LET'S TALK ABOUT WATER

DELFIT

FILM AND WATER FESTIVAL

MON 6 FEB - SAT 18 FEB 2017
Welcome to the fifth **LET’S TALK ABOUT WATER**, the film and water festival in Delft. We use the power of cinema to inform and to spark debate on a wide variety of topics that are connected through water. This year we add two days in **AMSTERDAM** in cooperation with AMS Institute, with an academic program and films in **De Balie**.

This year’s theme is **WATER AND POWER**. There are many ways to interpret the word ‘power’ as played out in the films we are showing. Where water is a valuable commodity, control over water plays a role in events and communities. Knowledge and communication can empower people (and countries) against controlling forces. Oil used to be a reason to fight a war, but water will probably make us fight in the future. And in war, facts and the access to useful, true information are often the first casualties.

In the very personal story of our first film, **WISTFUL WILDERNESS**, filmmaker Digna Sinke asks herself how to even make an informed decision about the little island that ‘had to be’ made into nature. Big states ‘need’ to show their power to its citizens with colossal projects like the **SOUTH TO NORTH** Water Transfer in China. Trans-boundary conflicts loom between nations that need to share resources and make decisions that have consequences on the other side of their borders, like the countries in the Nile Basin. The **OPEN WATER DEMOCRACY LAB** at UNESCO-IHE works with journalists and others on a shared narrative in that region (communicating to prevent conflict). On Saturday 11 February we spend a fun afternoon in the **Rietveld Theater** with cinema, music and food on this subject, while also enjoying the European premiere of Ethiopia’s most successful film ever, **ABAS VS. VEGAS**, a love story set on the Nile.

Power mixes with money, and the other way around. Fixing and keeping our underground infrastructure up to date is difficult, because its value is not visible. A lunch seminar at **UNESCO-IHE** (**LIQUID ASSETS**) will discuss this subject. On the same day (Valentine’s Day) we will have the official kick-off of our film week at the **STUDENT**
NIGHT in Filmhuis Lumen, with a screening of Polanski’s classic CHINATOWN, a romantic thriller based on real events in the forties when corrupt LA officials and companies tried to wield power over and earn a lot of money from the procurement of water rights.

Instead of living our lives like everybody else, and adding to our carbon footprint, some people choose to radically change. Be it for themselves or to set an example, they stay a small minority, even though they might be living the solution to our problems. The beautiful documentary FREAK OUT! shows that more than a century ago some extraordinary young men and women tried it all out in the Alps – a fascinating portrait of idealism.

Another choice is to be on the frontline, like Leonardo DiCaprio in his comprehensive film BEFORE THE FLOOD about climate change, where he also puts some blame on scientists not communicating well.

We conclude this year’s festival on Saturday with a more activist film, HOW TO LET GO OF THE WORLD AND LOVE ALL THE THINGS CLIMATE CAN’T CHANGE. Film maker Josh Fox does not have answers, but he’s sure that changing our attitude could tip the balance, of power and climate change and maybe more...

A film and picture researcher for 40 years, specializing in science and history, LINDA LILIENFELD (director of Let’s Talk About Water) believes in the power of an image to tell a story and move people. It can electrify our conversation and help us understand our world in new ways. And we need to, because with climate change and human activity affecting the world, the lives of many people are at risk – and water knits it all together. More at WWW.LETSTALKABOUTWATER.COM
Let’s Talk... Amsterdam  
Two days with AMS in the City of Water

This year LET’S TALK ABOUT WATER teamed up with AMS INSTITUTE for an exciting two day spin-off in the beautiful CITY OF AMSTERDAM. With water at the very heart of this city’s past, present and future, bringing people, science and government together to work on water matters has been of vital importance since the beginning of Amsterdam’s very existence. But with rapid urbanization causing strain on the capital’s infrastructure, water quality and sanitation, talking about water and taking action are more important than ever.

