

## Q&A Renovation and Transit

### Renovation and costs

- 1. How long will the museum be closed?**  
We estimate that the museum will be closed for seven years for extensive and radical renovations and modernization with an expected opening in 2026. The building will be closed for this period, but the collection can be seen in many other places in the city and further afield.
- 2. So the collection won't be visible for several years?**  
The museum's programme continues and part of its famous collection will remain visible in eleven exhibitions and in school classrooms throughout Rotterdam. From 2021, the collection will be displayed at Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen. Selections from the collection will also travel to leading museums around the world.
- 3. What will the rebuilding works cost?**  
The renovations and rebuilding will cost 168,5 million euros for the basic scenario and 223.5 million euros for the more ambitious scenario. Rotterdam City Council decided on 20 December 2018 to seek external funding for the more ambitious scenario. The aim is to create a future-proof and sustainable building that meets all contemporary requirements, can welcome more visitors and is more attractive for Rotterdammers and tourists. The building, which is a national monument, is in dire need of renovation, which will start in 2019 and taken seven years to complete.
- 4. Who is paying for the rebuilding?**  
The total estimated cost of the renovation is 223.5 million euros. This takes into account the construction costs, additional costs, financing costs, price increases until the end of the renovation, organisational costs, etc. As the owner of the building, the City of Rotterdam is paying 168.5 million euros. External funding is being sought for the remaining 55 million euros. The city council has chosen the most ambitious renovation option, and the municipality and the museum are confident that they can enthruse other parties to make a contribution to the renovation and rebuilding.
- 5. What is the schedule?**  
The renovation will take approximately seven years. The museum closed to the public on 27 May. The first stage is the removal of asbestos from the building. The renovation and rebuilding work will then be undertaken, followed by a period of aftercare, calibration of the climate-control systems and reinstalling the artworks. The museum is expected to re-open in the first quarter of 2026.
- 6. Why are you building a new Depot when the museum building is being upgraded?**  
The impetus to build the Depot at the time was the fact that the storage facilities in the museum were too small, unsafe and obsolete. This problem could not be solved within the museum building itself but only through the creation of an external storage facility. Even with the renovation of the museum building, an external storage facility would still be required. A substantial financial donation from the De Verre Bergen Foundation has made it possible to build the striking new Depot, which is currently under construction in the Museumplein. The alternative would have been a storage facility on the outskirts of the city that would not be accessible to the public. Another important factor was to use the Depot to give a boost to the Museumplein and all the cultural institutions that border it. Similar to the Museumplein in Amsterdam, the Museum Island in Berlin and clusters of cultural institutions in other large cities, Rotterdam is also creating an attractive group of museums, each of which can potentially enhance the others.
- 7. Why is Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen being renovated during the construction of the Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen?**  
The museum building has been in need of maintenance for years and cannot continue in its current state due to factors such as the presence of asbestos, flooding and insufficient fire safety standards. It is no longer viable technically and functionally. The presence of asbestos in the building has created a maintenance situation that can no longer be ignored. Together with the outdated electrical and climate-control systems, it is no longer responsible to keep the building open.  
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- 8. Which contractor will carry out the renovation?**  
That is not yet known.
- 9. Is the Van der Steur wing a national monument and what does this mean for the renovation?**  
The building by Ad van der Steur is a national monument. These are buildings or other structures

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that are protected by the State because of their cultural or historical value. The maintenance and restoration of national monuments is subject to strict laws and regulations. Maintenance and rebuilding takes place in consultation with and under the supervision of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands and the City of Rotterdam's Department of Monuments and Cultural History. This means that the State places demands on the quality of the work that is carried out and on the knowledge and experience of the parties involved.

10. **Is there asbestos in the buildings?**

The Van der Steur and Bodon buildings contain asbestos, which will be carefully removed while preserving the building's monumental elements.

11. **How has the building got into such a poor condition?**

The building no longer complies with the laws and regulations because of the presence of asbestos and the fact that the air ducts are not compartmentalised. To ensure the safety of those using the building, asbestos levels have been measured twice a year. While these measurements did not cause concern, the renovation can no longer be delayed.

## Design

1. **What does the design look like?**

The design has not yet been decided upon. We must first draw up the detailed brief, consisting of a spatial/functional component and a technical component. The design will be developed following the selection of a shortlist of architects. Three architects were selected earlier this summer by an expert selection committee. The architect ultimately chosen to carry out the renovation will be announced at the beginning of 2020.

2. **When will the architect be announced?**

The notification of the selection procedure was published on TenderNed on 21 May 2019. Three architects were selected earlier this summer by an expert selection committee. The architect ultimately chosen to carry out the renovation will be announced at the beginning of 2020.

3. **Which three architects have been selected?**

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen and Rotterdam City Council have selected three teams: KAAN Architecten with Van Hoogevest Architecten, Mecanoo Architecten with David Chipperfield Architects, and WDJ Architecten. Over the next few months, they will elaborate on their ideas for the ambitious renovation of the museum. The European tender for the architect selection was published in May 2019 and the teams are now entering a so-called dialogue phase. The municipality and the museum are delighted to enter the next phase with these architects.

