

MARCH 16TH - 25TH 2018

Dear Vassar Travelers,

As Vassar faculty members and friends who greatly enjoy each other's areas of expertise, we are delighted to invite you to join us for an arts adventure, centering on Amsterdam, one of the most historically, culturally and aesthetically interesting cities in the world, as vividly recounted in our suggested reading for the trip: Russell Shorto's *Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City* of 2013.

Our goal will be to experience and discuss a range of major artistic creations, in art, music and dance. Throughout the trip our explorations will take us to a selection of magnificent Dutch museums in Amsterdam itself, also ranging beyond the city to the Frans Hals Museum in nearby Haarlem, The Mauritshuis in The Hague, the Dutch royal palace Het Loo at Appeldoorn, and the Kröller-Müller Museum within the lovely national nature reserve of the "High Velvet" at Otterloo. Short informal lectures before various visits will prepare everyone for major works on view in each museum, and for appreciating the architecture and history of the museum itself. During each visit, generous time will also be available for everyone to freely wander through the galleries in order to make their own discoveries or discuss what they are seeing.

In dance, we will focus on Holland as a hub of important contemporary dance: the culmination of our dance events will be a performance by the Dutch National Ballet entitled *Dutch Doubles*, an evening of three one-act ballets, all world premieres and all choreographed by Dutch choreographers. The choreographers are Ernst Meisner, Annabelle Ochoa Lopez (who was recently part of a residency at Vassar College) and distinguished Dutch choreographer Hans Van Manen, who at 85 years of age is still creating vibrant new work. We will meet the Artistic Director of Het National Ballet, Ted Brandsen, to discuss the importance of new creations in this art form, known best for its 19th-century works. On our trip to The Hague we will spend time with Ros Anderson Dunn who will talk to us about her fascinating career dancing in Nederlands Dance Theater and staging the works of the renowned choreographer Jiri Kylian. We will travel to Lelystad to see a performance of Het National's junior company and to Rotterdam for a performance of the venerable Dutch contemporary dance company Scapino, the oldest dance company in the Netherlands.

Some of us may be more familiar with Amsterdam and its surroundings than others, but the dual focus of our trip should provide opportunities for many lively and illuminating conversations about matters of great interest to us all. We hope that you will join us as we explore and share what promises to be a unique, edifying and, above all, extremely enjoyable experience.

With warm regards,

Susan Donahue Kuretsky '63
Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Art

John Meehan
Professor of Dance
Director, Vassar Repertory Dance Theater
Frances Daly Fergusson Chair in the Humanities



THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$4980**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$1480**

Prices are available from many other departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in the [Hampshire Hotel - Amsterdam American](#) with all hotel taxes and service charges included
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Vassar hosts and Discover Europe tour guide throughout
Local guides for sightseeing and excursions as required
- PORTERAGE:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary
- TICKETS:** Best seats for performances at the Concertgebouw and by the Scapino Ballet and the Dutch National Ballet

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Information on purchasing coverage will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH - Evening departure from your chosen international gateway. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH - Morning arrival in Amsterdam. Your flight will be met to transfer to our city-center hotel. We have arranged for your rooms to be ready immediately upon arrival and, after checking in, there will be time to unpack, relax and find some lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon a local guide will introduce the highlights of the city – from a canal boat! Amsterdam was built around a network of canals that crisscross the city and they provide the best way to see most of the major sites. This evening we will gather for a welcome reception and introductory lecture, followed by dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

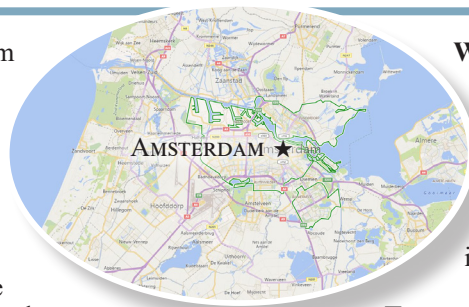


SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH - After a leisurely free morning in the city, we will be travelling to the nearby town of Lelystad for an afternoon performance by the Het National Ballet's Junior Company. We'll travel with them on their bus and have free time for lunch in Lelystad while they prepare for the 3.30 pm performance. We'll return to Amsterdam

with the dancers on their bus after the show. This evening we will have dinner at a local restaurant with Ted Brandsen, the Artistic Director of the Het National Ballet. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

