An intimate view from the heart of the Low Countries

with Don Robinson, Professor Emeritus of Government & Henk van Os, Professor of Art & Society, University of Amsterdam
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends,

We invite you to join us on this “Uniquely Smith” trip to Belgium and the Netherlands. This program has two main themes: the history, art and culture of the Low Countries; and the political and judicial institutions, also centered in the Low Countries, that are shaping the future of the continent. It was developed through a close collaboration between Don Robinson (professor emeritus of Government), Henk van Os (professor and chair in Art and Society at the University of Amsterdam, former director of the Rijksmuseum, and a frequent visitor to Smith College), Susie Orso of Specialtours, and the Smith Travel program.

We begin in Brussels, a center of trade in the Middle Ages, where we will admire masterpieces by Brueghel and Rubens, as well as Art Nouveau architecture and interiors. We will also be introduced to the European Union (winner of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize), and be given a guided tour of the European Commission and Parliament.

In The Hague, home to the Dutch government and Parliament, we will visit the Peace Palace, funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, which houses what is now the International Court of Justice. Remarkable paintings by Piet Mondrian, dating from the early 20th century, will provide a vivid contrast to the treasures of the Mauritshuis, the Dutch royal art collection including Vermeer’s *View of Delft* and *Girl with the Pearl Earring*. In Amsterdam, we will be joined by Henk van Os, as well as art historian and guide Robert Uterwijk, who will lead our visit to the recently restored Rijksmuseum, a truly grand finale for our tour!

Since space will be limited on this program we encourage you to reserve your space as soon as possible by calling Smith Travel at (800) 225 2029, or sending your completed registration form to Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063 or by fax to (413) 585 2015.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director for Travel, Alumnae Association of Smith College
Henk van Os studied History and Art History at the University of Groningen from 1957-1964, where he also obtained his doctorate cum laude with a thesis entitled ‘Iconological problems in Sienese painting from 1300-1450’. While working on his PhD, he stayed several years in Florence and Siena.

In 1974, Van Os was appointed professor of the Art and Cultural History at the University of Groningen, and subsequently became dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1984. From 1989 to 1996, Van Os was general director of the Rijksmuseum. He organized numerous exhibitions, such as ‘Prayer Embedded in Beauty’ (Gebed in Schoonheid). In 1996, he stepped down as director of the Rijksmuseum and was appointed University Professor holding the chair in Art and Society at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). Van Os regularly gives guest lectures at various foreign Universities, including Smith College, the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte (‘Central Institute for Art History’) in Munich and the Harvard Centre for Renaissance Studies in Florence.

Van Os gained nationwide renown in the Netherlands for publications, lectures and interviews, and especially as presenter of television programs about art, such as Museumschatten (‘Museum treasures’) and Beeldenstorm (‘Iconoclasm’). In recent years, he has organized exhibitions in the Groninger Museum, de Nieuwe Kerk (‘the New Church’) in Amsterdam, Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht, the Mauritshuis in The Hague, and the Hermitage Amsterdam. Van Os is a member of the International Board of Trustees Hermitage St. Petersburg and sits on the Board of Trustees of the European Fine Art Foundation.

Don Robinson, Charles N. Clark professor emeritus of Government and American studies, retired in 2004 after nearly forty years on the faculty of Smith College. He taught courses on the American presidency and political parties; in the latter, his students participated in political campaigns. He developed internships in Washington for both government and American studies majors. In the 1980s, he appeared on public television with Fred Friendly on programs that explored dilemmas of government under the Constitution. He is the author of books on slavery in the founding of the American political system and on the American presidency. In 2002, his book, written with Professor Ray Moore of Amherst College, entitled “Partners for Democracy: Crafting the New Japanese State under MacArthur,” was published by Oxford University Press. His most recent book is “Town Meeting: Practicing Democracy in Rural New England.” He lives with his wife, Molly, in Ashfield Massachusetts.

Susie Orso, who is director of London-based Specialtours, has made the arrangements and will accompany the tour. She has helped lead numerous tours for the Alumnae Association of Smith College. She has lived in Italy for over 40 years and has developed many personal contacts which enable access to private homes and collections across Europe.
ART, CULTURE, AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

BRUSSELS  THE HAGUE  AMSTERDAM
PROGRAM
(subject to amendment)

DAY 1 ~ Saturday, September 14
Depart the US for Brussels.
(appropriate in-flight meals)

