Opening Icoon Afsluitdijk

Large scale design and innovation exhibition open from the 17th of November until the 21st of January after sunset

The Afsluitdijk is the 32 kilometer long dike which protects the Netherlands against water and flooding. Built mostly by hand and realized in 1932 it is an engineering highlight of the Netherlands and a unique place in the world. Now after almost 85 years the Afsluitdijk is in need of a thorough renovation. The Dutch state together with the surrounding municipalities and provinces have joined forces to lead an ambitious programme to protect and safeguard the future of the dike. As part of the renovation programme, Roosegaarde’s ICOON AFSLUITDIJK enhances the iconic status of the Afsluitdijk with a subtle second layer of light and interaction. The three designs of light and interaction developed by Daan Roosegaarde and his team of designers and engineers are entitled Gates of Light, Windvogel and Glowing Nature can be viewed by all after sunset.

For up to date information visit: https://www.studioroosegaarde.net/project/icoon-afsluitdijk/info/

Picture yourself in a science fiction film
Travel along ICOON AFSLUITDIJK and picture yourself in a science fiction film. Dutch Designer Daan Roosegaarde and his team of experts will take you on a journey of the dike with light, darkness and interaction, accentuating the dike’s innovative character and functions – flood protection, energy and mobility. Get into your car, drive through GATES OF LIGHT and see the monumental floodgates come to life. Watch the dancing lines of WINDVOGEL, smart kites that generate power by flying in the wind. Visit GLOWING NATURE and get an interactive and mysterious experience with light-emitting algae. A visit to the 32-kilometre long Dutch dike is now even more appealing, thanks to the work of the world-renowned Dutch designer Daan Roosegaarde. ICOON AFSLUITDIJK: from 17th November 2017 to 21st January 2018 after sunset.

Gates of Light
The new futuristic entrance at both sides of the dike is called GATES OF LIGHT. Inspired by retroreflective wings of butterflies, Daan Roosegaarde brings a new light on the 60 monumental floodgates which were designed by Dirk Roosenburg in 1932, the grandfather of the Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. They have been fully restored with a retroreflective layer and illuminate by the
reflection from the cars headlamps. Drive through GATES OF LIGHT after sunset and bring the floodgates to life through the headlamps of your car, as an alternative to polluting street lights.

Windvogel
WINDVOGEL is a tribute to the Dutch astronaut Wubbo Ockels. Ockels had the dream to realise smart kites which generate power by having them stay aloft for long periods of time. Roosegaarde now brings his dream to life on the Afsluitdijk. Each of the WINDVOGEL kites generates from 20 to 100 kW which can supply energy for 200 households. With their unique lines of light, the kites provide a poetic night installation of dancing lines.

Glowing Nature
GLOWING NATURE shows the beauty of nature on the Afsluitdijk by means of a unique encounter between man, biology and technology. The exclusive exhibition, located in one of the historical bunkers, provides an interactive and mysterious experience with live algae, one of the oldest microorganisms in the world. Where you walk it becomes light. Only when you perfectly maintain and take care of these algae do they give natural light for an extended period of time.

Practical Information
The works can be viewed from sunset from the 17th of November 2017 until the 21st of January 2018 on the Afsluitdijk and are accessible to all, free of charge. You can experience GATES OF LIGHT and WINDVOGEL from your own car. GLOWING NATURE can be visited at the bunker on the Afsluitdijk. In certain weather circumstances, the WINDVOGEL installation will be suspended. Check https://www.studioroosegaarde.net/project/icoon-afsluitdijk/info before your visit for full details. During the exhibition the movie “Icoon Afsluitdijk” by Felix Kops will be on show, giving an insight into the vision and development of the project with Daan Roosegaarde and his team.

Following its premiere on the Afsluitdijk, WINDVOGEL and GLOWING NATURE will travel around the world to share the Afsluitdijk's story. GATES OF LIGHT is a permanent installation to stay for all.

For Whom?
ICOON AFSLUITDIJK is accessible to all. Get in the car and experience this unique Dutch civil engineering work in the dark.

When is the best time to experience it?
Experience ICOON AFSLUITDIJK in the evening from November 17th until January 21st.

Website: Additional Information:
For additional information, visit https://www.studioroosegaarde.net/project/icoon-afsluitdijk/info

Contact details for general information: icoonafsluitdijk@studioroosegaarde.net

Press information: pr@studioroosegaarde.net