



Press Release  
Amsterdam Museum  
6 March 2013

## **Amsterdam Museum presents *The Sound of Amsterdam***

***How did the city used to sound? Which sounds disappeared? Which new sounds could be heard? What did those sounds signify for residents?***

**Starting 28 March, the Amsterdam Museum is presenting an installation where visitors can experience how the largest square of the city sounded circa 1895, 1935 and 2012. This installation of soundscapes is interactive: sounds of carts, street vendors, clocks and cars can be added or eliminated. The sounds comprising the soundscapes were recorded last year, but they were produced by authentic objects of days gone by, such as carts, cars and carriages. The installation *The Sound of Amsterdam* can be found in room 17 of the museum, across from the impressive Dam Square painted by Breitner in 1898, slated to return soon to the Amsterdam Museum from the Stedelijk Museum. The recorded noises heard on headphones create the effect as if you were immersed in Dam Square in Breitner's work. You can hear how technological changes can influence the soundscape of the city.**

Besides the soundscapes, there are recorded audio stories to hear about how city denizens dealt with noise and silence, how the experience of sound changed during the occupation and the battle fought over sound. These audio stories recount in words and sounds which role sound plays in the city and the significance city dwellers ascribe to that sound.

The concept for this project was developed by the *Soundscapes of the Urban Past* group of the University of Maastricht. It is based on research by Annelies Jacobs as part of her PhD dissertation under Prof. Karin Bijsterveld for which she hopes to receive her degree soon. The sounds of the soundscapes were recorded by Arnoud Traa of the Audio Department. Jessica Swinkels is the sound designer of the audio stories. The installation was developed by the U.S. company HMMH in cooperation with the Amsterdam Museum.

*Soundscapes of the Urban Past* is one of the projects within the Cultural Dynamics programme of the Netherlands Association for Scientific Research (NWO).

### **About the Amsterdam Museum**

The Amsterdam Museum tells the story of the city of Amsterdam; about then, now and soon. The four key values of entrepreneurship, free thinking, creativity and citizenship are the lifeblood of the city. Based on these concepts, the history is brought to life and linked to today and the future. The museum considers it its social mission to make the story of Amsterdam accessible and to present it to as broad an audience as possible.

Note for the editors:

For more information and graphics, you can contact Martine Willekens, Amsterdam Museum public relations, [pr@amsterdammuseum.nl](mailto:pr@amsterdammuseum.nl), tel. +31 (0)20 5231711  
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**UNVEILING on 27 March**

The festive unveiling of Soundscapes will take place at 12 noon on 27 March.

We would like to invite you to be there.

You can register via [pr@amsterdammuseum.nl](mailto:pr@amsterdammuseum.nl)