DAY 2 ~ Sunday, September 15
Arrive in Brussels this morning and transfer to the centrally located Hotel Dominican. Lunch will be independent this afternoon. After lunch, enjoy an orientation walking and motorcoach tour with guide Irma Charlier-Dorthu. Our tour will include the Gothic Cathedral of Saints Michel et Gudule, the exterior of the European Institutions, the Art Nouveau residential area, the Grand-Place with its guild halls, and the elegant 19th century arcade of Galeries St Hubert. Prior to dinner, join Don Robinson, professor emeritus of Government at Smith College, for drinks and your first discussion. Dinner tonight will be in the hotel.
(appropriate in-flight meals, D)

DAY 3 ~ Monday, September 16
Following breakfast, participate in an introductory talk on the role of the EU institutions and that of the Commission, including a presentation of a specific EU policy at the European Commission Centre. Enjoy lunch at a café in the Galeries de St. Hubert. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure, and dinner will be independent this evening.
(B) BRUSSELS

DAY 4 ~ Tuesday, September 17
This morning, experience a guided visit of the European Parliament. Then, continue to the Musée Horta for a visit. In the splendid Art Nouveau interiors there is a permanent display of furniture and objets d’art designed by Horta and his contemporaries as well as documents related to his life and time. Lunch independently this afternoon. Later, take a guided visit to the Ancient and Modern Museum of Art, renowned for its outstanding collection of Flemish Primitives and famous masterpieces of Brueghel and Rubens. We’ll also partake in a late-afternoon visit to a private garden near Brussels. Dinner tonight will be in one of Brussels’ top restaurants (location to be determined).
(B, D) BRUSSELS

DAY 5 ~ Wednesday, September 18
Leave by coach this morning (with luggage) for Antwerp, Belgium’s second largest city and one of the world’s largest ports that has retained its charm and importance as a city of art. Visits in the city will include the Rubens House and Studio Museum and the magnificent Cathedral. Lunch will be at Restaurant
Sir Anthony Van Dyck. After lunch, continue to The Hague and check into the Hotel Paleis. (B, L, R)  THE HAGUE

DAY 6 ~ Thursday, September 19
Today we visit the Peace Palace Visitors’ Center and the Peace Palace Library (by special arrangement). The Peace Palace is often called the seat of international law because it houses the International Court of Justice (the principal judicial body of the United Nations), the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the extensive Peace Palace Library. After, visit the Ridderzaal (Knight’s Hall), which dates from 1229, and is a complex of buildings which has been the location of the Dutch parliament, since 1446. This is where the Queen holds her annual speech and it has been the office of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands since 1982. We then continue to the Gemeente Museum where we’ll see highlights of the Mauritshuis (currently under restoration), as well as the superb collection which includes the largest collection of Mondriaan paintings in the world. Lunch this afternoon will be at the Brasserie Berlage. Dinner will be independent.  
(B, L)  THE HAGUE

DAY 7 ~ Friday, September 20
This morning, leave (with luggage) for the Kröller Müller Museum in the magnificent De Hoge Veluwe National Park. Visit the painting collection and the sculpture park where we’ll view superb works by Vincent van Gogh, Braque, Cézanne, Fantin-Latour, Gris, Klee, Léger and Monet. The park contains a vast sculpture collection by artists such as Rodin, Moore, Bourdelle and Rosso carefully positioned in natural surroundings amongst the trees. Lunch will be independent at the Museum cafeteria. After lunch, continue to the Royal Palace of Het Loo. The sumptuously furnished 17th-century palace and beautifully restored gardens make this a very special visit. We then continue to Amsterdam and stay at the Banks Mansion Hotel. Dinner tonight will be at Restaurant Le Pêcheur.  
(B, D)  AMSTERDAM

DAY 8 ~ Saturday, September 21
After breakfast, depart for an architectural walking tour of Amsterdam with lecturer Robert Uterwijk. He will provide us with an overview of the ecclesiastical and domestic architecture of the past, and an insight into modern and contemporary architecture. After, visit the Amstelkring, the Hidden Catholic Church. Lunch this
afternoon will be in a local restaurant. Then, walk by the Royal Palace which was built as a city hall during the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century.

Meet with Professor Henk van Os, who will take you through the De Krijtberg Church, one of Amsterdam’s most beautiful Gothic churches (built in 1883) and the Singelkerk, a Mennonite church, a wonderful example of the so-called “clandestine churches”. We will hear from Professor van Os about how these two churches represent the poles in Dutch religion. We then visit the Huis Van Loon museum with curator Tonko Grever. Located on the Keizersgracht, it is one of the finest canal houses still owned by the Van Loon family whose ancestors co-founded the Dutch East-India Company. Dinner tonight will be independent.

