

PRESS RELEASE

Museum creates digital exhibition on corona times together with the city

The Amsterdam Museum is making an exhibition about the impact of the coronavirus on the city of Amsterdam and the daily life of its inhabitants. *Corona in the city. A digital exhibition on Amsterdam in the age of corona* will be digitally available from mid-May, giving Amsterdammers the opportunity to submit their own personal experiences and stories, which will be collected by the Amsterdam Museum and then selected and contextualized by a team of artists, makers and curators. To this end, the Amsterdam Museum will work together with partners such as the OBA public library, University of Amsterdam, FOAM photography museum, Amsterdam City Archives, Storytelling Centre, Local broadcast AT5 and many others. The Amsterdam Museum aims to be the first museum in the Netherlands to connect residents in isolation through this digital exhibition; offering highly needed contextualization and a historical perspective on this period of crisis while capturing this unique *zeitgeist* for the future.

Corona in the city does not focus on the statements and facts on the virus that are offered by politicians and experts, but on the everyday stories and experiences of people in the city. From 30 April all inhabitants, visitors and fans of Amsterdam can share a written story, photograph, GIF, video, audio fragment or other expression about aspects of the corona crisis in the city with the Amsterdam Museum. These can be anecdotes, memories, dreams, future hopes, reflections or other messages regarding corona and this historic period of crisis, self-isolation and resilience in the city. The submissions will be collected and assessed by a diverse team of curators, artists and makers, who will create a selection that will be presented in the digital exhibition. The Amsterdam Museum encourages everyone to share a contribution: from health care workers to school students continuing their education at home, from artists to entrepreneurs. From women in the Nieuw-West district to the mayor of Amsterdam, who has already submitted an entry. Through this digital exhibition, the Amsterdam Museum and its partners will create a unique collection of immaterial heritage, practically in real time, that grows and can keep on growing in a dynamic and participatory manner.

Aim

Margriet Schavemaker, artistic director of the Amsterdam Museum, on the goals of this digital exhibition: "As museum, we specialize in collecting and presenting cultural heritage that relates to the past, present and future of Amsterdam and the Amsterdammers. Amsterdam has entered the corona age, a particularly gripping period in our history. You can feel it in all fibers of the city, it affects everyone. That is why we want to document this period now, so that we will be able to tell the story in times to come. We also hope that by bringing together personal stories of vulnerability, consolation, loneliness and solidarity, we can connect all of Amsterdam and its people."

The online exhibition *Corona in the city* will be on show from mid-May. Submissions can be entered from 30 April. *Corona in the city* is part of the project *Collecting the City*, in which the Amsterdam Museum works with, among others, the OBA public library, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam City Archives, Tropenmuseum, Storytellingcentre and the Municipality of Amsterdam to gather stories from the city's inhabitants as a gift for the 750th anniversary of the city. The exhibition is supported by the Amsterdam City Circle and the Municipality of Amsterdam.