

Amsterdam – between two worlds

Various aspects of the city of Amsterdam show the permanent tension and distance between 'two worlds': Eden (paradise) and outside, reality and ideal, depression and happiness, black and white.

- The Unesco recognised canal district and the question 'where did/does this wealth come from?'.
• The fine mediaeval district ('De Wallen'), partly a centre of human trafficking and abuse.
• The (former) Jewish quarter with its monuments commemorating one of the worst crimes in our, European, history.
• Examples of idealist architects and socialist organisations trying to improve the 19th c. working class conditions - nowadays (partly) subject to gentrification and speculation.

In this programme we study Amsterdam as a centre of cultural heritage, representing these two faces. During the walk(s) and the course programme participants are confronted with (artistic) examples of this tension - sculpture, architecture, painting, poetry. This will, among else, result in a painting workshop to express impressions in the style of Vincent van Gogh, who more than any other visual artist tragically represents these two worlds: joy and grief.

In August 2021 the programme was realised in an Erasmus+ KA1 in-service training course. This successful programme is being offered again in August 2022 – see: <https://chain.eu/?a=1169>