

# Open Call

## 70th anniversary of 'The Destroyed City' by Ossip Zadkine

This year marks exactly seventy years since Ossip Zadkine's sculpture 'The Destroyed City' was unveiled in Rotterdam. The embassy of the Netherlands in France and the Musée Zadkine in Paris are launching a joint Open Call for visual artists from the Netherlands. The call is to reflect on the current significance of this iconic sculpture by Ossip Zadkine with a new artwork to be created especially for this Open Call.

### *What do we ask?*

The embassy of the Netherlands and the Musée Zadkine are launching a joint Open Call for visual artists who live and work in the Netherlands for the production of a work representing a contemporary interpretation of Ossip Zadkine's sculpture 'The Destroyed City' (1953). The art discipline for the artwork to be presented is free, in other words, it may also be a discipline other than sculpture. Please note, however, that the work should not be monumental in order to be on the scale of the museum-studio.

The winner of the Open Call will have the opportunity to exhibit his or her artwork from June to September 2023 in the Musée Zadkine in Paris. Depending on the art discipline, form and proposed materials, the winning work will be on display outdoors in the museum's garden or indoors in the garden studio.

**Send by Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March a concise plan in English to [agnes.raux@minbuza.nl](mailto:agnes.raux@minbuza.nl) in one PDF-file with a design of your proposed artwork, thereby following the requirements of this Open Call.**

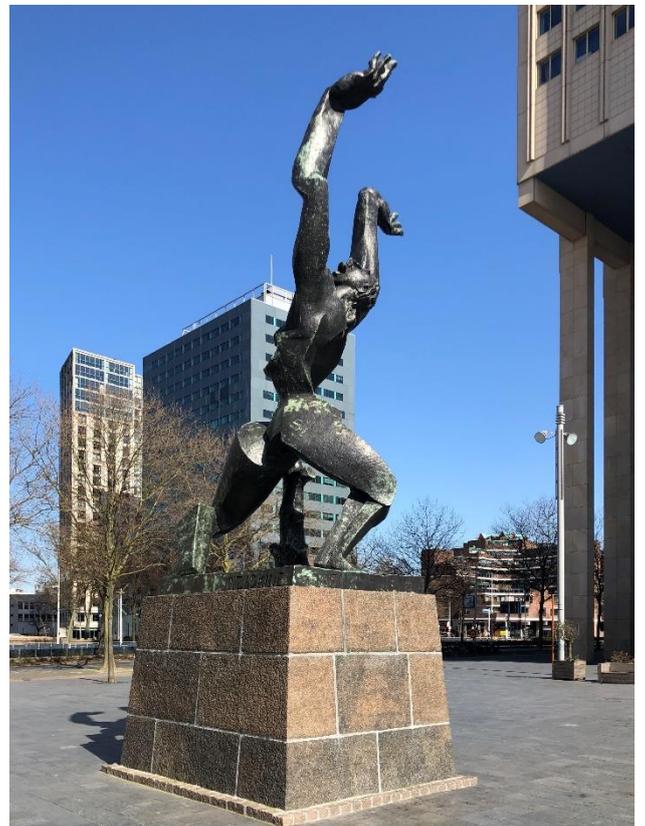
Your plan should include:

- a visualisation of what the work will look like, including materials, colouring and dimensions;
- a written explanation of your proposal (max. 1 A4 page), in which you relate to the reason and background of this Open Call;
- an itemised budget in which you distinguish between manufacturing, material and transport costs.

Proposals with a multidisciplinary character enjoy our special interest. So be especially encouraged to think about a possible fringe programme. Consider, for instance, a workshop with French art students and/or a workshop for children.



View of the garden and Musée Zadkine © Musée Zadkine



'The Destroyed City' by Ossip Zadkine in Rotterdam



Sketch of 'The Destroyed City' by Ossip Zadkine © Musée Zadkine



View of the studio of Ossip Zadkine © Musée Zadkine

#### *What do we offer?*

Both the museum and the embassy of the Netherlands in France will actively communicate to the outside world and organise an opening and joint press event around the unveiling of the winning artwork.

