

**The Museum of *Everything*'s Exhibition #6 is open!**  
**by Paola de Bruijn, Select Committee of Special Arts**

**06.03.16**

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March the exhibition "The Museum of *Everything*" opened at Kunsthal in Rotterdam. Founding father of the museum James Brett celebrated the sixth edition of this unconventional traveling exhibition. In an interview with Kunsthal director Emily Ansenk he praises the hospitality of the open-minded Rotterdam institution named 'The Kunsthal of *Everything*' for the occasion. In one breath he pays tribute to the makers. They are independent heroes who are not schooled according to academic tradition and deserve to be presented in a big way.

Passionate, he talks about his many acquaintances with them and their work. About how they do not consider themselves as creators and express themselves for no other reason but to make art. It's not about them pleasing us as viewers, according to Brett. To look at the details of the fairytale panoramas, dreams, visions and interpretations of rituals is hard work for us visitors, he strongly asserts. There is a lack of traditional ordering principles, common rules and conventional interpretations. It is the works themselves which invite us to step into the inner world of the maker ... and that of ourselves.

In The Museum of *Everything* the makers tell the story of their lives. As a driven messenger Brett emphasizes that the artworks cannot be separated from the makers themselves. It is also for this reason that he rejects the term Outsider Art. It implies that Insider Art therefore somehow exists! He explains that it is important to see these works as the equivalent of mainstream art history. It is an equal right, a right to give cultural expression to human behavior itself. We are our stories! Art transcends the narrative and is in this sense the phenomenal form through which we meet each other.

The details of the more than two thousand personal stories by more than two hundred authors, from 1600 to the present, ask to be seen modestly. This art gallery within the Kunsthal is, next to colour and shape, completely filled with heart and soul. It is about what it is. What it could be, we may withhold in our thoughts. With all these sayings in my pocket, I see myself retroactively *en route* with open eyes and mouth in surprise, and with open heart and soul in wonder, a day later. All impressions of what I discovered during my journey through 'the museum of everything' continue to sizzle even after I tell you ... go and see it, go and see it!