MONDAY, MARCH 19TH - Our excursion today takes us to the seat of government of the Netherlands (not to be confused with the capital city, Amsterdam), the ancient port city of Den Haag (The Hague). We'll take a short tour of the city center and then visit the Mesdag Panorama. This amazing canvas (nearly 400 feet long and 46 feet high) was commissioned from the artist Hendrik Willem Mesdag in 1880 and shows the seaside town of Scheveningen as it was in 1881. Then we'll break for lunch, where we will be joined by Ros Anderson Dunn, who will talk to us about her career in Nederlands Dance Theater and her subsequent work traveling the world staging the works of the brilliant choreographer and former director of NDT, Jiri Kylian. After lunch we'll take a tour of the Mauritshuis, the Royal Picture Gallery named after Prince John Maurice of Nassau, whose 17th-century residence now houses the collection. We return to Amsterdam for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH - Today's excursion takes us to the east of Amsterdam towards the city of Apeldoorn. Our first stop will be to visit the Het Loo Palace, home of the Dutch royal family and now a national museum. To the south of the palace lies the De Hoge Veluwe National Park, 14,000 acres of nature reserve and home to the Kröller-Müller National Museum, housing an important collection of sculpture and art, specializing in the works of Van Gogh. We'll have free time for lunch and then enjoy a guided tour of the museum. There may also be time for individual explorations in the sculpture garden before we return to Amsterdam for a traditional *rijstafel* dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21ST - A day in the city today. We'll begin with another private lecture in our series and then travel across town to the Opera House, where we will be able to sit in on a ballet class. We'll take a break for lunch and then come back to attend a rehearsal with the full orchestra. The evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND - After a leisurely breakfast, Prof. Kuretsky will give a lecture on some of the highlights you are about to see at the Rijksmuseum. We'll then wander over to the newly-refurbished museum for a short guided tour (approx. one hour) of the museum's highlights. The afternoon will be free to visit some of the other museums in the city (perhaps the nearby Van Gogh Museum). This evening we'll gather for dinner and then attend a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at the Royal Concertgebouw, Amsterdam's internationally acclaimed concert hall. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

FRIDAY, MARCH 23RD - Today there is a full day excursion to the west of the city, with a lecture by Prof. Kuretsky at the hotel before we depart. Our first stop will be the city of Haarlem for a tour of the Frans Hals Museum. After lunch and free time to pursue individual interests, we head south out of the city. The gardens of Keukenhof are located in the heart of the spectacular bulbfields of Holland, which will be approaching full bloom at this time of year. From Keukenhof we continue south to the port city of Rotterdam. There will be free time (Susan Kuretsky will take those interested for a brief tour of the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen) to explore and to have dinner, before we attend a performance of *Scala* by the Scapino Ballet Company. We return to Amsterdam late this evening after the performance. **(B) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH - Our final free day in Amsterdam will be crowned by attending the world premier of *Dutch Doubles*, a trilogy of works by Hans van Manen, Ernst Meisner and Anabelle Lopez Ochoa (who was at Vassar for a residency with Daniil Simkin), created in close collaboration with musicians they admire. We'll have dinner at the hotel before the performance and have been invited to attend a reception after the performance. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

Sunday, March 25th - This morning there may be time for some last-minute souvenir shopping before your transfer back to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport for return flights to the USA. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**



Key to included meals:
B - breakfast,
L - lunch,
D - dinner

Please note that at this early stage of trip planning, there may well be other meetings with leading figures in the dance world and chances to attend rehearsals and classes that have not yet been finalized.



