**Around the corner…**

**How MAS uses its collections to connect to its diverse cultural landscapes.**

**Call for papers 2: Museums between their collections and their environments.**

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MAS – Museum aan de Stroom opened its doors in Antwerp in 2011. It was a brand new building that gave space to heritage collections of the city of Antwerp. The ethnological, the maritime and the ethnographical collection were mixed together in a new concept: bringing stories about how people from Antwerp leave their traces in the world and how people from that same world leave their traces in Antwerp.

This we show by using 4 themes and a visible storage.

Visible storage on collecting

Display of Power: about prestige and symbols

World Port: of trade and shipping

Life and Death: gives an answer to the question where do we come from and where do we go.

Antwep a la Carte: how food shapes the city

After five years MAS learned that its relevance in the city depends on the relation the museum develops with the cultural and urban landscapes in the city. Several examples in its brief history show that a project (an exhibition, an educational program, a city participative project, a research) only has reason to exist when it is connected, acknowledged and supported by people and communities in those cultural landscapes.

I would like to focus on 2 projects. Two ways in which MAS connects to its cultural landscapes.

*The Shop around the Corner* focused on food retailers in three well known, but very different, shopping streets in the city. Volunteers went out to search for stories and objects from 1950 till today. Next to an expo that travelled in the neighborhoods of those streets, the stories also became part of the permanent MAS exhibition ‘Antwerp à la Carte’, on how food forms the city.

*Cloth* is a social artistic organization where Afghan-Antwerp women, who are experts in embroidery, meet. MAS invites the experts to visit its textile collections and share their knowledge and expertise about the embroidered textiles we store (from the Afghan and Antwerp region). While working together with an Antwerp community of experts, MAS redefines its own collection. As a result of the project the experts take up a curator’s role and make a small exhibition in MAS. Goal is to connect the changing heritage of the city and museum collections.