



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Invitation

Roosevelt Lecture
by Valika Smeulders
on Thursday 9 November 2023



Valika Smeulders, born on Curaçao, is head of the Department of History at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. From 2017 till 2020 she was conservator at the Rijksmuseum and at the same time did postdoctoral research at KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden on the research project "Traveling Caribbean Heritage."

Valika Smeulders studied Languages and Cultures of Latin America at Leiden University and got a PhD from the Erasmus University Rotterdam on *Slavernij in perspectief*. Her latest publications include *Slavernij* (co-author, 2021), *Het koloniale en slavernijverleden van Hofstad Den Haag* (editor and co-author, 2022), a chapter in *Staat en slavernij* (2023) and *Ons koloniale verleden in 50 voorwerpen* (editor, 2023).

In 2019 Valika Smeulders received the Black Achievement Award in the category Education and Research.



SPEAKING ABOUT SLAVERY. THE RIJKSMUSEUM, ITS COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

LECTURER Valika Smeulders

DATE Thursday 9 November 2023 at 4 p.m.

LOCATION Auditorium (Filmzaal), Provinciehuis, Abdij 9, 4331 BK Middelburg

In 1863, The Netherlands officially abolished slavery in its Caribbean colonies. In 2022 and 2023 the highest officials of the Dutch State, Prime Minister and King, issued apologies for the injustice of the slavery past and spoke about the need to join forces to build a common future. What is the role of museums in this future "beyond the comma"?

In this Roosevelt Lecture, Valika Smeulders, head of the Department of History at Rijksmuseum, will speak about the aftermath of the 2021 exhibition on Slavery, on how the museum world is changing and what is next for the Rijksmuseum.

The lecture is in English, but you are more than welcome to ask a question in Dutch.

To attend the lecture, please register [here](#).



The Roosevelt Lecture series is
sponsored by the



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