

# Let's Talk About Water

Film and  
Water Event

 **DELFT2016**  
the Netherlands

 **FUN**  **FILMS**  **MASTER CLASS**  **LUNCH SEMINARS**



**TUE 16 FEB - SAT 20 FEB 2016**



**UNESCO-IHE**  
Institute for Water Education

**Deltares**  
Enabling Delta Life  




**TU Delft**  
**Urbanism**

  
**Filmhuis  
Lumen**

# Let's Talk About Water

## Design With Nature: Collision or Collaboration?

Welcome to the fourth installment of the film and water event [Let's Talk About Water](#), where water scientists and engineers, students and the general public meet and the power of cinema is used to inform, spark dialogue and electrify discussion. This year's theme is inspired by 'Design with Nature' (1969), the book by Scottish landscape architect [Ian McHarg](#), who pioneered the concept of ecological planning and Geographic Information Systems ([GIS](#)).

Humanity frequently subjected the environment to radical changes and blunt interventions, usually at the expense of nature, water and landscape. To engineer and build differently, the [dynamics of nature and landscape](#) need to be known, honored and used in the design process, balanced with dynamics in other 'layers' like economy, urbanization, technology, culture etc. This is where GIS and mapping as research and design tools come into play. For the designer the challenge remains what

balance to create: to have collaboration or collision. Based on the values that we deem important we choose our solutions. Mitigate problems, increase resilience, adapt or let go.

We open our festival on **Tuesday** at the [Student Night](#) in [Filmhuis Lumen](#), with a magical film set outside the levees of the Mississippi Delta. In [Beasts of the Southern Wild](#) the delta is both paradise and nightmare and water a blessing and a curse. A strongly united community has been knocked down so often, that they truly know what's important and what it takes to stay in the place they love.

On **Wednesday** at [UNESCO-IHE](#), young architect [Isaac Stein](#) from New York is our guest. He will present his visionary plan to save [Miami Beach](#), just above sea level. On **Thursday**, architect and writer [Joep Janssen](#) will talk about his fascination with Vietnam and the challenges that climate change poses for this country. His views on [the Mekong](#) includes history, culture and anthropology.

# Let's Talk About Water

**Thursday night** director **Digna Sinke** will visit the screening of her documentary **Wistful Wilderness** (2010). This ode to a tiny Dutch river island shows the slow transition over many years from agricultural land to new nature. Are the results what policy makers were hoping for?

**The Faculty of Architecture** will host a **Master Class** on **Friday afternoon**, where graduate students will present their designs for delta areas, scrutinized by mapping expert **Steffen Nijhuis** (Landscape Architecture TU-Delft) and Fresh Water expert **Esther Blom** (WWF).

**Friday evening** the documentary **Lost Rivers** (2012) will show us the waters that in the nineteenth century became conduits for disease and pollution and were buried underground, out of sight and out of our memory. Spread all over the world, they are being rediscovered and brought to the surface, back into the public consciousness.

We conclude this year's festival on **Saturday** with **DamNation** (2014), a cinematic manifesto that criticizes the 75,000 dams that rob most rivers in the US of their natural course. Beautiful images illustrate what has been lost and what could be recovered. In the US, removing dams is no longer taboo.

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](http://www.letstalkaboutwater.com)

This festival is organized in collaboration with UNESCO-IHE, Deltares, TU-Delft and WWF-the Netherlands.



# Let's Talk About Water

 **TUESDAY 16 FEB 21h45**  **FILM**

**Benh Zeitlin**  
USA 2012, 93min

# Beasts of the Southern Wild—Beauty in the Bayou



Join us for the kickoff of Let's Talk About Water at the weekly **Student Night** in Filmhuis Lumen for a film that is a dream in progress. It started as an independent underdog movie with a lot of character, shot on location, featuring non-actors from the area and a stunning six-year-old actress in the leading role (Quvenzhané Wallis). One year later this little epic had pleased audiences around the world and grabbed all the big film awards – and rightly so. In the spellbinding adventure, set just beyond the known limits of the American Bayou (outside the levees), a girl named Hushpuppy takes on rising waters, a sinking village, changing times, an army of prehistoric creatures and an unraveling universe that she bravely tries to stitch back together through the sheer force of her spirit and resilience. Inspired by real (and strongly united) Southern Louisiana communities.



