

PRESS RELEASE
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Daan Roosegaarde floods United Nations Headquarters with Waterlicht New York as a call to action

To mark World Water Day, the Netherlands present Waterlicht New York, a large-scale virtual flood by Dutch artist and innovator Daan Roosegaarde at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Waterlicht which translates to 'water light' is the dream landscape which shows the power and poetry of water. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the artwork raises awareness around rising water levels caused by global warming.



Waterlicht at UN Headquarters, Studio Roosegaarde

Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Miroslav Lajčák, the President of the UN General Assembly, Hillary Schrenell, deputy head of the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs, Henk Ovink, Dutch Special Envoy Water Affairs and Daan Roosegaarde open Waterlicht New York to show how high the water would reach if we do not take action.

Installed at the North Lawn of the United Nations Headquarters, Waterlicht New York mimics the height of hurricane Sandy with wavy lines of light made with the latest LED technology, software and lenses. As underlined by the New York's mayor office, climate change is "perhaps the toughest challenge New York City will face in the coming decades." The global threat of water is urgent and as Dutch water ambassador Henk Ovink reminds us: "the

Sandys & Harveys of this world will not stop. On the contrary, they are the new normal, becoming more extreme year by year.”

The Dutch like the New Yorkers have always adapted to changes in climate and water: exchanging knowledge, forging international partnerships, innovation and an integrated approach. With Waterlicht, Roosegaarde responds with both a warning against rising water levels and an inspiration towards the future: “can we build floating cities, how much power can we generate from the movement of water? Experience the vulnerability and the power of living with water.”

Made possible thanks to the Dutch partners in the Water sector including ARCADIS, Royal Netherlands Society of Engineers (KIVI), Van Oord, Boskalis, Dutch Water Authorities and Netherlands Water Partnership.

About Waterlicht

WATERLICHT is the dream landscape which explores the power and poetry of water. As a virtual flood, it visualizes how high the water could reach without human intervention and raises awareness around rising water levels caused by global warming.

The artwork was originally created for the Dutch District Water Board Rijn & IJssel. New site-specific series of Waterlicht were created for Nuit Blanche in Paris, Kings Cross in London, Museumplein in Amsterdam, UNESCO Schokland, the Afsluitdijk, Middelburg and Leeuwarden in the Netherlands.

Read more at <https://www.studio Roosegaarde.net/project/waterlicht/info/>

About the Kingdom of the Netherlands' Presidency of the Security Council

The role of water in conflicts is often underestimated. It is this urgent message that Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag will aim to drive home at the United Nations Security Council on World Water Day on World Water Day. According to Minister Kaag Water scarcity or, conversely, a surplus of water not only threatens local populations directly, but can also trigger violent conflict and migration flows. Identifying the underlying causes of conflict and developing solutions can prevent so much human suffering. The Netherlands wants to address these issues in a timely manner and bring them to the attention of the UN Security Council, as the leading international body for peace and security. Dutch expertise could play an important role in finding solutions.

About Daan Roosegaarde

Dutch artist and innovator Daan Roosegaarde (1979) is a creative thinker and maker of social designs which explore the relation between people, technology and space and best known for creating landscapes of the future. He founded Studio Roosegaarde in 2007, where he works with his team of designers and engineers towards a better future. Roosegaarde is Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum and featured by Forbes and Good 100 as a creative change maker.

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