



Museum Het Valkhof presents

Moving Stories, the riches of the Limes

10 February – 29 May 2022

Two-thousand years ago the *Limes*, the frontier of the Roman Empire, ran right through the Netherlands. Soldiers from the four points of the compass moved to the Rhine to build and man fortresses and watch towers, and in their wake followed families, merchants and craftsmen. They left everything they knew behind, sometimes voluntarily but often under compulsion. *Moving Stories* connects that ancient history with the stories of migrants today. Archaeologists and contemporary artists went in search of the moving stories of migration.

Hidden stories

Who once walked in those shoes, fastened their clothing with decorated clasps, or wore amulets to ward off evil? Where did they come from, which route did they follow? Innumerable stories lie embedded in the small everyday objects that have been found in the soil and the rivers along the Limes. They have received little attention so far. Their owners came not only from Italy, but also from what are now Spain, Austria, Macedonia, England and even the Middle East. The result was a multicultural society in the city of Nijmegen on the Roman border. Despite the interval of two-thousand years that separates this world from ours, there are more similarities than differences in the underlying reasons for which people go to live elsewhere. War, oppression, hunger or the deep desire to build a better life are motives for migration today too.

Public in residence

Museum Het Valkhof invited fifteen people from the Nijmegen region, all with a non-Dutch background, to form a public in residence. The idea was for them to join in thinking about the exhibition and related activities as a kind of guest curator. The archaeological collection of the museum served to trigger discussions about uprooting, impotence, migration routes, reciprocal dialogue, identity, the other, and home. The members of the public in residence shared their personal stories in a number of meetings. The result forms a part of the exhibition and the accompanying publication. What was your journey like? Where do our histories cross? They are

diverse, moving stories showing that migration today is not very different from what it was then. Migration is also an important theme for the contemporary artists who take part in the exhibition. Naturally, they welcomed the opportunity to invite the public in residence to share experiences with one another. A number of them turned the input into new work for the exhibition. This all made *Moving Stories* a large-scale cooperation project for Museum Het Valkhof and one to be proud of.

Moving Stories

The exhibition *Moving Stories*, the riches of the Limes, forms part of the project *De-bordering [Ontgrenzen]*, a four-year cooperation between Museum Het Valkhof and Museum Arnhem facilitated by the Basic Infrastructure for Regional Museums (BIS). With this project the museums stimulate an innovative approach to the public. By actively involving different publics in residence in every aspect of exhibitions and related events, important new knowledge is obtained and experience shared with new visitors. The project thus also contributes to enriching the museum as an institute.

The Limes

The Lower German Limes was designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in July 2021. This section of the frontier of the Roman Empire followed the course of the Rhine from the North Sea coast to the Eifel mountain range south of Bonn. In view of its strategic position, several forts were erected on the territory of what is now Nijmegen. The location expanded to become an important military and economic centre of the Roman Netherlands. The UNESCO World Heritage Site in this area includes the Valkhofheuvel, Kops Plateau, Hunerberg and the course of the Roman aqueduct that ran from Berg en Dal to the Hunerberg in East Nijmegen.

Artists: Tudor Bratu, Ni Haifeng, Nicoline van Harskamp, Patricia Kaersenhout, Kimsooja, Susanne Khalil Yusef, Bouchra Khalili, Narges Mohammadi, Otobong Nkanga, Antonis Pittas, Mayra Sérgio, Mounira Al Solh, Jennifer Tee.

Public in residence members: Sam Alqalqeely, Özden Cosgun, Dawit Tesfay Haile, Kenneth Macnack, Dana Al Mashhadani, Marlène Melfor, Moeisha Molina, Farida Nabibaks, Celia Okoro, Martinus Papilaja, Peter van Riel, Linda Sloane, Eduard Stepanjan, Ceren Uzuner, Mustafa Yafuz

Curators: Marie Stel (conservator of modern and contemporary art Museum Het Valkhof) and Marenne Zandstra (conservator archaeology Museum Het Valkhof)

Activities: A wide range of activities for all ages will be offered during *Moving Stories*. You will shortly be able to find the complete list on www.museumhetvalkhof.nl/zien-en-doen/activiteiten

Publication: *Moving Stories, de rijkdom van de Limes* is published to accompany the exhibition. ISBN 978-90-6829-118-6.