guest: architect **Isaac Stein** (West8)

**Water is everywhere, a blessing and a curse, and deltas are both paradise and nightmare. ■ If you really want to stay in the place you love, adapting won't seem so difficult.**



admission €5  
students/staff €3



**Filmhuis Lumen**  
Doelenplein 5 Delft



WEDNESDAY 17 FEB 12h45-13h30



LUNCH SEMINAR

# Isaac Stein (West8)

## Saving Miami Beach from drowning using trams and reintroducing swamps

Miami Beach is the seaside dream city famous for its Art-Deco buildings. But also a city in crisis that needs massively ambitious measures to survive global warming. Young architect **Isaac Stein** works at the New York office of **West8** and he tackled this subject in a radical way. Miami (with a population of more than 4 million) has a very high risk of coastal flooding. So finding out how to increase its resilience to sea level rise and storm surges is essential. Steins unusual approach might just be the answer. Instead of relying on yet-unrealized engineering solutions, why not adapt to the effect of rising waters and use it as a design opportunity, rather than a problem. His visionary plan could help Miami Beach to preserve the city in new ways, among other things by bringing back trams and reintroducing the swamps it was built on. Isaac will explain...



This Miami of the future could show other cities the way. But are drastic interventions like these also achievable in less wealthy countries? And if not, what feasible alternatives do they have?



architect Isaac Stein, urban-design and landscape architecture firm West8



extra guest: Victor Beumer, Urban Water and Soil Management, Deltares



students/staff only  
TU/Deltares/UNESCO-IHE



UNESCO-IHE Auditorium  
Westvest 7 Delft



THURSDAY 18 FEB 12h45-13h30



LUNCH SEMINAR



## Joep Janssen

Science and everyday practice: coping with rising water levels in the Mekong Delta

Fascinated by Vietnam, architect and publicist **Joep Janssen** quit his job in 2009 to travel to the country most threatened by climate change in the world, because of its two huge deltas and lengthy coastline. His book *'Living with the Mekong'* deals with climate change and urban development in Ho Chi Minh City and the **Mekong Delta**. One thing he noticed is that scientists, engineers and policy makers meet and develop new ideas, but never with the farmers and citizens who use their own knowledge in coping with the whims of water in everyday life. How are they – and can they – adapt to urbanization and slowly rising water levels? Joep Janssen will illustrate the theme of water (in the Mekong delta) not with the eyes of a Western engineer, but from a cultural, historical and anthropological perspective, and from his own experience.



Would scientists and engineers benefit from incorporating local history and culture in their working methods? • What can we learn from Vietnam and could 'Dutch water solutions' solve non-Dutch problems?



architect/publicist Joep Janssen (1977),  
author of *'Living with the Mekong'*



students/staff only

TU/Deltares/UNESCO-IHE



UNESCO-IHE Auditorium

Westvest 7 Delft

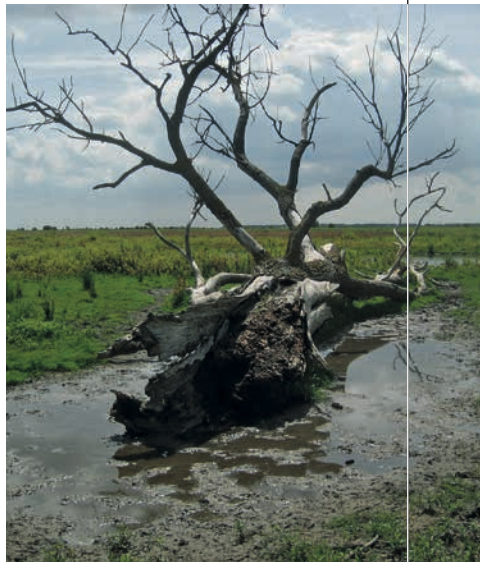
**THURSDAY 18 FEB 19h15****FILM**

# Wistful Wilderness

## Weemoed & Wildernis

**Digna Sinke**  
NL 2010, 88min

Director **Digna Sinke** will attend this screening of her documentary **Wistful Wilderness**. In 1993 the decision was made to transform grazing land on the tiny river island of Tiengemetten, in the Dutch Rhine/Meuse delta, into 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?