YOUR HOST, SUSAN DONAHUE KURETSKY, is the Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Art and a member of Vassar's class of 1963. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University and taught at Boston University before coming back to Vassar. A specialist in the art of the Netherlands, she has published a monograph on the Dutch genre painter Jacob Ochtervelt, numerous articles on Rembrandt and seventeenth century print-making, co-authored the catalogue of Dutch paintings at the Detroit Institute of Arts and produced the 2005 traveling exhibition, *Time and Transformation in Seventeenth Century Dutch Art*. That experience led to the development of a course called "The Museum in History, Theory and Practice," while recent articles on science and technology in Dutch art have been inspired by teaching a Vassar seminar called "Art and Science in the Age of Vermeer." Her current project – a book to be titled *Rembrandt's Animals* – will explore a largely ignored aspect of this artist's work in relation to the artistic and scientific issues of his period.



YOUR HOST, JOHN MEEHAN was a principal dancer with the Australian Ballet, American Ballet Theater and was a frequent guest artist with the New York City Ballet and National Ballet of Canada. He has partnered many of the world's great ballerinas including Dame Margot Fonteyn, Natalia Makarova, Merrill Ashley, Gelsey Kirkland, Cynthia Gregory, Karen Kain, and the Australian ballet stars Marilyn Rowe and Marilyn Jones. John has choreographed ballets for The Australian Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Washington Ballet, Metropolitan Opera, and Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Meehan also served as the artistic director of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The American Ballet Theatre Studio Company and the Hong Kong Ballet. In 2013 Meehan was named to the Frances Daly Fergusson Chair in the Humanities at Vassar College, where he is currently a professor of dance and the Director of Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre.

REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- i). Please type or print.
- ii). Make checks payable to Discover Europe, Ltd.
- iii). Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
- iv). Complete both sides of this form.
- v). Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your deposit of \$500 per person. Keep the top section for your records.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS:

1. PASSENGER DETAILS

- i). Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your "Known As" or preferred name, if applicable.
- ii). Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
- iii). Address. If you have a different address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.
- iv). Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you require any special meals.
- v). Health Information. A certain amount of walking is involved in this trip. Check the itinerary with your physician to ensure a safe and comfortable journey. Travelers requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion.

2. EMERGENCY CONTACT

This information is essential.

3. INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. (Please note that extra charges for transportation to and from the destination airport may be incurred). If you need help arranging connecting flights from your local airport to an international departure city, we will be happy to arrange those for you. There is a nominal charge of \$40 per ticket for this service.

4. ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.

- i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
- ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.



AMSTERDAM BACKSTAGE (0316/VAA)

PASSPORT NAME:

1. _____
TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

2. _____
TITLE FIRST MIDDLE LAST

KNOWN AS: 1. _____ 2. _____

1. PASSPORT NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION _____ DOB _____

2. PASSPORT NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PREFERRED TELEPHONE: (____) _____ work/cell/home
circle one

SECONDARY TELEPHONE: (____) _____ work/cell/home
circle one

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: _____

HEALTH INFORMATION: _____

VASSAR AFFILIATION: _____

OTHER COMMENTS OR NOTES: _____

TRIP DETAILS

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

DEPARTURE AIRPORT OR CITY: _____



PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.

95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431

TERMS & CONDITIONS

GENERAL

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
3. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
4. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., Vassar College their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
5. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
6. Conduct During the Tour: You are also responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, in our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A deposit of \$500 must accompany this completed form.
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 15-20 participants. Should we end up with less than 15 people, Discover Europe will work with Vassar College to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

REFUND POLICY

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty per person.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
 - 90-61 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person
 - 60 - 31 days prior to departure: \$2000 per person
 - Fewer than 30 days prior to departure: no refund
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Trip cancellation insurance is not included in your Discover Europe tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Information describing the services of a recommended travel insurance company will be made available to you upon registration.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferrable.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions on *Amsterdam Backstage* are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.



EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

FLIGHT INFORMATION

(Please check one)

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights? Yes No

Flight details (if self-arranged): _____

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS (Please check one)

I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

I will be sharing with: _____

We would like a double twin-bedded room

PERMISSIONS

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list. Yes No

SIGNATURES

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____