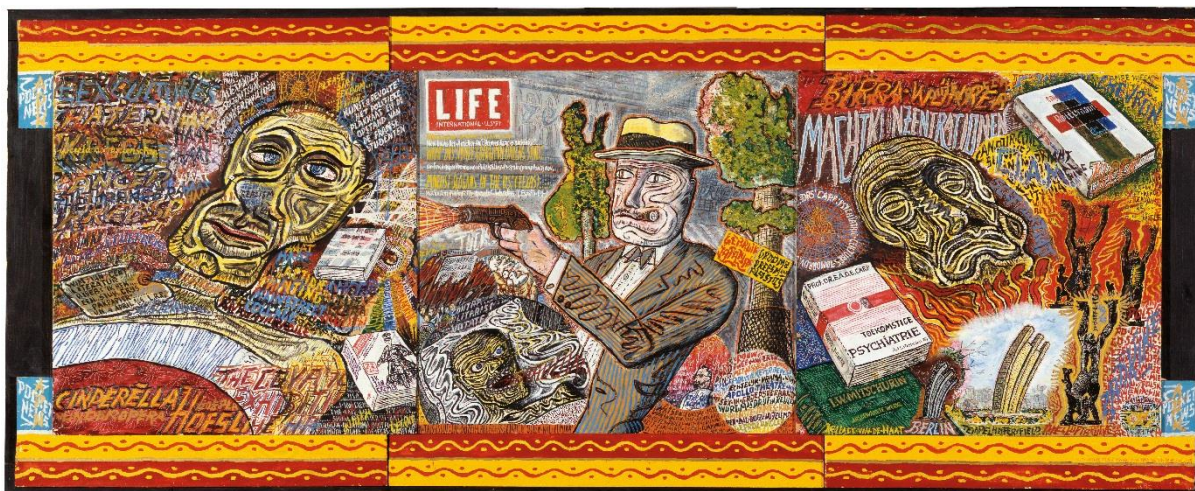


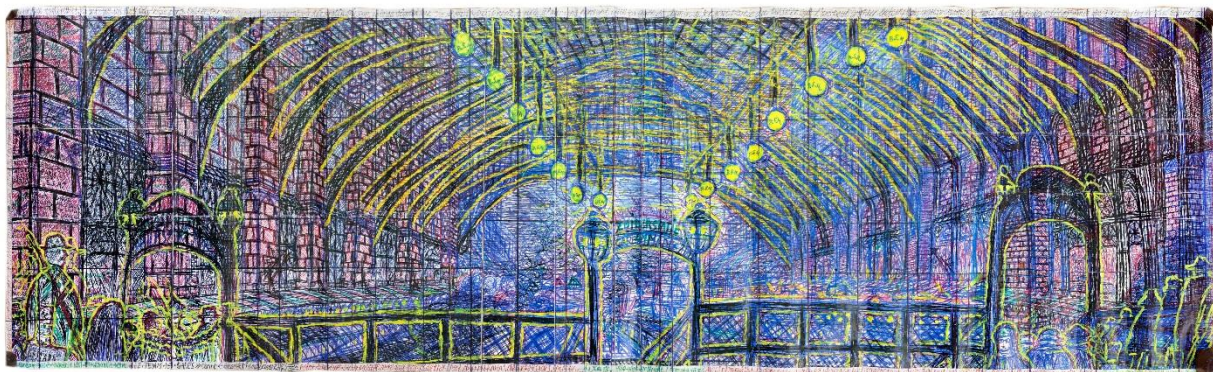
Press Release, Amsterdam, Wednesday 10 July 2019

WILLEM VAN GENK: WOEST
EXHIBITION OUTSIDER ART MUSEUM AMSTERDAM

The Outsider Art Museum (OAM) in Amsterdam presents *WOEST* ('Fierce'), a comprehensive exhibition of works by the Netherlands' most famous Outsider artist, Willem van Genk. The museum is providing a platform for this remarkable artist, with over 60 works from Dutch and international collections, some of which have never been exhibited before. The exhibition opens on 19 September 2019 and ends on 15 March 2020. It will then travel to the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne and the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.



Willem van Genk, *Collage of Hate*, 1975, mixed media on hardboard, 65 x 168 cm, Stichting Willem van Genk



Willem van Genk, *Bruxelles Central*, 1994, mixed media on paper, 61.5 x 120.5 cm, Museum Charlotte Zander

WOEST is a journey through Willem van Genk's restless mind. His quest for meaning in a world that baffled him led him to create overwhelming art. Van Genk (1927–2005) initially painted astonishing panoramas of cities. His later oil paintings on panels joined by nails reflected his fragmented world. Fascism, communism, books, parades, maps, trains, trolleys, murders, executions, shooting gangsters, impressive monuments, sparkling fountains and portraits of famous men: his imaginative inner world flowed over his paintings in a multitude of colours.

In the course of her international research, curator and art historian Ans van Berkum discovered remarkable works that will be exhibited in the Netherlands for the first time. Other special loans include *Metrostation Opéra*, a splendid depiction of the Paris metro station from the Stedelijk Museum collection, and the magnificent *Kiev Station Moskou* from the Rijksmuseum.

The exhibition has been designed by renowned Flemish fashion designer Walter Van Beirendonck. He is a great admirer of Willem van Genk's work: 'The energy, force and audacity with which van Genk creates art moves me. I hope visitors will be intrigued by his multi-faceted talent and allow themselves to be drawn into the rich world of his imagination.'

During an audio tour, journalist and publicist Hugo Borst explores Willem van Genk's dynamic imagination. Mr Borst is also fascinated by the artist's work: 'I think he is one of this country's best-kept secrets. Not many people know that Willem van Genk is one of the Netherlands' greatest twentieth-century artists.'

'WOEST' will be held at the Outsider Art Museum at the Hermitage Amsterdam from 19 September 2019 until 15 March 2020. The accompanying catalogue published by Lannoo is available for €24.99.

CONCERT

Classical music was an important source of inspiration for Willem van Genk — he described his works as 'symphonies that come out of my brain'. He was above all enthralled by the music and ideas of Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975), who resisted all forms of oppression. Jules van Hessen will conduct a performance of Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony ('Leningrad') at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam on Monday 21 October in honour of Willem van Genk.

Note for the press:

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