Responding to these issues, AMS Institute unites industry, government, citizens and academia to conduct TOP-NOTCH RESEARCH in the city of Amsterdam focused on FIXING METROPOLITAN PROBLEMS that cannot be solved by one party alone. Recognizing film as a great way to spark conversation between people from all sectors and walks of life, the Institute has put together a thrilling set of speakers, movies and activities for the first ever LET’S TALK ABOUT WATER AMSTERDAM.

Join us on 8 and 9 February for stimulating seminars by MARGREET ZWARTEVEEN (Professor Water Governance at UNESCO-IHE and the University of Amsterdam), PETER GLAS (President, OECD Water Governance Initiative) and KEES VAN LEEUWEN (Principal Scientist at KWR and Professor in Water Management and Urban Development at Utrecht University) amongst many others. And be sure to get your tickets for our movies in de Balie, like the special screening of SOUTH TO NORTH on closing night when musicians Andy Moore and Yannis Kyriakides will perform the SOUNDRACK LIVE. (film description on page 19).

seminars: admission free  
register via “communications @ams-institute.org”

film + debate: ticket sales  
at De Balie and online: www.debalie.nl
**AMSTERDAM**

### WEDNESDAY 8 FEB

**11h00–15h30 SEMINAR** AMS Institute

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM** with Peter Glas (President OECD Water Governance Initiative), Margreet Zwarteveen (Prof. Water Governance at UNESCO-IHE and University of Amsterdam), Koen Weytingh (Founder ToekomstSterk)

**16h30 FILM + DEBATE** De Balie

**WISTFUL WILDERNESS** (Weemoed en Wildernis), followed by a panel with film director Digna Sinke, Koen Weytingh (Founder ToekomstSterk) and Linda Lilienfeld. See page 7.

**20h00 FILM + DEBATE** De Balie


**AMSTERDAM**

### THURSDAY 9 FEB

**13h30-15h30 SEMINAR** AMS Institute

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM** with Margreet Zwarteveen (Prof. Water Governance UNESCO-IHE and University of Amsterdam), Araceli Rojas Martinez Gracida (Asst. Prof. Archeology/Water Management in Ancient Mexico, Leiden University), Taneha Bacchin (Asst. Prof. Section Urban Design/ Delta Urbanism, TU Delft) – Moderated by: Linda Lilienfeld (founder Let’s Talk About Water)

**16h30 FILM + DEBATE** De Balie

**H20MX**, followed by a panel with Eva Gladeck (Founder and CEO at Metabolic), Araceli Rojas Martinez Gracida (Asst. Prof. Archeology/Water Management in Ancient Mexico, Leiden University), Taneha Bacchin (Asst. Prof. Section Urban Design/ Delta Urbanism) – Moderated by: Linda Lilienfeld (founder Let’s Talk About Water). See page 9.

**20h00 FILM + DEBATE** De Balie

**CINE-CONCERT: SOUTH TO NORTH**, followed by a panel with film director Antoine Boutet, Arjan van Timmeren (Scientific Director AMS Institute and Prof. Environmental Technology & Design, TU Delft), Nick van de Giesen (Head of Water Resources Management Chair, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, TU Delft), Svetlana Kharchenkov (researcher Chinese studies, Leiden University). See page 19.

Full Amsterdam program on [www.LetsTalkAboutWater.nl](http://www.LetsTalkAboutWater.nl)
Communicating water sensitive design

A week-long master class that aims to boost the development of the graduation projects of participating students of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism at TU Delft. This intensive program with exercises and input from renowned experts throughout the week, will help to deepen their projects and facilitate effective communication.

Visiting experts include Jeroen Rijke (UNESCO-IHE), Klaasjan Wardenaar (ecologist/landscape architect), Loes Witteveen (specialist in visual learning/complex problems), Jade Wissink, (communication manager Rijkswaterstaat), Emily Clark (Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science - CUAHSI.org), Annemarie Winkelhagen (Freshwater Advisor at WWF Netherlands).