As compensation for making the new artwork, we will offer the winner of the Open Call an amount of 5.000€ for material and production costs. We will also cover transportation and installation costs, based on the submitted itemised budget (see above). On top of this, the winner will receive a daily allowance, travel and accommodation costs in Paris for the equivalent of the period of one week.

The artwork remains in the possession of the winner and in principle returns to him or her after the exhibition at Musée Zadkine.

Besides an exhibition featuring the winning work at the Musée Zadkine, possibly a selection of entries for the Open Call will be exhibited during the same period at the Atelier Néerlandais in Paris.

#### *Selection of the winner*

The jury will announce the winning proposal during the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. The jury will consist of Cécilie Champy-Vinas, director of Musée Zadkine, Friso Wijnen, head of culture and communications at the embassy of the Netherlands in France, and Dr. Susan Hogervorst, historian and associate professor at Open University of the Netherlands and co-author of the book published in 2015, "Rotterdam and the bombardment. 75 years of remembrance and commemoration".

#### *Questions and submission of proposals*

For questions and to submit proposals, please contact Agnès Raux, senior culture officer at the embassy of The Netherlands in France: [agnes.raux@minbuza.nl](mailto:agnes.raux@minbuza.nl)



atelier  
néerlandais



VILLE DE  
PARIS



MUSÉE ZADKINE



Gemeente  
Rotterdam

### Background information

*This year marks exactly 70 years since 'The Destroyed City' by Ossip Zadkine was unveiled in Rotterdam. For many Dutch people, this bronze sculpture is one of the most recognisable symbols of the horrors of World War II. Ossip Zadkine himself also assigned 'The Destroyed City' a special significance. The French artist of Belarusian descent considered the work one of the highlights of his oeuvre.*

*Zadkine reportedly got the inspiration for the sculpture while on his way from Paris after World War II to visit his friend, the doctor, writer and artist Hendrik Wiegersma, in Deurne in the Netherlands. As the train passed through Europe's bombed cities, a dismayed Zadkine saw the cities' obliterated centres.*

*The artist later said the following about his then already famous sculpture: 'It (sculpture) wants to embody the human suffering that a city had to undergo that only with God's grace wanted to live and flourish like a forest. A cry of horror at the inhuman cruelty of this executioner's work.'*

*The city of Rotterdam received Zadkine's sculpture as a gift from the management of the Dutch department store the Bijenkorf. During World War II, 737 Jewish employees of the Bijenkorf, a family-run business originally Jewish, were murdered by the Nazi regime. This makes 'The Destroyed City' also a monument to the memory of the persecution and dehumanisation of Jews.*

*On 15 May 1953, exactly 13 years after the German bombing of Rotterdam, 'the Destroyed City' was unveiled in the presence of Zadkine on Plein 1940. 'This sculpture is destined to preserve through the centuries the memory of one of the deepest points in the history of our city and of our people,' Mayor Gerard Ewout van Walsum spoke on that occasion.*

*Now, almost 70 years later, the unmistakable message of 'The Destroyed City' about the ruthlessness and horror of war has lost nothing of its eloquence. Zadkine's indictment is once again extremely topical as war rages once again on the European continent and the government in Moscow exposes the people of Ukraine to violence and terror on a daily basis.*

#### *About the Musée Zadkine:*

*Just a stone's throw from the Luxembourg Gardens and Montparnasse, the Zadkine Museum is dedicated to the work of the Russian-born sculptor Ossip Zadkine (1888-1967), a master of direct carving and a major figure of the School of Paris and of modernity in sculpture. The museum, nestled in the greenery of his sculpture-filled garden, was the artist's home and workshop. The presentation of the collections highlights the work of the material and creates a dialogue under the light of the glass roofs, between the pieces of work made of wood, carved stone, terracotta and plaster.*

*More information can be found on the museum's website:*

*<https://www.zadkine.paris.fr/en>*

#### *About the Atelier Néerlandais:*

*The Atelier Néerlandais is an open, inviting space for Dutch cultural creators, cultural entrepreneurs and cultural institutions seeking to establish a position in the creative sector in France and internationally. The Atelier Néerlandais' spaces are used by the embassy of the Netherlands in France and by the Atelier Néerlandais' own member association, which currently has around 150 members from various cultural disciplines.*

*<https://atelierneerlandais.com/>*