

Sarah de Clercq

+31 (0) 20 5502205 | sarah.declercq@sothebys.com | Dutch
www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-van-der-stok-de-clercq-620153/



Summary

With more than twenty years' experience in the international artworld, I always find the right balance between substantial art historical ambition and business interest. As an art historian with a commercial background in the art trade, I have consistently maintained close connections with the museum world and stakeholders in the cultural sector. I am Managing Director of the auction house Sotheby's Amsterdam since 2018. Prior to joining Sotheby's, I was Head of the Old Master and 19th Century Art department at Christie's Amsterdam. My specialist knowledge as senior expert in 19th century European art and early 20th century Art, strong connections across the wider cultural community, both in the Netherlands and abroad, understanding of the art market, mean I have my finger firmly on the pulse of the many developments and opportunities in our world.

I have held a wide range of ancillary-positions in the cultural world and experience with working with boards and stakeholders. Currently I am a member of the board of the Duivenvoorde Foundation and Museum Panorama Mesdag.

Work Experience

Sotheby's Amsterdam

Managing Director, Senior Specialist, Sotheby's The Netherlands

Jan 2018 - Present

- Responsible for the day to day business and general affairs of Sotheby's Amsterdam B.V. and statutory director (6 fte)
- Design and drive business and client development strategy for The Netherlands (improve export, private treaty sales and acquisitions Dutch client base)
- Maintain and develop extensive knowledge, passion and commitment on 19th Century European Art and early 20th century Art and be an active specialist in this field worldwide
- Focus on network and relationships with stakeholders as key collectors, institutions, specialists, trade, lawyers and other partners in The Netherlands and abroad
- Responsible for P&L and annual financial plan (revenue and profitability targets, export plans, etc.)
- Responsible for visibility, marketing, PR, media and events (sponsorships, lectures, collaborations) of Sotheby's in general

Christie's Amsterdam

Aug 2000 - June 2017

Head of Department, Senior Specialist, Senior Associate Director, Old Masters and 19th Century Art Department

2013 - 2017

- Responsible for the strategy and daily management of the Old Masters and 19th Century European Art Department in Amsterdam; expertise, selection, catalogue production, private sales, valuations for insurance and inheritance purposes
- Acquisition and selling for the Amsterdam sales and develop and encourage participation of Dutch buyers in international auctions and private sales in London, Paris and New York (in own category and other categories)
- Client development: focused on strengthening current and developing new relationships with important (inter-)national collectors, advisors, institutions and dealers; advice, expertise and research on 19th century European art, Impressionism and early 20th century art (emphasis on Dutch, Belgian and German market 1800-1940) and other categories, such as Old Masters, Modern and Contemporary Art
- Besides regular sales, drive and develop single owner auctions and private sales
- Responsible for P&L of the department (revenue and profitability targets, sales percentages, export, etc.)
- Responsible for marketing, media and events (develop new initiatives, sponsorships, lectures, visibility) of the department and Christie's in general
- Coaching, individual development and motivation of the team and (international) colleagues

Head of Department, Impressionist and Modern Art Department

2009 - 2013

Head of Department, 19th Century European Art Department

2005 - 2009

Specialist, 19th Century European Art

2000 - 2005

Glerum c.s. Kunst en Antiekveilingen, The Hague/Amsterdam

May 1998 – August 2000

Specialist, 19th Century European Art

Languages

Dutch (Native)
English (Fluent)
French (Intermediate)
German (Fluent)

Education

2008

Certified Valuer 19th Century European Art (period 1770-1920)

Federation TMV

1991-1997

Master degree Art History

University of Groningen
Specialism: Dutch and European Paintings 1870-1930, Thesis: Sientje Mesdag-van Houten: leven en werken in de schaduw van H.W. Mesdag (awarded with The Stichting de Haagsche School prize 1997)

1990-1991

Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)

University of East Anglia, Norwich

1984-1990

Atheneum-A

Rijkscholingemeenschap
Brokleda, Breukelen

I followed various management and leaderships courses in The Netherlands and abroad.

Activities and Interests

Art, Sailing, Tennis, Reading, Travelling, Cooking, Gardening

References

Can be provided upon request.

Ancillary activities

Board member Museum Panorama Mesdag, The Hague (May 2018 – Present)

- Responsible for the art collection and museum affairs

Board member Duivenvoorde Foundation, Voorschoten (December 2013 – Present)

- Responsible for the art collection of the castle

Board member and secretary of the Stichting Familie Archief De Clercq (September 2001 - Present)

Board member Titus Cirkel (Vereniging Rembrandt) (January 2014 – January 2020)

- Responsible for recruiting sponsorships

Board member & secretary Stichting Ambassadeurs Grachtenfestival, Amsterdam (August 2011 – August 2019)

- Responsible for recruiting ambassadors

Guest curator Katwijk Museum, Katwijk (2010)

- Exhibition Johannes Evert Hendrik Akkeringa; schilder van het onbezorgde leven

Vetting committee Art & Antiques Fair, 's-Hertogenbosch (AF 's-H)/ Art Breda (2009 - 2020)

Board member of Stichting de Haagsche School (January 2006 - 2014)

Board member and secretary of Stichting Mesdag-van Houten (August 2006 -October 2008)

Board member of the VNK (Dutch Association of Art Historians) (February 2004 – February 2008)

Guest curator Panorama Mesdag, The Hague (2000), Exhibition Sientje Mesdag-van Houten

Guest curator Panorama Mesdag, The Hague (1999 - 2000), Exhibition Schilderku(n)st Scheveningen

Publications:

- 2015** 'Hendrik Willem Mesdag: leven en werk', in: *Hendrik Willem Mesdag, kunstenaar, verzamelaar, entrepreneur* (Van Gogh Museum, The Mesdag Collection/RKD), Bussum 2015 (Mesdag year 2015).
- 2011** 'Een menselijke benadering; Breitner, Israels en Maks', publication for private Dutch collection.
- 2010** Monography Johannes Evert Hendrik Akkeringa; schilder van het onbezorgde leven, Schiedam 2000.
- 2000** 'Scheveningen geschilderd', in: *cat. tent. Schilderku(n)st Scheveningen; van Haagse School tot heden*, (Panorama Mesdag/Museum Scheveningen/Kurhaus Galerie/Kunstzaal van Heijningen, The Hague 2000, pp. 43-77.
- 2000** Monography Sientje Mesdag-van Houten 1834-1909, Laren 2000.
- 1998** *Cat. tent. Dimensioni dell'uomo tra Appel e Mitoraj; Opere dal Museo 'Sculture al Mare', Scheveningen*, with Jan Teeuwisse (Istituto Universitario Olandese di Storia Dell'Arte, Firenze), Florence 1998, pp. 67-91.
- 1996** Monography Ton en Bertus Sondaar; leven en beeldhouwen aan de Vecht, with Jan Teeuwisse, Loenen aan de Vecht 1996.
- 1996** 'Zoektocht naar een eigen identiteit', in: *cat. tent. Gjalp Blaauw, Spanning in Balans*, Groningen 1996, pp. 8-12.
- 1995** 'Een expressionistische blik op het Friese landschap', in: *cat. tent. Salut au Monde; Het Friese landschap in de schilderkunst van 1900 tot nu* (Fries Museum, Leeuwarden (2.0-19.11 1995)/Kunstsammlungen Böttcherstrasse, Bremen (2.12 1995-15.1 1996)/Kulturgeschichte Museum Osnabrück (11.2-31.3 1996)), Leeuwarden 1995, pp. 92-111.