**MON 6 FEB 10h00-12h30**
Lectures (introduction)

**TUE 7 FEB 10h00-12h30**
Lectures

Filmhuis Lumen – More info on page 9

**TUE 7 FEB 16h00**
FILM: WISTFUL WILDERNESS

**FRI 10 FEB 13h00-16h00**
Student presentations + Expert Reviews

**TU-Delft/ Architecture: LA-Studio**
Julianalaan 134 Delft
Digna Sinke will attend the screening in Amsterdam of her documentary *Wistful Wilderness*. In 1993 the decision was made to return grazing land on the tiny river island of *Tiengemeten*, in the Dutch Rhine/Meuse delta, into to nature. Sinke captured this slow process on film during fourteen long years. Agriculture made way for nature development, albeit designed on the drawing board. Farmers, planners and ecologists collided with each other and with the excessive Dutch passion for regulation. Technical details seemed to get lives of their own. In time Sinke started to get personally engaged – she was raised on a similar island herself – and her account of creating new nature turned into an impressive meditation on change and mortality, without getting sentimental. In celebrating the new, is there also room to mourn what gets lost? A poetic film about filmmaking, landscape and life.

**Farmers, officials, scientists and nature developers sometimes seem to live in different worlds. Are they able or willing to understand each other? • And do design decisions in the end actually bring the results policy makers aimed for?**

**In Amsterdam:** Dutch director and producer Digna Sinke (1949)

In Amsterdam followed by a panel discussion: see page 4 and 5

**admission €5**

**students/staff €3**

Filmhuis Lumen
Doelenplein 5 Delft
Whether the glass is half full or half empty isn’t the point of the effervescent Last Call at the Oasis. It’s whether there’ll be anything in the glass at all. Entertaining and funny as this documentary might be, it doesn’t sugarcoat the topic, or our future in any way. Water is the Earth’s most precious, and perhaps most endangered, commodity and its apocalypse is right around the corner. Illuminating the vital role water plays in our lives, the film explores multiple facets of the looming global water crisis, pollution, scarcity and commercialization. It exposes defects in the current system, shows communities already struggling with its ill-effects and highlights individuals championing revolutionary solutions to today’s water problems. Behind the often spectacular landscape photography, and a parade of spectacularly intelligent interviewees, the disquieting data warns us for a Crisis of Biblical Proportions.

Followed by a panel discussion.
More information on page 4 and 5

admission €5
students/staff €3
De Balie Kleine-Gartmanplantsoen 10 Amsterdam
How can a 22 MILLION mega-city become water sustainable? Built on a basin of a great lake, surrounded by mountains, without its own water supply and with little drainage, MEXICO CITY is facing a water crisis driven by geography, population and history. This environmental case study meticulously examines water shortage, waste and pollution, as well as their social consequences. Providing the city’s citizens with FRESH WATER from other regions and states each day, and getting rid of all the SEWAGE by exporting it out of town, is a herculean task. With a growing population, a depleted aquifer, and 40 percent of imported water lost to leaks, the challenges are huge. Using a visually magnificent and urban panorama, it’s an unsettling but beautiful watch as H2OMX combines personal stories with science, technology, infrastructure and politics, and shows how EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED.

Followed by a panel discussion. More information on page 4 and 5

admission €5
students/staff €3

De Balie Kleine-Gartman-plantsoen 10 Amsterdam
Join us on 11 February and spend your Saturday with us at the cosy Rietveld Theater and enjoy cinema, live music, great food and each other’s company. Together with UNESCO-IHE’s Open Water Democracy Lab (more info on the next page) and its coordinator Emanuele Fantini, we will be discussing water science and media in the Nile Basin in an informal setting. There will also be a screening of an Egyptian film (the title is a surprise) and the European premiere of Ethiopia’s most successful film of all-time, Abas vs. Vegas with film director Theodros Teshome as our guest! (see page 14) During the break between these films, we’ll have Live African Music, great food and drinks chosen and made by students and Lightning Talks by passionate students of UNESCO-IHE and the TU Delft. Violinist and singer Amal Guermazi will perform and talk about the music in the films of Egyptian Director Youssef Chahine.
Open Water Democracy Lab
Media, science and water cooperation in the Nile Basin

