

the Davis.

DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE
PRESENTS**

GUIDO VAN DER WERVE: NUMMER VEERTIEN, HOME

March 12 – July 20, 2014

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis presents *Nummer veertien, home*, Dutch artist **Guido van der Werve**'s haunting, poetic film that interweaves the tales of Alexander the Great, the life and death of Frédéric Chopin, and the artist's own personal odyssey. The exhibition will be on view March 12 through July 20 in the Joan Levine Freedman '57 and Richard I. Freedman Gallery and is free and open to the general public.

When Chopin died in Paris, his sister vowed to fulfill the composer's wish of bringing his heart back to his native land of Poland; she succeeded in smuggling his heart out of France and carried it to Warsaw where it was interred in the Church of the Holy Cross. For *Nummer veertien, home*, the artist completed a grueling 1,000-mile triathlon (swimming, biking, and running) from Warsaw to Paris – seven times the length of the Ironman Triathlon – retracing the path along which Chopin travelled to Paris and along which only his heart returned.

Van der Werve, a classically trained concert pianist, also composed the film's lush score – a romantic twelve-movement classical requiem that is played *in situ* at various locations en route. *Nummer veertien, home* explores themes common to van der Werve's work: physical and emotional endurance, man's struggle with nature, virtuosic performance, the intersection between history and geography, melancholy and the solitary.

According to **Michael Maizels**, Andrew W. Mellon New Media Curator/Lecturer and curator of the exhibition, "Evocative of the grand traditions of Classical composition and Romantic landscape painting, *Nummer veertien, home* offers an extended meditation on the nostalgia for origins. While Alexander the Great and Frédéric Chopin were never able to return from their wandering van der Werve travels in their footsteps, recounting their journeys and recording the charged landscapes through which they traveled. Although the film ends on an optimistic note – with the artist returning a silver cup full of Polish soil to Chopin's grave in the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris – the melancholic mood of the piece speaks to the deep impossibility of such returns, of ever truly coming back home."

“Nummer veetien, *home* is mesmerizing, lyrical, and a little bit cryptic as the artist confronts forces of nature and culture with an almost superhuman strength of will,” added **Lisa Fischman**, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis. “I am thrilled that Mike’s first exhibition during his tenure as our Mellon New Media Curator brings Guido van der Werve’s ambitious work to the Davis.”

Nummer Veetien, *home* is generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant for New Media Art.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Guido van der Werve was born in Papendrecht, the Netherlands in 1977 and currently lives and works in Finland, Amsterdam and Berlin. Van der Werve pursued studies in industrial design, archaeology, music composition, and Russian language and literature at several universities in the Netherlands before beginning to create his first video documented performances around 2000. Since that time he has created a variety of works, including films, videos, and artist’s books in chronological order from two to fifteen.

He has become internationally renowned for his video works numbered in sequence of production. His rapidly growing oeuvre of satirical yet deadpan videos, in which he often plays the protagonist, investigates such themes as melancholy and alienation. Van der Werve often composes the music that accompanies his films.

Recent showings of his work include solo exhibitions at the MOMA PS1, New York; the High Line, New York; the Giuliani Foundation, Rome; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and de Hallen Haarlem in the Netherlands. Van der Werve’s Nummer veertien, *home*, won the 2013 Golden Calf Award in Amsterdam for Best Short Film.

EXHIBITION EVENT

GALLERY TALK: *Guido van der Werve: Nummer veertien, home*

Friday, April 18 | 3:00, Collins Cinema | Free

Mellon New Media Curator/Lecturer Michael Maizels and Assistant Professor of Music Jenny Olivia Johnson discuss the intersection of emotion, memory and performance in Guido van der Werve’s work.

DAVIS MUSEUM GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley, Mass.

Museum Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11:00 am–5:00 pm, Wednesday until 8:00 pm, and Sunday, noon–4:00 pm. Closed Mondays, holidays, and Wellesley College recesses.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Telephone: 781-283-2051

Website: www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu

Parking: Free and available in the lot behind the museum. Additional parking is available in the Davis Parking Facility.

Tours: Led by student tour guides and curators. Free. Call 781-283-3382

Accessible: The Davis, Collins Café and Collins Cinema are wheelchair accessible and wheelchairs are available for use in the Museum without charge. Special needs may be accommodated by contacting Director of Disability Services Jim Wice at 781-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE & THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2300 undergraduates from every state and 75 countries.