

Science Center NEMO press release

Amsterdam, October 22nd 2015

Phenomena: everyday discoveries and centuries-old science for everyone

New exhibition by the Boerhaave, NEMO and Teylers museums about science throughout the ages

This week, Science Center NEMO opened Phenomena, its newly fitted-out first floor. It centres around *Science Throughout the Ages*, an exhibition about the history of science and research methodology. In addition to items from NEMO's collections, there are pieces from the collections held by the [Boerhaave Museum](#) and [Teylers Museum](#). These three museums are exhibiting the development of three centuries of science in the Netherlands.

For centuries, science was a pastime of the ruling classes, today science belongs to us all. Everyone is a researcher, everyone has their own "inner scientist"; Phenomena gives visitors the opportunity to discover this. While the "young" discover everyday experimental science, adults will revel in the historical context we provide, taking them on a journey back to the 18th and 19th centuries. The reopening of the first floor is the first step in the complete renovation of Science Center NEMO.

Museum within a museum

NEMO has constructed a smaller scale version of Teylers Museum's famous Oval Room, which dates from 1784. This Museum of the Age of Enlightenment feels like a museum within a museum, a little piece of Teylers in Amsterdam, offering space for several highlights from the collection. Boerhaave Museum has provided various exhibits from the "physique amusante" (fun physics) era, entertaining science that was used to promote science. Together, the three museums reveal the parts they have played in the history of science promotion; from learned society and research laboratory to the science museum of the 21st century.

Sensational Science: from Lightning Globe to Chaos Theory

Such audience favourites as Nikola Tesla's Lightning Globe, the Chain Reaction demonstration and the Giant Soap Bubbles can be seen on the first floor. Together with new exhibits on the creation of a whirlpool (Water Vortex), chaos theory (Chaotic Pendulum) and magnetism (Magnetic Fluid), these make up *Sensational Science*, the second new exhibition on Phenomena.

Candy Store

Phenomena is a source of inspiration, prompting visitors to discover, invent, and to experience how science works. The new floor is a proverbial candy store for curious people. NEMO's strength lies in its ability to excite and to creatively stimulate people's natural research talent. "We investigate everything, all day long. Whatever their profession, everyone is a researcher. The importance of developing research talent is that this helps us to reflect critically on issues and solutions" says Elles van Vegchel, curator of Phenomena. "When discussing the importance of having knowledge of

science, the Dutch scientist Robbert Dijkgraaf once said '*Science should be in our drinking water*'. I could not agree more."

NEMO as a laboratory

Having attracted 588,368 visitors in 2014, NEMO is the largest science museum in the Netherlands, a place where visitors can experience for themselves how the world works. In collaboration with other knowledge institutes, scientific and technological knowledge is made accessible to a broad audience in a variety of ways. Visitors can repeat centuries-old research and participate as subjects in cutting-edge scientific research. Science Live and NEMO Research & Development are just two of the research programmes that offer such opportunities.

More information

If you require high-resolution photographs or if you have any questions regarding this press release, please contact Anne-Marie Gielis, Marketing & Communications, +31-20-5313129. You can also email press@e-nemo.nl.



Phenomena-photograph by DigiDaan



Science throughout the Ages– photograph by DigiDaan



Museum of the Age of the Enlightenment-photograph by DigiDaan



Sensational Science- Water Vortex ; how is a whirlpool created? Photograph by DigiDaan



Sensational Science; Nikola Tesla's Lightning Globe-photograph by DigiDaan