How do ideology, knowledge and popular culture shape narratives on transboundary water issues? What is the impact on international negotiations? **OPEN WATER DIPLOMACY LAB** explores how techno-scientific controversies on the Nile are debated in mainstream media and social networks in Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. The project aims at offering a space where water scientists, water journalists and water diplomats from different NILE COUNTRIES can engage in a process of common learning, co-production and dissemination of knowledge, to contribute to the emergence of shared narratives about the Nile. The project is implemented by UNESCO-IHE with THE NILE BASIN CAPACITY BUILDING NETWORK, AFRICAN WATER JOURNALISTS, SCIDEV.NET and UNIVERSITY OF WITS (Johannesburg), and it is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR WATER AND DEVELOPMENT.

**Water conflicts: are media and science part of the problem or part of the solution?**

As tensions grow over the Nile’s and other international rivers’ waters, a new research addresses the role that journalists and scientists play in fuelling conflicts or facilitating cooperation. "**Open Water Diplomacy Lab**" explains project coordinator Emanuele Fantini from UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education – aims at offering a space where water diplomats, water journalists and water scientists from different Nile basin countries can engage in a process of common learning and co-production of knowledge.

**Project strategy**

**Understanding**

The research will study how the relation between media, science and politics unfolds in the Eastern Nile basin,

Applying quantitative and qualitative methods we will look both at traditional and new media.

**Training**

Are you a journalist reporting on science and development issues? Join our training on water conflicts and cooperation.

Are you a researcher working on hot topic in the Nile basin? Join our training on media skills for water scientists.

**Co-producing**

Journalists and researchers will be offer small grants to develop "sandpit" projects on communicating science for water diplomacy.

Project teams will be trans-disciplinary and trans-national, involving participants from different Nile countries.

Program 2017

17 MON
6 FEB

MATE CLASS
10h00 – 12h30
Lectures
Architecture, Delft

17 TUE
7 FEB

MATE CLASS
10h00 – 12h30
Lectures
Architecture, Delft

17 WED
8 FEB

SEMINARS
11h00 – 15h30
Academic Program
AMS Institute, Amsterdam

17 THU
9 FEB

SEMINARS
13h30 – 15h30
Academic Program
AMS Institute, Amsterdam

17 FRI
10 FEB

MASTER CLASS
13h00 – 16h00
Lectures
TU Delft Library, ‘the Hive’

17 SAT
11 FEB

FILM  FUN
15h00 – 21h00
‘A Saturday on the Nile’
Rietveld Theater
Delft

Free, but please register at communications@ams-institue.org
TUESDAY 14 FEB – SATURDAY 18 FEB 2017

**TUE**
14 FEB

**WED**
15 FEB

**THU**
16 FEB

**FRI**
17 FEB

**SAT**
18 FEB

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**LUNCH SEMINAR**

*12h45 – 13h30*

**Liquid Assets**
UNESCO-IHE, Delft

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**FILM**

*21h30*

**Chinatown**
Valentine’s Day
Filmhuis Lumen, Delft

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**FILM**

*19h15*

**Freak Out!**
A history of Reform
Filmhuis Lumen, Delft

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**FILM**

*17h00*

**Before the Flood**
Leo and climate
UNESCO-IHE, Delft

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**FILM**

*19h15*

**South to North**
Sud eau nord déplacer
Filmhuis Lumen, Delft

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**FILM**

*13h45*

**How to let go... Action!**
Filmhuis Lumen, Delft
With this first Ethiopian film shot in HD and a semi-Hollywood production crew, **Theodros Teshome** (writer, producer and director) created the highest-grossing film of all-time in Ethiopia. Starring the director himself, **Abay vs. Vegas** tells the story of a love triangle that stretches from Ethiopia to the USA and promotes a righteous rural life in **Lake Tana**, source of **Blue Nile** (Abay), versus an anonymous and lascivious city life (Las Vegas). It premiered just before the building of the **Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam** (GERD) on the Blue Nile, close to the border with Sudan, and though by now it is almost completed, the controversies between **Egypt**, **Sudan** and **Ethiopia** still have to be solved: how long should it take to fill the reservoir? Which effects to expect downstream on other dams, sedimentation, loss to evaporation, seasonal flooding, fishing and agriculture?