(B, L) AMSTERDAM

DAY 9 ~ Sunday, September 22
We start the day with a visit to the Rembrandt House and Studio Museum where Rembrandt worked and lived for almost 20 years. Next, we visit the Portuguese Synagogue, a 17th century Sephardic synagogue. Following, we continue to Haarlem and lunch in the Frans Hals Museum Cafeteria. After lunch, enjoy a visit of the museum. Founded in 1862 in the newly renovated former cloister located in the back of the Haarlem city hall, the museum houses a superb collection by Frans Hals and his contemporaries. We then return to Amsterdam and partake in a lecture by Professor van Os on the history and treasures of the Rijksmuseum. Tonight’s dinner will be independent.

(B, L) AMSTERDAM

DAY 10 ~ Monday, September 23
This morning we leave for the Rijksmuseum and enjoy a guided visit with Robert Uterwijk of the newly renovated museum with its superb collections of paintings and Decorative Arts. Lunch will be independent, with the afternoon at leisure. Tonight, we’ll enjoy a farewell dinner at Restaurant De Kas.

(B, D) AMSTERDAM

DAY 11 ~ Tuesday, September 24
After breakfast, depart for the airport for return flights to the US.

(B, appropriate in-flight meals)

Breakfast: each day
Lunch: 4
Dinner: 4
Reception: 1
Art, Culture, and the Future of Europe Registration Form
September 14-24, 2013

Enclosed is my credit card information or my deposit check ($750 per person) payable to Smith College.

NAMES (as appears on passport) __________________________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________

CITY_________________________ STATE ___________ ZIP_________

HOME PHONE ______________________ WORK/CELL _________________

EMAIL ____________________________

NO. OF PERSONS _______ AMOUNT ENCLOSED ($750 per person, non-refundable): ___________ ___________

I/we are registering: _______ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ($5,900)

_____________ SINGLE OCCUPANCY (plus $1,150)

If using a credit card for deposit, please complete the following section:

VISA # ________________  MASTERCARD CARD # ________________

EXPIRATION DATE: ___________  CID CODE: ___________

Terms and Conditions: The Alumnae Association of Smith College (AASC) is the sponsor of the tours. As the sponsor, AASC has engaged independent tour operators to arrange the tours. Because the AASC does not own, operate, manage, or control, and is not in a partnership or joint venture with, either the tour operators or the various independent companies and persons with which or whom the tour operator has arranged to supply services to the tour, the AASC and its officers, directors, trustees, agents, servants, employees, affiliates, and assigns are not liable for any negligent or willful acts or omissions of the tour operator or the various suppliers, including any acts or omissions on their part that cause, without limitations, injury, death, theft, damage to or loss of property, delay, inconvenience, or the cancellation, substitution, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, transportation or other services. Additional terms and conditions may apply to your trip and will be sent to you with your registration acknowledgement, which you must sign and return to Smith.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN:
SIGNATURE __________________________________________ DATE ___________

SIGNATURE __________________________________________ DATE ___________

Please return this registration form and deposit to Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063; phone: (800) 225-2029; fax: (413) 585-2015
Trip Dates: September 14-24, 2013
Duration: 11 days
Activity Level: Moderately active
Cost: $5,900 per person, based on double occupancy.
The cost includes accommodation in superior four- and five-star hotels; transportation by private coach; all buffet breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners including wine, water and coffee, and 1 cocktail reception; guides; all entrances; porterage at the hotels; services of a Specialtours escort; drivers’ gratuities.
Single Supplement: $1,150 per person
Not Included:
Flights from the US to Brussels and from Amsterdam to the US; any meals indicated as independent on the itinerary; personal extras; travel insurance.
Airfare:
Airfare is not included in the cost of the program. You can either make your own reservations, or call our local travel agency, Easthampton Travel. To reach Easthampton Travel, kindly call toll-free (800) 789-7949 or (413) 529-9599 and ask to speak with Vicki Allen.
Early Arrival/Late Departure:
If you wish to arrive in advance of, or stay later than, the group please let Smith Travel know, so that the necessary arrangements can be made with the hotels. The additional cost will be payable on site. Please see the pre-departure information sheet for hotel costs.
Deposit and Payment:
A non-refundable deposit of $750 per person is required by April 1, 2013. The balance is required by July 15, 2013, and must be paid by check, payable to Smith College.
Cancellation Policy:
The deposit for this trip is non-refundable. In the event of cancellations after the balance has been paid and notified in writing 40 days before the tour starting date, 50% will be refunded; 25% will be refunded within 20 days of the tour starting date; between 20 days and one week of the tour starting date, Specialtours will try to refund what they are able to recover from their suppliers. After this, no refund is normally possible.
Eligibility:
These trips are designed for alumnae of Smith College and accompanying members of the immediate families. Space permitting, a participating alumna may bring a non-Smith friend or couple. For further information about the trip, call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or email alumtrav@smith.edu.
Trip cancellation insurance:
Insurance is highly recommended. You will receive travel insurance information from Smith Travel with your confirmation letter.