

PRESS RELEASE

THE ISRAËLS. FATHER AND SON

10.11.2024 – 16.03.2025

On the 200th birthday of Jozef Israëls (1824-1911), from 10 November to 16 March 2025, a unique exhibition about him and his son Isaac (1865-1934) can be seen in the MTVP Museum Domburg. Jozef was not only a versatile representative of the Hague School and a painter of the hard life of fishermen along the Dutch coast, but also closely associated with European classical artists' colonies, the main theme of our museum.

He had first been to Barbizon in the mid-1840s, during a study period in Paris. When he made an educational trip to Düsseldorf around 1850, he visited Oosterbeek on the way back, where he became acquainted with the Dutch Barbizon. Until well into the 1860s he focused on French nature painters, after which the emphasis shifted from the rugged, versatile forest and river landscape to the flat Dutch polder landscape and the fishing life on the North Sea coast.

Jozef Israëls trained his son, who after studying at the Hague Academy and the Rijksacademie Amsterdam, chose a more progressive path in the mid-1880s and joined the Tachtigers ('Eighties'). Under their influence, Isaac became the painter of the street, cafés, cabarets, fashion and shop girls. During his many travels he added circus life, horse racing and ballet impressions to his subjects. In the years 1921-1922 he lived and painted in the Dutch East Indies.

While the father was a romantic who became a realist, the son developed into an impressionist. Based on a selection of 10 photogravures from a folder with 50 gravures, which was published on Jozef Israëls' 80th birthday in 1904, 12 works by Israëls senior from the collection of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam are presented, together with a series of works by Jozef and especially Isaac from family collections, most of which have never been shown outside the private sphere.



For more Information and Photos: info@museumdomburg.nl

THE ARTISTS' COLONY DOMBURG

At the end of the nineteenth century, Domburg made name as a simple international Spa town, with the major attraction of the doctor and physiotherapist Johan Georg Mezger (1838-1909). After Mezger's death and the First World War (1914-1918), the town slowly changed into a family seaside resort for the middle class. For a long time, its history remained hidden, but from the 1980s onwards Domburg is chronicled as classical Artists' Colony.

Of old, artists have roamed Walcheren, attracted as they were by the unspoiled beauty of the surroundings, the special light along the coast and its reflection on the country embraced by water. With a couple of Belgian painters such as Emile Claus, Euphrosine Beernaert and Camille Van Camp as forerunners round about 1870, the Artists' Colony Domburg came into a first bloom about 1900, experienced its hey-day during the period of the well-known Domburgsche Tentoonstellingen (1911-1921) and lasted until the end of the 1920s. The Artists' Colony Domburg came to a symbolic end when the 'Kunstzaal' collapsed after violent storms in the winter of 1921-1922.

THE MTVP MUSEUM

Since 1994, the Marie Tak van Poortvliet Museum Domburg (marietakmuseum.nl) organizes successful exhibitions on the participants in the old exhibitions, on contemporary artists who have ties with Zeeland and in co-operation with the ICEAC (iceac.eu) on other notable Colonies from the end of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. The plans to expand the Museum and to connect it to the ICEAC are being elaborated, with the latter representing the scientific side of EUROART (euroart.eu). One endeavours to let the inauguration of the Research- and Documentation Centre coincide with the opening of the new Museum in 2026.

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