

CfP: ANKK Sponsored Session, HNA Conference, Amsterdam/The Hague, 2nd–5th June 2021
Netherlandish Mobility in Times of Crisis (1500–1700)

SESSION ORGANIZERS

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Pandemics, wars, economic declines, religious or political persecution, natural catastrophes, famine – crises such as these are, unfortunately, not limited to our present days but have always had an impact on the life and work of different social groups, amongst them artists. This session aims to provide a forum for inquiries into the life and work of artists from the Northern and Southern Netherlands in the period from 1500 until 1700 whose mobility was directly affected by different kinds of crises. It will focus on both the ways in which crises did – or at times did not – affect artists' private, social, and professional lives, taking into account artists who faced a crisis in their place of residence, their newly adopted home or along their travel route.

Political and religious persecution may have been the most prevalent factors for (changes of) migration and travel intentions, but in the first half of the 17th century, Europe was also threatened by the Black Death. Artists such as Anthony van Dyck experienced its consequences while staying in Italy, where he was forced into a year of lockdown in Palermo in 1624. In line with the increasing number of debates and research projects on artists' mobility in (art) historical research, this session will consider an aspect of artists' mobility that has not yet been comprehensively investigated. As is often the case, the particularities of our own historical moment encourage us to renew our attention to related circumstances in the past.

We welcome qualitative and quantitative (case) studies of artists (or groups of artists) from or traveling to and within the Northern and Southern Netherlands whose trajectories intersected with various kinds of crisis. Possible questions of interest include:

- What kinds of crises did artists face within the Northern and Southern Netherlands in the Early Modern period?
- How did crises affect artists' plans to emigrate, immigrate, and travel?
- What effect (positive and negative) did the forced changes of plan have on their work?
- How did crises hinder and alter “international” collaboration and cultural as well as artistic exchange?
- How did crises complicate artistic and architectural projects that depended on materials or craftsmanship coming from abroad?
- What impact did crises have on the number and quality of foreign commissions?
- Which methods and methodologies can be used to study artists' mobility in relation to historical crises (e.g. the Social History of the Artist)?
- Which written (archival and literary) and visual sources attest to artists' mobility in times of crisis and in what ways?
- What role did the city authorities and guilds play in times of crisis (e.g. in promoting or impeding travel abroad)?

We invite 300-word abstracts of the proposed papers to be sent along with a short academic CV to madeline.delbe@gmx.de and sabrina.lind@ugent.be before 1st September 2020. Successful candidates will be informed by 1st October 2020.