Dutch film director and producer  
**Digna Sinke (1949)**



admission €5  
students/staff €3



**Filmhuis Lumen**  
Doelenplein 5 Delft





**FRIDAY 19 FEB 12h30-17h00\***



**MASTER CLASS**

# Deltascapes

How the design process can use and honor natural dynamics in delta landscapes

Dr. Steffen Nijhuis and WWF fresh water expert Esther Blom will discuss designs for delta areas made by graduate students of the Faculty of Architecture (Delta Intervention and Landscape Studio).

12:30-13:00 Coffee/tea

13:00-13:20 Introduction by **Linda Lilienfeld**,  
Let's Talk About Water

13:20-13:40 **Esther Blom**: why nature matters  
and how to work with it

13:40-14:00 **Steffen Nijhuis**: mapping as a  
research and design tool

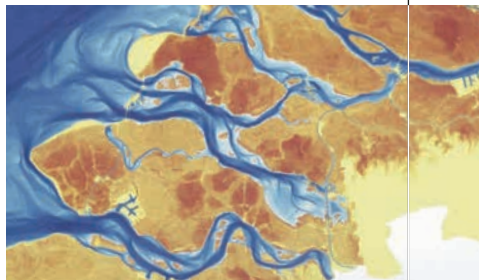
14:00-14:15 – break –

14:15- 15:30 Student pitches + reflection:  
Emma Ottenvanger (LA), Jiayi Huang  
(ARCH), Filippo LaFleur (URB)

15:30-15:45 – break –

15:45-16:30 Student pitches + reflection:  
Shan Shao (LA), Yijia Li (ARCH)

16:30-17:00 Group discussion/conclusion



**Steffen Nijhuis**, TU-Delft Assistant  
Professor of Landscape Architecture



**Esther Blom**, leader of the fresh water  
programme WWF-the Netherlands

\*

**FUN**

**17h00-18h00**

**Drinks**



**students/staff only**  
TU/Deltares/UNESCO-IHE



**TU-Delft/ Architecture: Berlage Room**  
Julianalaan 134 Delft





FRIDAY 19 FEB 19h15



FILM

# Lost Rivers

Caroline Bâcle

CA 2012, 72min

'Daylighting' forgotten waters, deprecated long ago, brings new life to the city.

Almost every dwelling has been built where water flows. Rivers were at the heart of life in every town, for drinking, fishing, washing, manufacturing, trade, energy and disposal. During the industrial revolution and the rapid growth of cities around the world, rivers became the stinking conduits of pollution and disease. Natural water systems were covered, paved over and unhealthily merged with the sewers, and consequently got lost in our memory. Though in some towns they make great tourist attractions, this inspiring documentary mainly traces 'daylighting' projects around the world. People fight to bring their rivers back to the surface, thus bringing back nature to their community, for aesthetic appeal, for health and in some cases for flood resilience. At the same time these new rivers are a link to the city's history and a reminder to city dwellers that nature still exists.



Clean air and water are necessities, but in bringing back nature, being surrounded by beauty seems equally important for our lives.



Esther Blom, fresh water programme  
WWF-the Netherlands



Ken Irvine, Professor of Aquatic Ecosystems,  
UNESCO-IHE



admission €5  
students/staff €3



Filmhuis Lumen  
Doelenplein 5 Delft

 **SATURDAY 20 FEB 14h30**  **FILM**

# DamNation

Ben Knight, Travis Rummel

USA 2014, 87min

## How we lost our rivers

This documentary is definitely a manifesto. It targets the abundance of 75,000 dams that rob most rivers in the US of their natural course. We closely follow the daring adventures of activists, marvel at the natural beauty of unencumbered rivers captured with visual splendor, and condemn the hulking man-made obstacles that dams represent to nature's free will. Until recently we highly valued them as a multipurpose fix for hydro-power, irrigation, drinking water and flood protection. We admired engineering wonders and the conquest of the natural world. Now we know the unintended consequences to the ecosystem and aquatic life, the lack of a free streaming zone, sedimentation and nutrients, or harm to local and native cultures and economies. **DamNation** wants to promote new values: embrace nature – we are all part of it – and **get rid of those damn dams!**



In the US the decommissioning of dams is no longer taboo. Should we foster activism and education?

