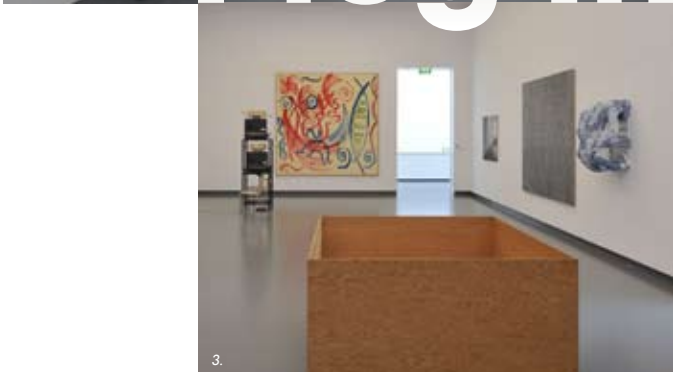


Plug In



Plug In

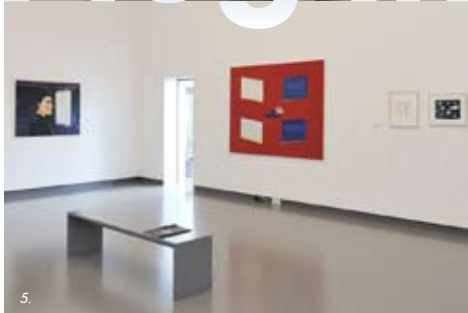


Plug In - Re-Imagining the Collection The latest developments at the Van Abbemuseum

The Van Abbemuseum initiated the exhibition project *Plug In - Re-Imagining The Collection* in 2006. The project presents work from the museum's own collection in continually changing experimental formats. Since the start, 41 single-room shows have been realized, often with 15 or more of them running simultaneously in different rooms of the museum. The latest opened only recently in May this year. Each Plug In has shed new light on the unique collection that the Van Abbemuseum has been assembling since its inception in 1936. The Plug Ins have included work by artists such as Marijke van Warmerdam, Avery Preesman, Wendelien van Oldenborgh, Pieter Laurens Mol, Pierre Huyghe, René Daniels and Georg Baselitz. They have been produced in collaboration between the collection curator Christiane Berndes and guest curators, Rudi Fuchs, Bik Van der Pol, Lily van der Stokker and Clare Butcher. The content of some of the more recent presentations is summarized below. You can find a more detailed fact sheet on each Plug In on the Van Abbemuseum's Press Site.

1. Room view Plug In #38. Photo Peter Cox
2. Room view Plug In #39. Photo Peter Cox
3. Room view Plug In #41 showing works by Förg, Van Warmerdam, Penck, Dibbets, Preesman and Judd. Photo Peter Cox

Plug In



4. Room view Plug In #37. Photo Peter Cox

5. Room view Plug In #40. Photo Peter Cox

Bik Van der Pol - Pay Attention: Act 3

Plug In #28.3

Liesbeth Bik and Jos van der Pol have been collaborating since 1994 under the name Bik Van der Pol. They often work on location, using, reusing and reactivating work by other artists. They confront the visitor with a specific situation but try not to control it too tightly. *Plug In #26 Pay Attention* consists of a series of presentations that address the visitor both as an individual and as a participant in our society. *Pay Attention: Act 3* is the third component in this series, with Bik Van der Pol presenting works by Pierre Huyghe, El Lissitzky and Richard Paul Lohse. The work of these three artists reflects on the relation between art and society. By placing them in the same space, Bik Van der Pol play with the way information is conveyed. They raise issues, without literally illustrating or formulating them, on how we view and interpret information, and on how we relate what we know to what we see and vice versa. Questions like these are a constant theme in the work of this artist duo.

→ direct link to pdf

One on One - Pieter Laurens Mol - Lament Superior

Plug In #37

This *Plug In* space highlights one work at a time from the museum's collection. The title indicates the one-to-one relation between the work, the room and the visitor. The space contains a single chair on which the visitor may sit and examine the work at length, read information about it and take time to think. The work currently figuring in this *Plug In* is *Lament Superior* (1991) by Pieter Laurens Mol. It was chosen by the South African guest curator Clare Butcher. She came across the work in the collection of the Van Abbemuseum during her research into Dutch art out of interest in the project *Be(com)ing Dutch*.

