One of the most significant history pages of The Netherlands is the Siege and Relief of Leiden from Spanish conquerors on 3 October, 1574. King William of Orange (Willem van Oranje) decided to reward the heroism of Leiden citizens and offered them to choose: tax freedom or foundation of a university. Long-suffering, but gloried and victorious Leiden inhabitants chose university. Thus second oldest university in Europe was founded in Leiden. Relief of Leiden after the King’s Birthday and Carnival is the third large public celebration in The Netherlands.
ArtEcho Foundation is honored to invite you to the opening ceremony of the Festival Iberia 2013 Erwin Olaf ‘Leiden History Pages’ on December 19, 2013 in Tbilisi

For the first time Georgia will host 'The Artist of the Year 2014' Erwin Olaf, one of the most outstanding and high class photographers. The exhibits of the exquisite exhibition, Erwin Olaf’s photo series about the Siege and Relief of Leiden, are leaving the Netherlands for the first time and arriving in Georgia.

Erwin Olaf gave modern interpretation to one of the most significant episodes in the history of the Netherlands – the Siege and Relief of Leiden from Spanish conquerors in 1574, which was commissioned by Leiden University and Leiden’s municipal Museum De Lakenhal.

Revival of historical episodes and characters, contemporary paraphrase of events, encounter of the past and present, blend of classical painting traditions and modern technologies and documentation by Olaf’s camera underlines the uniqueness of the collection; these very interesting contrasts make indelible impression on the viewers.

With the support of its devoted partners and sponsors Festival Iberia is in Tbilisi again presenting the exhibition Leiden History Pages, the glorious episode from the history of the Netherlands, interpreted by Erwin Olaf – a distinguished representative of contemporary photo art.

The opening ceremony will take place on 19 December 2013, at 19:00 in the Georgian National Museum, D. Shevardnadze National Gallery, Tbilisi. Rustaveli avenue 11.
Photos: Collection Leiden University Library, from the series ‘Erwin Olaf: The Siege and Relief of Leiden (1574)’, commissioned by Museum De Lakenhal and Leiden University.