allen Ruppersberg, and Lawrence Weiner. All were active intermittently in Amsterdam during the 1960s and early 1970s and were affiliated with Art & Project, a local gallery that became a crucial nexus for Conceptual artists. Founded by Geert van Beijeren and Adriaan van Raafesteijn in 1968, Art & Project occupied various spaces in Amsterdam and its vicinity until it closed in 2001. Dedicated specifically to contemporary art, it quickly became one of the leading galleries in the Netherlands. Today a gift by its founders, who acquired works by the artists who exhibited at the gallery, forms a significant collection at the Museum of Modern Art and constitutes a large number of the works exhibited in the In and Out of Amsterdam exhibitions, many of which were presented in the United States for the first time.

Four essays examine the Amsterdam venue, the early history of Art & Project, tentative connections to the exhibition Op Losse Schroeven held at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and a similar exhibition opening in Bern, Switzerland in 1969, and the cross-cultural interactions between Amsterdam and Los Angeles. This catalog also features brief introductions to the careers and works by the ten artists who exhibited at Art & Project, a checklist of the Art & Project/Depot VBVR gift to MOMA, an illustrated chronology, a supplementary exhibition checklist, and a selected bibliography. Although not well-bound, this catalog is extensively illustrated (450 reproductions, of which 400 are in color), sufficiently documented, and professionally presented. This unique publication belongs in large public, academic, and special libraries. Highly recommended.

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