

ENSCHEDÉ



Hallo Vrienden:

I am writing my report from the land of Vincent Van Gogh, tulips, canals and skies of white billowing clouds in blue clear skies. I visit The Netherlands and Enschede every year. This year I will have visited Enschede three times in my two months in The Netherlands: the first two visits were for events of interest to Neighbors Abroad and the last was to visit old friends of Neighbors Abroad and one of the many University of Twente physics students who stayed with me during his internship at Stanford. This is the first installment. My first visit to Enschede was on May 29th and 30th. I was invited by Melina McKim and Henk de Poot as their guest to attend their innovative Overlap Festival held on May 29th and the Maker's Festival held on May 30th. I also enjoyed their warmth and hospitality as a guest in their home. I had met them in Palo Alto when they visited several months ago and spoke with Tommy Fehrenbach.

Melina McKim's company, DESIGN3STUDIO, specializes in Education Workshop Design, Multidisciplinary Team Building and New Business Development.

Henk is the Senior Information Advisor of NRPO-Nationaal Regieorgaan Praktijkgericht Onderzoek-SIA- (National Transition Practice Board). The NRPO finances and promotes applied research in colleges and universities in the Netherlands. The NRPO is part of the Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO), which funds greater than 650,000,000 euros annually of research for more than 5600 Dutch and international research projects that relate to science and the interface of science and society.

Together Henk and Melina developed, organized and implemented the Overlap Festival: exploring the overlapping bonds of art, industry and science. The event began at the ArtEZ Hogeschool voor Kunsten, Enschede's College of Art, which is located in the Roombeek neighborhood of Enschede, the rebuilt area that was the site of the May 2000 fireworks explosion. It featured eight "stations" which were presentations of ideas, projects and products.

One of the presenters, Texperium (Closing the Loop of Textiles) utilizes discarded cloth fragments of KLM flight attendants' uniforms, re-weaves new cloth from the old and develops new products such as slippers, sneakers, finely woven tablecloths and shawls both of which are sold at the Twentse Welle museum.

Another presenter, a recent graduate of the ArtEZ College won a grant from a major Netherlands medical institution along with two colleagues. They developed a program of promoting greater hospital staff unity by placing computer designed art throughout the institution, creating

a more collegial working environment.

An ArtEZ professor, in conjunction with her students, designed templates for industry which will promote more balanced and open business environments.

This event was followed by a superb dinner held in the Twentse Welle Museum. The 100 plus guests and participants representing Enschede's art, business, science, college and university communities sat at round tables of ten to engage in a "working dinner." with the aim of opening our minds and listening to each other's ideas. Topics were assigned to each table by the ArtEZ professor. One of my "table-mates" was Joska Broekmaat, a Twente University graduate who as a student stayed at my house.

The old Polaroid building was the site of the Maker's Festival held on May 30th. This huge room was filled with demonstrations and presentations. The participants created displays from the worlds of art and science which showed what they do and how they do it.

Visitors were encouraged to do their own experiments with the equipment on display.

The world of textiles came alive for adults and children as they worked on a 6 foot by 4 foot loom; 3D printers made objects that flew all over the exhibit space; kids "manned" space ships that soared above our heads; visitors designed robots that moved around our feet. I saw adults building musical instruments, and kids riding around in a solar



Loom at Maker's Festival



Wout Zweer making chocolates

His table might have been the busiest at the Festival!

I met and spoke with Dayenne Smolders at the event and she introduced me to her boss, Enschede's Alderman Patrick Wellman.

Excitement in innovation in the arts and sciences in Enschede will continue in the next issue of El Chisme. It is never-ending!

Tot Ziens,
Joni Reid

car. My favorite display was the work of a scientist/designer named Wout Zweer who is the founder of the WOW Factory in Enschede. He makes the most delicious sweet and semi-sweet chocolate using a 3D printer. His