



Voorland (Foreland)

*Documentary, Albert Elings & Eugenie Jansen, 2005 — **ARABIC SUBTITLES***

Set in the flood plains of the Lower Rhine, Voorland captures the shifting relationship between man and nature in this area that has been “returned to the river”, where cows can only graze

when the waters retreat and where wild horses were recently reintroduced. Nature plays the lead role in this documentary and is shown in all its beauty and simplicity with rushing floodwaters, grazing cows and crimson sunsets. Man only figures in the background, trying to contain the waters, managing the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, and leading campaigns to protect the nature reserve.

Filmed over a period of seven years, Voorland documents the phenomenon of “new nature” in The Netherlands and shows how the Dutch, who for centuries sought to dominate and control land and water in their little country, are today letting go and making space for nature.

Dates: Wednesday 28/3/2007 & Thursday 29/3/2007

Time and location: 19:45 at NIASD

Introduction by: Prof.Dr. Youssef Barkoudah (see the next page for a synopsis of this introduction in English and Arabic)

Synopsis introduction to “Voorland”

Voorland is a documentary, which illustrates the modern change of land use in the Netherlands around the Rhine River and the hazards of living near an important river, which at any moment can flood the land surrounding it. The scenes of the film take place around a farm called Voorland, near an old dilapidated brick factory in the flood plain of the river used for brick manufacturing, and grazing cattle over the last centuries.

As a result of urbanization, modernization and increase in traffic, there is a growing need for walking in nature and observing wild life. The area is changed into a recreational one where not long ago wild horses were introduced. The train rails and roads are constructed underground in order to avoid disturbing the flora and fauna. School children come to spend a day registering their observations on insects, birds and plants. People demonstrate against the construction of a railway, municipalities discuss plans of road construction keeping in mind the conservation of nature.

It is a film for those interested in the development of rural life in the last number of decades, change of priorities in modern times and the trends of nature conservation in developed European countries, especially in the Netherlands.