How do countries define progress? Do we repeat the mistakes from the past? How to find the balance between growth, nature and the needs of those beyond our borders? And who decides?

**Theodros Teshome Kebede**
Ethiopia 2011, 135min

**Nick van de Giesen**, TU Delft, Water Resources Management, TAHMO Africa

**Rietveld Theater**
Rietveld 49 Delft
The aging water infrastructure systems in the US – some in the ground for more than 100 years – are neglected and in dire need of national and local attention. Though largely OUT OF SIGHT and OUT OF MIND, these drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems provide the basis for public health and safety, economic prosperity, and quality of life. Exploring history, engineering challenges, and political and economic realities in urban and rural locations, the documentary provides an understanding of the hidden assets the public takes for granted. But for system reliability cities must find the funds to rebuild eroding systems, separate sewer and stormwater flows, and to protect the watershed. Industry and environmental experts, government officials, front-line water workers and citizens reveal how their communities are working to ensure the viability of water infrastructure assets.

Do we realize how expensive it is to fix leaks? Do vulnerable cities have the capacity and funding to fix this aging infrastructure? Are there new technologies that can help?
Join us this **VALENTINE'S DAY** for the kickoff of Let's Talk About Water in Delft at the weekly Student Night in Filmhuis Lumen, with the perfect movie for the occasion: **CHINATOWN**. Roman Polanski’s thrilling film noir classic compresses decades of Los Angeles (water) facts and spicy fiction into one story, with a production design perfectly recreating the period. **JACK NICHOLSON** is our hero who specializes in matrimonial infidelities, when **FAYE DUNAWAY** asks him to follow the city's water commissioner. That’s the start of a series of interlocking schemes, corruption, murder, family secrets and **ROMANCE**. The factual details – the procurement of water supplies for the Southern California area, profitable land acquisitions by knowledgeable insiders, etc. – demonstrates the 'prairie metropolis morality' and power of LA's ruling families, only 35 years before the making of this film.

Where water is a valuable commodity it attracts corruption, crime and power struggles. What could the role of journalism, law enforcement or grassroots community initiatives be? Are scientists responsible for awareness and accurate information?

**Roman Polanski**
USA 1974, 135min

**Filmhuis Lumen**
Doelenplein 5 Delft

Admission €5
Students/staff €3
Already in the nineteenth century, **REFORM MOVEMENTS** emerged that criticized industrialization, materialism and growing cities. Modernity was a form of decline, not progress. In 1900 five young radical thinkers purchased a hill in the Alps and set about changing the world. While the ‘old world’ was not eager to embrace their feminism, veganism, free love and nudity, the artists and thinkers who frequented the place form a list of the **GREAT MINDS OF THE 20TH CENTURY**. Freud, Jung, and even Lenin, Paul Klee, Rudolf Steiner, Hermann Hesse. Future members of the New Age movement lived in this commune with internal struggles of its own. This beautifully assembled documentary itself is a reminder that one can reinvent the world. The intriguing narrative, archival photos with subtle animation and reenactments bring to vivid life this long-forgotten site of **CULTURAL REVOLUTION**.

How can we find the balance between living with nature and modernity (in every age)? Are experiments in living useful or even necessary?

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**admission** €5
**students/staff** €3