4. **What does the selection committee do and who are its members?**

The selection committee is made up of experts. Its job is to select the best architect for the job. The committee comprises representatives of Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen and Rotterdam City Council and external specialists. The committee has an independent chairperson who has no voting rights. In order to avoid any possible influence, the members of the committee must remain anonymous. The selection committee will make a unanimous decision based on the results of the selection phase.

5. **Will the extension built in 2003 be removed as part of the renovation?**

The renovation of the museum will be based on the brief, which is still in development. Only when the brief has been translated into a sketch design will it be clear to what extent the existing building needs to be modified to achieve the desired relationship to the environment and to accommodate the museum functions and updated technical systems.

6. **Will the building grow in size?**

The renovation of the building will be based on the brief, which is still in development. Once the architect has translated the brief into spatial sketches it will become clear whether the existing buildings are large enough to accommodate all the required functions and updated technical installations and how far-reaching the renovations will need to be. The museum's ambition is to meet the requirements of the future. The extensions that have been added over the years have created new possibilities, but have not been able to solve all the museum's functional and logistical problems. The museum's structural and technical shortcomings can only be solved with a major renovation.

7. **Will there be a new entrance in the Museumpark?**

This is not yet known.

## Communications

1. **What about people who turn up at your door unaware that the museum is closed?**

We are making every attempt to inform potential visitors through regular communications about the renovation and the interim programming. If, despite these efforts, visitors turn up at the

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# transit boijmans van beuningen

Museumpark, they will find information about the exhibitions happening in neighbouring museums and cultural institutions.

2. **How many works were displayed in the museum?**  
Approximately 4500, including site-specific works.
3. **Will the collection remain visible for the coming seven years?**  
While the museum is closed, selections from the collection will be displayed at other locations in Rotterdam and further afield. The museum's programme continues under the title Boijmans in Transit, and part of the museum's world-famous collection will be shown in eleven exhibitions at eight neighbouring institutions and in schools in Rotterdam. Plans for other locations are also being developed. From 2021, the collection will be displayed at [Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen](#). Selections from the collection will also travel to leading museums around the world.
4. **Can we still register for the existing education programme?**  
At the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, we are launching project [Boijmans in the Classroom](#), in which we will visit schools with artworks from the collection. Pupils will study the artworks and learn about the artist's ideas and the period in which the works were made. Boijmans will visit schools in the Rotterdam area with a diverse selection of artworks. Additionally, schools can visit the exhibitions that are part of the programme [Boijmans Next Door](#). You can find details of all our educational programmes on the museum's website.

## Collection

1. **How many works are in the collection?**  
The museum owns 151,000 artworks, of which approximately 70,000 are works on paper.
2. **What will happen to the collection?**  
Most of the collection will be stored temporarily in external storage facilities. Some works will be loaned to other institutions, others will be taken into schools as part of the [Boijmans in the Classroom](#) programme, a selection of works will be exhibited at eight neighbouring institutions under the title [Boijmans Next Door](#), and part of the collection will travel abroad.
3. **Will the sculpture garden remain accessible? And, if not, why?**  
The sculptures will be removed from the garden because some of them require restoration and others need to be protected from the building works.
4. **Where will paintings by 'big-name artists' such as Bosch, Bruegel, Dalí, Van Gogh, Kandinsky, Monet, Rembrandt, Rothko and Warhol be shown in the coming years?**  
Major works by modern artists such as Kees van Dongen, Wassily Kandinsky, Piet Mondrian and Vincent van Gogh and Old Master paintings by Pieter de Hooch, Gerard Dou, Jan Steen and Willem van de Velde as well as sculptures and design objects from the collection will be shown in the exhibitions that are part of [Boijmans Next Door](#) at the [Chabot Museum](#), Museum Rotterdam, the Maritime Museum and the [Tax and Customs Museum](#). Sculptures by Aristide Maillol, Thomas Schütte and others are being loaned to the Erasmus Medical Center. Because this building does not have museum-standard climate control, we are loaning works that are less sensitive to atmospheric fluctuations. The Mark Rothko painting is currently on loan to the [Stedelijk Museum Schiedam](#) (until January 2020) in a special exhibition in which visitors can spend time alone with the painting. From 2021 a selection of masterpieces from the collection will be displayed at museums abroad. Details of these exhibitions will be made available in due course. When the [Depot](#) opens, all other works will be displayed there in exhibitions and special displays until the museum reopens.
5. **What is happening to the following site-specific artworks and installations?**
  - ['Apollo'](#) football cage by Olaf Nicolai in the museum's internal courtyard: we are looking for a good place to display it.
  - ['Untitled \(Manhole\)'](#) by Maurizio Cattelan: it will probably be given a prime spot in the Depot. And until the Depot opens it will be stored safely in one of the external storage facilities. It is a fragile work.
  - ['Merry-Go-Round Coat Rack'](#) by Studio Wieki Somers: not yet known.
  - ['Infinity Mirror Room – Phalli's Field'](#) by Yayoi Kusama: not yet known.
  - ['Let Your Hair Down'](#) by Pipilotti Rist: not yet known.
  - ['Waxing Arcs'](#) by Richard Serra: not yet known.

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