

Let's "SEAL" our friendship

In the midst of the Rotterdam harbors, on the grounds of a former quarantine hospital, in a beautiful green oasis, is the home of Aloysius van Saus. On this unique and historical location and together with his son, Aloysius Jr. is a permanent exhibition of their art work.



The art combines the robust nature of the Quarantine grounds with the industrial domination of the Rotterdam harbor in perfect harmony. Soft rural figurative sculptures made out of heavy steel are the main theme and medium of their work.



The quarantine peninsula is also home of one of the few beaches located on the Maas River, which runs through Rotterdam acting as a gateway to the North Sea. On the banks of the river Aloysius has placed **The Seal**, which soon became a cherished object for river travelers and beach visitors.

Avalanche Arts (*Stichting Lawine*) would like to give Baltimore a seal sculpture of their own to be placed along the water to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Rotterdam-Baltimore Sister City relationship.

The Seal is approximately 2 meters long, 85 cm. wide and is made from 5 mm thick untreated steel. More info about artist Aloysius van Saus: aloysiusproductions.wix.com/aloysius

Avalanche Arts is also organizing a **Pen Pal Project** linking a school in Vlaardingen (a commuter town for Rotterdam) with one in Baltimore. These schools have something unique in common. They are both located near recreational areas build on former river waste and both schools are also 'cut off' from the rest of their community by a major highway; Curtis Bay in Baltimore and Vlaardingen Holy, bordering on Rotterdam.

The theme of this Pen Pal Project is litter and water pollution. We hope this exchange will add to the warm friendship between Baltimore and Rotterdam for generations to come.

The Seal as well as the **Pen Pal Project** can be a reminder of how important it is to deal with our international waterways in an environmentally correct way, and to inspire harmony between industry and nature.

Rotterdam looks forward to at least *another 30 years of friendship* with Baltimore. Or as we like to put it: Let's "**SEAL**" our Sister City Friendship.



Avalanche Arts is founded by Kathie diStefano (USA) and Aloysuis van Saus (NL). This American-Dutch connection has been bringing people together through performance arts for over 25 years. Shedding light on important social themes to audiences both large and small has been a consistent part of their work throughout their careers.

In recent years Avalanche has been focusing on the green theme. "Learning through laughter", the company motto, combines comedy with Eco-education. Avalanche strives to "tickle their audiences into change" so that people learn how to deal with trash in a way that does not continue to damage our environment.

For more information about Avalanche Arts go to: www.stichtinglawine.nl and click on Avalanche Arts.