**Carl Javér**
Sweden 2016, 89min

**Freak Out!**
Activism before you knew it existed

**FILM**

WEDNESDAY 15 FEB 19h15

**Ruth Webber, UNESCO-IHE Manager Communication Office**

**Linda Lilienfeld, Founder Let’s Talk About Water**

**How can we find the balance between living with nature and modernity (in every age)? Are experiments in living useful or even necessary?**
As a celebrity with a mission, LEO DICAPRIO doesn’t necessarily know much about the extremely complicated concepts and the long list of issues he finds around the world. As we follow him in his steep learning curve, he is asking the same questions that we as viewers have, and are surprised and bewildered with him. Handsomely shot and entertainingly paced, we are provided with a comprehensive account and interviews with important players about CLIMATE CHANGE. Leonardo doesn’t leave us, without first convincing us of the urgency of the situation. And what is the responsibility of the SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY in communicating the information? Only a well informed public can change things for the better. And yes, here Leo turns to you: get informed, speak out and take action.
You could wonder if man has gone mad, or that the rationality of engineers just shows pragmatic brilliance. Stretching thousands of miles, the SOUTH-NORTH WATER TRANSFER PROJECT in China is unmatched. First envisioned by Mao in the fifties, it will take some 50 more years to finish. The idea is straightforward: the north of the country is arid, deserts are growing where people need to live. The south has huge rivers and an abundance of water. By bringing the subsequent megaproject to fruition the State shows the extent of its power. In the ever-changing redesigned landscapes, we see rivers leaving their beds and deserts becoming forests. Visual artist Antoine Boutet is fascinated by these ‘POLITICAL LANDSCAPES’ — in which he also discovers people, who hesitantly start raising their voices — and a great observer of the (lost) connection between MAN AND ITS HABITAT.
How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can’t Change

Grassroots activist and DIY filmmaker Josh Fox joined in the victory over the gas industry with GASLAND. Now with water intimately connecting it all, Fox takes us criss-cross over the world to inundated islands, corrupt governments and companies, poisoned drinking water and people suffering from the effects of hurricanes, drought and pollution. Realizing that ENVIRONMENTAL incentives will likely never align with POLITICAL and ECONOMIC ones, it may be too late to stop some disasters. What hope is left? Could it be those ground-level activists and communities with small-scale solutions? Are there things deep within us humans that no calamity can take away? Fox fully settles for the need for A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE, a sweet spot between realism and idealism. A riveting film about a noisy filmmaker, to show us how it can be done. Or nothing might ever change.

Action!

admission €5 students/staff €3

Filmhuis Lumen
Doelenplein 5 Delft
Thanks

This fifth instalment of *Let’s Talk About Water* is organized by Linda Lilienfeld and Jérôme van Dam in cooperation with UNESCO-IHE, TU-Delft, Deltares and WWF-the Netherlands and with AMS Institute in Amsterdam. For their help, patience and great commitment we thank Ewoud Kok and Ruth Webber (UNESCO-IHE), Roeli Suiker and Bert Jagers (Deltares), Assoc. Prof. Steffen Nijhuis and Prof. Nick van de Giesen (TU-Delft), Bart Geenen (WWF-the Netherlands), Rowan Parry and Emily Parry (AMS Institute). Special thanks for his inspirational role to Prof. Arjan van Timmeren (TU Delft, AMS Institute) and Laurence Henriquez for his refreshing thoughts. For their kind support: Rick Hooper, Executive Director of CUASHI, and Stichting Cinema Loves Science: Anneke van den Berg, Frank Bazelmans and Margaret Parsons of the National Gallery of Art/Film program, Washington DC. And to the volunteers of Filmhuis Lumen, Steven Wejs and Dunja Gasper (Rietveld Theater) and Marion Vredeling (TU Delft Library), and the supporting staff at TU-Delft, UNESCO-IHE, De Balie and AMS Institute for their assistance and hospitality.
With this program and its theme of **Water and Power**, from the Nile Basin to the Pacific Island Nations, from the Swiss Alps to Mexico City, from the infrastructure of Atlanta to the rivers of China, and over the course of history, the films and guest speakers will give you information and tools that we hope will empower you to deal, in your own way, with the important water-related topics that affect so many lives.

[www.LetsTalkAboutWater.nl](http://www.LetsTalkAboutWater.nl)

*Connect, Collaborate, Communicate.*
Water knits it all together.

Dr. Richard Hooper, Executive Director of CUASHI

www.SustainableDevelopment.un.org
LET'S TALK ABOUT WATER
AMSTERDAM
8 & 9 February
AMS Institute & De Balie