

PRESS INFORMATION May 2017

ARTZUID 2017 INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE BIENNIAL AMSTERDAM

CURATOR RUDI FUCHS: MONDRIAAN'S INFLUENCE ON DUTCH SCULPTURE!

ARTZUID 2017 takes place 19 May-17 September. Fifty monumental abstract sculptures by Dutch artists are positioned in Berlage's Art Deco district in Amsterdam South. The sculpture biennial follows the theme year 'Mondriaan to Dutch Design – 100 Years of De Stijl' and shows the influence of the Dutch art movement De Stijl (The Style) on sculpture. The artists are of different post war generations working in the abstract tradition, including André Volten, Joost Baljeu, Auke de Vries, Krijn de Koning, Esther Tielemans, David Jablonowski and Saskia Noor van Imhoff. This fifth edition of ARTZUID curator Rudi Fuchs, former director of the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, aims to position Dutch abstract sculptors internationally. In the Zuidas business district additional works of international artists will be on show, among which Cristóbal Gabarrón's *Enlightened Universe* which was made on the occasion of the United Nations 70th anniversary in 2015.

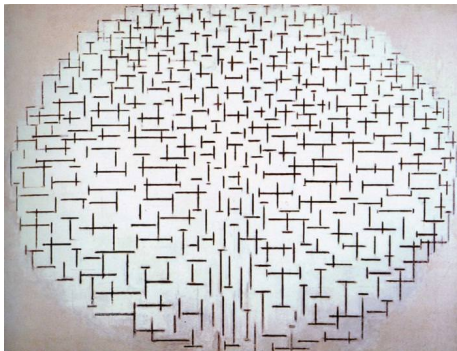
www.artzuid.nl



Curator Rudi Fuchs about his choice: *"Without a doubt the great new revelation of modern art was abstraction – particularly of the rectangular variety. This breakthrough paved the way for a new clarity as well as agility of design. The making of art changed profoundly as a result. Rectangular and other similar shapes are able to move freely, and can therefore be connected in many different ways. A figurative shape like, say, a tree stands rooted in the earth with its top in the air. By contrast a rectangle does not have a top and a bottom in the same way and is therefore able to move in free and unpredictable ways – just as a kite can make all kinds of swirls and swoops that would be impossible to imagine beforehand. It is precisely this freedom – freedom from formal rules and conventions – that came to typify the magical way in which modern art has evolved over the last century. Everything has been freed in an incredible way. It was its relentlessness and sharpness of formulation that gave*

abstract art its groundbreaking energy. In the Netherlands it was of course the art of Mondriaan that set all this in motion.

His first abstract painting (he called it 'neoplasticism') dates from 1915, the beginning of abstract art's global



victory march. The basic principles of its design were, and remain to this day, valid and irreversible. Look at the intensity of a classic Mondriaan (red, yellow, blue). What could follow that? Another cheerful flower arrangement? Abstraction placed the making of all art in a whole new light. When I became involved in the art world in the 1960s we used to say to each other: whatever is made, the crazier the better. We had great expectations. That attitude was a consequence of the boldness which was introduced into art by the wilfulness of the abstract

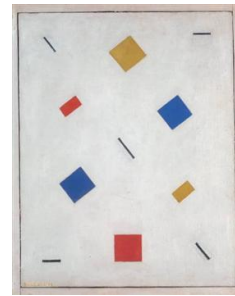
movement and is now part and parcel of it. After Mondriaan had got the ball rolling, 1917 saw the founding of the journal *De Stijl* with the eponymous group of like-minded artists surrounding it. That was 100 years ago. While *De Stijl* was not around for long, its legacy remained undiminished. [Painting: Piet Mondriaan *Pier and Ocean* 1915 comp. no. 10]



Gerrit Rietveld

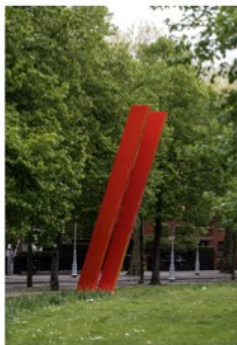


Theo van Doesburg



Bart van der Leek

It was in this context that a type of sculptural art emerged in the Netherlands in the 1950s in which the characteristic idiom of rectangular abstraction found its own very distinctive expressions. It was not a movement but rather a loose grouping of individual artists, older as well as younger, whose work shows a certain correlation. Their work is abstract and concrete and at the same time full of extraordinary imagination. Together this work gives a good impression of public sculptural art. Its design is above all comprehensible and thus democratic. However, if you take the time to look at it patiently it will reveal its secrets and inimitability. The exhibition gives an impression of this type of sculpture both as it started out back in the day and is still continuing now. In the Berlage area I have confined myself to artists of the Netherlands because this type of straightforward and clearly formulated sculpture strikes me as being quintessentially Dutch. For the Zuidas business district I have selected a number of international artists. Everyone here is indebted to Mondriaan but also to Rietveld. My choice of artists is also related to how I envisage the arrangement of the objects in situ. This we will see once they are in position in May."



Impression sculptures ARTZUID 2017, v.l.t.r. upper row: Gust Romijn, Joost Baljeu, Piet, Killaars lower row: Krijn de Koning, Esther Tielemans.

Dutch participating artists:

Joost Baljeu, Jan Maaskant; Gust Romijn; André Volten; Theo Niermeijer; Shinkichi Tajiri; Cornelius Rogge; Klaas Gubbels; Auke de Vries; Lon Pennock; Piet Killaars; Ewerdt Hilgemann; Jeroen Henneman; Atelier van Lieshout; Sjoerd Buisman; Piet Tuytel; Ruud Kuijer; Hans van de Bovenkamp; Leo Vroegindewij; Esther Tielemans; Krijn de Koning; Michael Jacklin; Saskia Noor van Imhoff; David Jablonowski. Paul Goede (performance).

International participating artists:

Cristóbal Gabarrón; Ryszard Winiarski; Arne Quinze; Miquel Barceló; Eiji Watanabe (Art Chapel); Yutaka Matsuzawa (Art Chapel); Okamoto Mitsuhiro (Art Chapel).



Enlightened Univers – Cristóbal Gabarrón

Information and tours

ARTZUID 2017 provides free access. Starting point for the exhibition and group tours is the ARTZUID-Pavilion on Minervalaan 1 (7 minutes' walk from Museum Square). Public transport: Tram 5, 24, 16 or Station Zuid (South). Book exhibition group tours via communicatie@artzuid.nl. (All languages.) More information: www.artzuid.nl.

NOTE to the editor, not for publication

It would be great if you would include ARTZUID in your newsletter or art calendar. We'll gladly provide high res images upon request. Also we would love to introduce you to the curator or participating artists for interviews or a reportage. Do not hesitate to contact us at: media@artzuid.nl.

Stichting Art Zuid (Foundation Art Zuid)
Prinses Irenestraat 19-1
1077WT Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www.artzuid.nl
tel. +31 (0)20 5286061