



**Independent
Media Arts Alliance**
Alliance des arts
médiatiques indépendants

Montreal, July 6th, 2011

Halbe Zijlstra, Dutch Secretary of state for culture,
Staatssecretaris voor Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap
Rijnstraat 50
2515 XP Den Haag
The Netherlands

Dear Mr Zijlstra,

The Independent Media Arts Alliance is a Canadian, national arts service organization representing over 80 media arts organizations and 12,000 cultural workers in film, video and new media.

The news of the budget cuts affecting the media arts sector in Holland has reached us here and is shocking and appalling. Canadians have held up the Dutch institutions such as NIMk, WORM, and STEIM as innovative and leading models that other countries should follow in the advancement of cultural policy and the arts.

This move to cut funding to such institutions is short sighted and will be devastating not only for the media arts sector but for Holland's cultural heritage and legacy. Many countries are recognizing the benefits of investing in emerging artistic practices due to the close ties to the technological sector and other research fields. In Canada, for several years, conservation of media art has been of prime importance due to the critical need to preserve the hundreds of thousands of art works that reflect our current culture whether it is social, political, technical or aesthetic. Media art is also the format that documents all other artistic disciplines.

We have looked to the many initiatives undertaken by the Dutch media arts experts and have created networks with like-minded institutions in various countries around the world and want to be clear that your actions will have adverse effects internationally.

We have also heard that this decision is in contrast to the official recommendations given to Halbe Zijlstra by his advisory board, the Raad voor Cultuur, and that these historic cutbacks will take immediate effect as of January, 2013. This is a mistake and we urge you to revise your current arts funding policy direction with a sensible, long-term vision for the cultural development in Holland.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dorner, National Director

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