- Many countries are in dire need of (new) dams. Is there a way out? ▪ And what about the Netherlands? Should the Dutch rethink their barriers?



**Bart Geenen**, Senior Freshwater expert at WWF-the Netherlands



**Kees Sloff**, Deltares expert on fluvial river engineering and fluvial morphology



admission €5  
students/staff €3



**Filmhuis Lumen**  
Doelenplein 5 Delft

**About Water**

# Our guests this year

**Steffen Nijhuis • TU Delft** Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture.

**Esther Blom • WWF-the Netherlands**  
Fresh Water Expert

**Digna Sinke** – Dutch film director, producer and screenwriter

**Joep Janssen** – Architect and author of 'Living with the Mekong' about climate change and urban development in Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta.

**Isaac Stein • West 8** Designer at the New York office of West 8 urban design + landscape architecture.

**Bart Geenen • WWF-the Netherlands**  
Fresh Water Expert

**Kees Sloff • Deltares** Expert on fluvial river engineering and fluvial morphology

**Victor Beumer • Deltares** Urban Water and Soil Management

**Ken Irvine**, Professor of Aquatic Ecosystems, UNESCO-IHE

## Thanks

This fourth installment of **Let's Talk About Water** is organized by Linda Lilienfeld and Jérôme van Dam in co-operation with **UNESCO-IHE, TU-Delft, Deltares** and **WWF-the Netherlands**. For their help, patience and great commitment we thank Ewoud Kok and Ruth Webber (UNESCO-IHE), Roeli Suiker and Bert Jagers (Deltares), Prof. Han Meyer, Ass. Prof. Steffen Nijhuis and Prof. Nick van de Giesen (TU-Delft) and Esther Blom (WWF-the Netherlands).

Special thanks to Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for his inspirational role. For their kind support: Rick Hooper, Executive Director of **CUASHI**, and Stichting **Cinema Loves Science**: Anneke van den Berg, Frank Bazelmanns and Peggy Parsons. And to the volunteers of **Filmhuis Lumen** and the supporting staff at TU-Delft and UNESCO-IHE for their assistance and hospitality, and Deborah Sherwood for editing.

Let's Talk  
About Water

 **TUE**  
16 FEB

**21h45**  **FILM**

 **TUE**  
16 FEB

## Beasts <sup>OF THE</sup> Southern Wild


 architect Isaac Stein


 Filmhuis Lumen

 **WED**  
17 FEB

**12h45-13h30**  **LUNCH SEMINAR**

## Isaac Stein: Miami

 extra guest: Victor Beumer (Deltares)

 UNESCO-IHE Auditorium



**20h00**  **FUN**



## Let's...

 **You!**  **Het Labyrint** Schoolstraat 28

Delft  open for dinner: 17h00 (€8,50+)

 **WED**  
17 FEB

 **THU**  
18 FEB

**12h45-13h30**  **LUNCH SEMINAR**

## Joep Janssen: Mekong

 UNESCO-IHE Auditorium



**19h15**  **FILM**

## Wistful Wilderness

 film director Digna Sinke

 Filmhuis Lumen

 **THU**  
18 FEB

 **FRI**  
19 FEB

**12h30-17h00**  **MASTER CLASS**

## Deltascapes



 Steffen Nijhuis (TU-Delft) ■ Esther Blom (WWF)

 TU-Delft/Architecture: Berlage Room



**19h15**  **FILM**

## Lost Rivers


 Esther Blom (WWF) ■ Ken Irvine (UNESCO-IHE)  Filmhuis Lumen

 **FRI**  
19 FEB

 **SAT**  
20 FEB

**14h30**  **FILM**

## DamNation

 Bart Geenen (WWF) ■ Kees Sloff (Deltares)

 Filmhuis Lumen



All film screenings are open to the general public. Admission €5. **Students** and staff pay only €3.



**Sessions with this label are for students and staff only.**  
(TU-Delft/Deltares/UNESCO-IHE)

Let's Talk  
About Water  
 **DELFT2016**  
the Netherlands

# Let's Talk About Water Program 2016



**Design With Nature**  
COLLISION OR COLLABORATION?