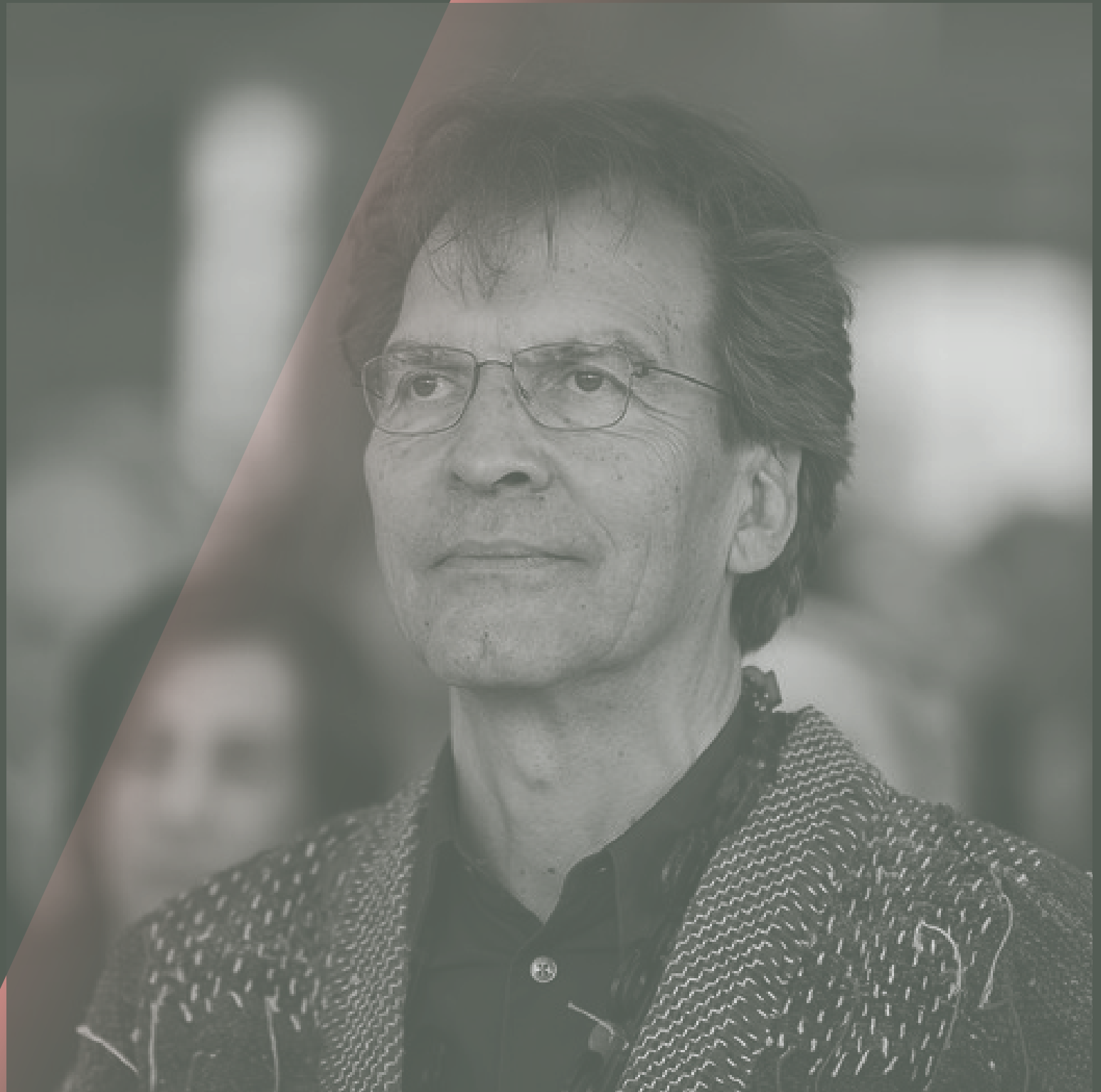


Sjarel Ex



FREELANCE CURATOR, WRITER, AND ADVISOR

A New Typology for Museums and Storage

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

From 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.^{EDT}

[On Zoom](#)

*Conference in English

“In 2004, climate change and maintenance issues stimulated those of us working at Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen to start the process of developing Depot, a new storage space for Rotterdam’s art collection. Various examples of storage-like displays in museums, as well as the innovative work of architects such as Carlo Scarpa and Lina Bo Bardi, also made me keenly aware that using diverse methods of display enhances attention and curiosity. As a publicly accessible storage space, Depot would act as the institution’s anchor point, a “standing leg” so to speak, to which the actual museum’s spaces would be the corresponding “playing leg”. In the Depot’s mandate and outline of strategic priorities, all the functions involved in caring for a collection are present and International Council of Museums (ICOM) protocols are fully respected. We give visitors access to the storage spaces, show the offices in the back of the museum, and explore the various situations that can occur in the life of an artwork—the lives of 151,000 artworks.”

Sjarel Ex studied art history and worked as freelance curator in Utrecht before being named director of the Centraal Museum in 1988. In 2004, he became General Director of Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, renowned for its collections, exhibitions, and education and research programs. Under his stewardship the museum’s collection grew extensively and a broad program of travelling exhibitions and extramural activities was developed. As the museum entered its renovation period, he initiated Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen, an accessible and transparent storage system for the museum’s 151,000 artworks that foregrounds conservation, education, and museum practices. Depot opened in November 2021, to great public and critical acclaim. Sjarel Ex left Rotterdam in 2022, and continues his career as a freelance curator, writer, and advisor.