

Boijmans in Transit

Over the course of 170 years, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam has built a world-class collection of 151,000 artworks. The museum moved into its current building in the Museumpark in 1935. Many decades and millions of visitors later, the building is in dire need of a large-scale renovation and modernisation.

The city council's decision at the end of 2018 to opt for the most ambitious form of renovation and modernisation means that the museum will be free of asbestos and the risk of flooding, will meet the most stringent fire-safety regulations and will be ready for the future. Thanks to this decision and the help of external investors, the museum will be able to restore its buildings to their former glory, meet today's demands and build its international profile. Rotterdam has made a clear choice for a durable and future-proof museum. The city council's decision is, according to the museum's director Sjarel Ex, 'a wonderful gift to the city of Rotterdam and to everyone who loves its incredibly rich art collection. We are delighted that the collection is being made safe and will once again be housed in a building of extraordinary beauty. Working with the city to realise this ambitious renovation will ensure that the museum retains its position as one of the finest in the world.'

Planning

The large-scale renovation and modernisation began in January 2019 with the closure of the Van der Steur wing and the removal of the artworks. The exhibition wing will close on 26 May. The ambitious renovation project is expected to take seven years. The asbestos removal will take a year. In the meantime the museum will begin the process of selecting an architect and drawing up the brief that will form the basis of the design.

Museum building

New open entrances and reception areas will be created to improve access, the visitor's experience and the museum's connection to its environment. There will also be a modern museum shop, dining facilities and more space for programming large exhibitions. With an up-to-date building, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen will be equipped to meet the future and build upon its international reputation as a leading art institution.

Transit Boijmans Van Beuningen

When the museum closes in the summer of 2019 in preparation for the extensive renovation and modernisation, the collection will not disappear completely from sight. During the transitional period, a large part of the collection will remain accessible to the public. The museum is reaching out into Rotterdam and further afield to share its internationally renowned collection with the public. The museum has entered into a unique partnership with eight neighbouring arts venues under the name Boijmans Next Door. Extensive selections from the collection will remain on view in eleven exciting exhibitions. Additionally the museum is organising touring exhibitions abroad. Since the beginning of the 2019 school year, the museum has been introducing schoolchildren in Rotterdam to real objects from the collection through Boijmans in the Classroom and the museum is currently working hard to realise 'South', a temporary location and testing ground for younger audiences. From mid 2019 the 145,000 books in the museum library will relocate to their own publicly accessible room within the Rotterdam city archive. In the meantime, the construction of Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen continues. The world's first publicly accessible arts storage facility will open in 2021 and will house 151,000 artworks.

Last chance to see

Highlights of the Boijmans Van Beuningen Collection; 9 February - 26 May

This is the last chance to see the masterpieces from the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen collection, on display in the Robbrecht and Daem hall until 26 May. Highlights include Pieter Bruegel's *De toren van Babel* and *De Marskramer* by Jheronimus Bosch and important new acquisitions such as the triptych by the Master of the Holy Veronica, 1410 (bought early December 2018 for the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen) are also on display.

netherlands ⇄ bauhaus: pioneers of a new world; 9 February - 26 May

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen kicked off the Bauhaus centenary with a huge exhibition about this legendary art and design school, whose influence is felt to this day. For the first time, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen is spotlighting the Dutch Bauhaus network in a wide-ranging retrospective, revealing the input of over sixty artists, designers, architects and other

Editors' Note

For images, interviews and / or further information please contact:

Rhiannon Pickles, rhannon@picklespr.com 0031 (0) 615821202

or with the press officer Sharon Cohen +31(0)6 1188 6879, email: pressoffice@boijmans.nl

intermediaries from the Netherlands who were personally and artistically involved with the Bauhaus and vice versa between 1919 and 1933.

Co Westerik 'Everyday Wonder'; 9 February - 26 May

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen is paying tribute to the Rotterdam-based artist Co Westerik, who recently died at the age of 94. This exhibition is a retrospective of his art and diaries. It is the first time these private journals will be on display. 'Everyday Wonder' offers an overview of Co Westerik's oeuvre compiled in close collaboration with the Co Westerik Foundation. The exhibition transports the visitor into Westerik's experiential world, in which the everyday becomes something special. The exhibition is being presented in the Willem van der Vorm Gallery and the Print Room – both of which are part of the modern half of the museum's accommodation. Alongside 50 works by the artist, the presentation includes six diaries, which are being presented for the first time. 'Everyday Wonder' coincides with the publication of these unique journals, in which Westerik tracked the creation of his works of art.

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

The collection of Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam has grown over a period of 170 years into a world-class collection of 151,000 artworks and design dating from 1400 to today. Unique to The Netherlands, this rich collection exists through the passion of 1,700 private collectors, who in the nearly 170 years that the museum has existed have donated almost a third of the current collection to the museum.

Bosch, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Dalí and Dutch design: a visit to Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen is a journey through the history of art. Dutch and foreign masterpieces provide a comprehensive survey of art from the early Middle Ages to the present day. Masterpieces by, among many others, Monet, Mondrian and Magritte show the development of Impressionism and Modernism. The museum has one of the world's largest collections of Surrealist art and an excellent collection of British and American Pop art with works by David Hockney, Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg. The museum is also the place for decorative arts and design: from medieval ceramics and Renaissance glass to furniture by Gerrit Rietveld and contemporary Dutch design.

Editors' Note

For images, interviews and / or further information please contact:
Rhiannon Pickles, rhiannon@picklespr.com 0031 (0) 615821202
or with the press officer Sharon Cohen +31(0)6 1188 6879, email: pressoffice@boijmans.nl