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Lily van der Stokker and guest HW Werther

Plug In #38

The artist Lily van der Stokker is the guest curator for one of the spaces in the *Plug In* series. She designed the wallpaper (which the museum has since purchased) for this space and invites artists to display new or existing work with the wallpaper as a background. The most recent guest is HW Werther. She makes conceptual work, and for this *Plug In* she proposed applying an exhibition algorithm that entailed placing as many works as possible from the Van Abbemuseum collection on the walls and floor of the space. The focus is not on the individual works but on the method used for filling the space. HW Werther thus creates a distinction between the work of art as material and the meaning of a work. She deliberately obscures the meaning by maximizing the quantity of work in the space and by playing with the idea of the work of art as decoration, as foreground and background. Van der Stokker's wallpaper forms a background to the paintings, and the paintings themselves form a background to the sculptures. HW Werther moreover accentuates the infinitely repeating decorative motif of Van der Stokker's wallpaper through her algorithm (repeatable procedure).

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Wendelien van Oldenborgh - Maurits Script

Plug In #39

The work *Maurits Script* (2006) by Wendelien van Oldenborgh is a video installation which was recently purchased by the Van Abbemuseum. It forms part of Van Oldenborgh's project *A Certain Brazilianness*, in which she uses the heterogeneous culture of Brazil as an example in her development of new strategies for producing works of art and for establishing new relationships. *Maurits Script* is based on a study of the period when Prince Johan Maurits van Nassau was the governor of the Dutch colony in Brazil (1637-1644). In this work, official history becomes entangled with pseudo-official stories, thereby depicting the heritage of colonialism in contemporary society.

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René Daniëls - Connected Underground

Plug In #40

The Van Abbemuseum owns a significant collection of paintings by the important Eindhoven artist René Daniëls, and it also houses the paintings, drawings, objects and graphic works managed by the René Daniëls Foundation. Brought together, this gives the Van Abbemuseum the largest and most prominent collection of this artist, who won the BKVB Fund Oeuvre Prize in 2007 and whose work is represented in many leading museums and private collections both in the Netherlands and abroad. This is clearly justification enough for presenting continually changing displays of work from this splendid collection. Both staff and guest curators are involved in making the selections. In the present *Plug In*, the fourth to be dedicated to Daniëls' work, the curator Christiane Berndes has chosen the work *Connected Underground*, and highlights relations between it and other works by the same artist from the museum's collection.

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Plug In

Disturbance

Plug In #41

Rudi Fuchs, a former Director of the Van Abbemuseum, received an invitation to be the guest curator of a Plug In presentation. This offer was the outcome of a series of conversations between Rudi Fuchs and the museum's present Director, Charles Esche, on exhibitions and collection presentations that Rudi Fuchs had organized in the late 1970s. Fuchs immediately took up the invitation, and proposed organizing a show in which he would supplement his selection from the collection by some more recent work by Georg Baselitz, Jan Dibbets, Günther Förg, Avery Preesman and Marijke Warmerdam. Fuchs explained the thinking behind this decision as follows: 'In a presentation of work from the collection in 1979, I hung a painting by Georg Baselitz near a wooden sculpture by Donald Judd. The photograph taken of that encounter serves as the starting point for my contribution to the *Plug In* series. To intensify the contrasts, I have taken the liberty of adding some recent works of art to the ensemble that I would have acquired for the collection had I still been Director of this museum.'

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6. *Plug In* #28.3, Pierre Huyghe, *Les Grands Ensembles*, 1994-2001.
Photo Peter Cox

7. Room view *Plug In* #41 showing works by Penck, Dibbets and Judd.
Photo Peter Cox

Curators

Plug In concept: Christiane Berndes, Charles Esche

Plug In content: Christiane Berndes and guests

New episodes

#28.3 Bik Van der Pol

Pay Attention: Act 3

#37 One on One

Pieter Laurens Mol

Lament Superior

#38 Lily van der Stokker and guest HW Werther

#39 Wendelien van Oldenborgh

Maurits Script

#40 René Daniëls

Connected Underground

#41 Disturbance

On View

#06 El Lissitzky

Deimantus Narkevičius

#18 Viewing depot

#24 Artur Żmijewski

#26 Maria Eichhorn

Aktiengesellschaft

#28 Bik Van der Pol

Pay Attention

#33 Igloo Nero

#34 Starting with Kandinsky

Plug In Information Lobby



Plug In has been realised in part by a contribution by the Mondriaan Foundation.

Van Abbemuseum

Bilderdijklaan 10
Eindhoven

Opening hours

tu - su 11.00 - 17.00
th 11.00 - 21.00

Admission

adults €8,50
groups >15, visitors 65+ €6
students / CJP-card holders €4
Thursday night admission free
17:00 - 21:00 (until 31/12/08)

For more details visit
www.vanabbemuseum.nl

Note for editors

More information and images can be downloaded directly at:
www.vanabbemuseum.nl/press

Or contact:

Nicole de Boer
Marketing & Communications
tel. + 31 40 238 1019
GSM: + 31 61 299 5794
n.de.boer@vanabbemuseum.nl

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