

Report by the Supervisory Board

General

The Supervisory Board (hereafter referred to as the SB) met five times in 2013. A central issue in discussions with the directors, alongside regular subjects such as finances and organisation, was the accommodation at the Van Gogh Museum (hereafter referred to as the VGM). Particular attention was paid to the return of the VGM's top exhibits from the Hermitage Amsterdam and the reopening of the museum following major renovations. The SB also focused on preparations for the construction of a new entrance on Museumplein and the museum's new strategy for the period 2014-2017.

Accommodation

The accommodation projects can be subdivided into:

- **Maintenance and Fire Safety:** the Rietveld Building was closed from September 2012 through April 2013 for essential maintenance and targeted investment in fire safety. During this temporary closure 75 of the VGM's top exhibits were displayed to the public in the Hermitage Amsterdam. The SB closely monitored the project and was delighted when this substantial undertaking was completed on time and within budget. The Rietveld Building was festively reopened on 1 May with the exhibition *Van Gogh at work*.
- **New entrance:** the present entrance on Paulus Potterstraat is unable to cope with large visitor flows. As \pm 1.5 million people visit the VGM every year, the museum regularly reaches its capacity limit. There has been close investigation of the potential for a new entrance attached to the Kurokawa Wing on Museumplein. At the beginning of 2014 the SB approved an extensive building plan for the new entrance.

The new entrance building will be constructed in close collaboration with the Government Buildings Agency, which was also closely involved in the Maintenance and Fire Safety project. An ambitious timeframe provides for the entrance to open in the summer of 2015. Important aspects of the project highlighted in discussions with the directors are available funding, the effects of the new entrance on running the VGM in the long term and the short term, and the timeframe. An important point of view has always been that the VGM's collection must remain accessible to the public.

Annual accounts and budget

The 2013 annual accounts and 2014 budget were discussed and approved by the SB.

Directors and organisation

On 1 May 2013 Mr F. van Koetsveld took his leave as managing director of the VGM. The SB is grateful to Mr van Koetsveld for the contribution he has made to the museum over the previous seven years. Mr A. Dönszelmann was appointed new managing director with effect from 1 May 2013, and will serve as one of the two directors of the VGM, alongside Mr A. Rüger, the general director.

Supervisory Board composition

Mr J. Cuno resigned as a member of the SB with effect from March 2013 when he attained the maximum term he was allowed to serve. Recruitment of a new member with a strong international museum profile was completed in early 2014 with the appointment of Gary Tinterow. Mr Tinterow is currently director of The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas. Mr P. Tieleman was reappointed as a member of the SB for a period of four years.

Supervisory Board activities

Procedures

The SB gathers five times a year at meetings attended by all members. The chair of the SB also consults regularly with the VGM's general director. During these consultations they discuss both ongoing issues and items on the SB's agenda. Members of the SB further serve on two committees:

- the Audit Committee, established in 2010, with Mr P. Tieleman and Mr R. Dijkgraaf as representatives. The Audit Committee is involved in financial reporting, the budget and the quality of the financial organisation and reporting.
- the Building Committee, established in 2011, with Mrs A.J. Kellermann and Mrs T.A. Maas-de Brouwer as representatives.

The Building Committee focuses on the VGM's challenging, large-scale projects. In 2013 the committee regularly met to discuss the New Entrance project. Its members were further apprised of developments relating to the Maintenance & Fire Safety projects and also kept an eye on the progress of the Rietveld Building's renovations.

Annual accounts 2013

The 2013 annual accounts were discussed at the Audit Committee's meeting on 17 March, when the external auditor reported his findings from the audit of the 2013 accounts. The Audit Committee presented the annual accounts to the SB with a recommendation to approve these. The SB approved the 2013 annual accounts in conformance with Article 8 paragraph 1 subsection b of the VGM's statutes.

Governance Code for Culture

In 2013 the SB noted with interest the new Governance Code for Culture. The SB endorses the importance of suitable 'governance'. It has been observed that many of the principles of good governance and supervision are already applied within the VGM and statutorily guaranteed in a number of cases. Further documentation of the role and remit of the SB will include the establishment of SB Regulations.

In conclusion

The SB acknowledges that, during the year under report, the directors and staff of the VGM played significant roles in relation to the major renovation of the Rietveld Building, the collection's temporary relocation and the *Vincent* presentation of top exhibits in the Hermitage Amsterdam, and the exhibition *Van Gogh at work* with which the museum reopened in May 2013. The SB expresses its sincere thanks to the directors and staff for their efforts. The dedication and involvement of the VGM's organisation provides a healthy basis for a challenging 2014.

Thus approved on 20 March 2014.

Mrs T.A. Maas-de Brouwer (chair)
Mr P. Tieleman (member)
Mrs A.J. Kellermann (member)
Mr R.H. Dijkgraaf (member)
Mr H. A. van Beuningen (member)