

Art



AirportCity

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is more than just an airport. It is a modern city – a place to shop, relax, hold meetings and work. In addition to its shops, restaurants and conference centres, Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is also home to a unique collection of modern art. Art is an important element of Schiphol's Airport City concept. Schiphol's vision is that an airport is much more than merely a transport hub. An airport should be a place where people meet, an experience and a city in its own right.

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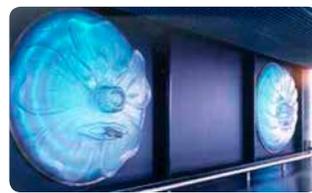
www.youtube.com/schiphol

Art at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (after passport control)

The first works of art at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol date back to the 1960s. One well-known relatively old work is Kees Franse's Apple, which dates from 1975. This large wooden apple served as a meeting point for a long time. Many passengers sign their names on this eye-catching object.

Art has a special meaning at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. It adds human perspective and creates restful focus points. At Schiphol, art is intended to embellish, to entertain and to surprise. It should lift the spirit and inspire a sense of wonder. Schiphol is a hub for large numbers of international travellers. They all have their own backgrounds and religions. Art may be provocative, but it should never cause offence or hurt people. As such, the works of art exhibited at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol have to meet certain criteria. In addition, they shouldn't be too fragile and should never impede safety.

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol has a collection of some eighty artworks from well-known and less well-known Dutch and international artists. The works of art at Schiphol are purchased by a special art committee.



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This committee is chaired by the President of Schiphol Group. When an airport extension is completed or when a Schiphol Group building undergoes major renovation, Schiphol commissions an artist to design a work specifically for that area.

As well as a large collection of publicly accessible art, Schiphol also has art on display on its piers and in the lounges after passport and ticket control. Passengers in those areas can enjoy exhibitions of works from the Dutch Golden Age, in addition to the airport's collection of modern art. Paintings by famous Dutch masters including Ferdinand Bol, Jan Steen and Jacob van Ruysdael are on display in the Rijksmuseum's annex at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, and form part of a permanent exhibition.

Temporary exhibitions are also organised here. The Rijksmuseum at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol can be found on 'Holland Boulevard' between Piers E and F, and is open daily from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Tracing Reality, Danielle Kwaaitaal (2007)



One of our latest acquisitions is Tracing Reality by Danielle Kwaaitaal. This work, covering a total of 450 square metres, is a representation of the Schiphol environs. The artist traced a circle around the Schiphol region and then made a compilation of places of interest such as the Amsterdamse Bos city woodland, the Aalsmeer flower auction and the Amsterdam-Zuidas business district. The artwork has been placed on the glass façade running from Departure Lounge 1 to Pier B.

Two incredible sitting black snowmen, Tom Claassen (2000)

While Tom Claassen's Two incredible sitting black snowmen may look soft, in fact they are cast in unyielding bronze.

The combination of form, material and dimensions works to confound the viewer. Many travellers consequently feel the need to touch the statue. This work, dating from 2000, can be found in the corridor connecting Pier B to Departure Lounge 1.



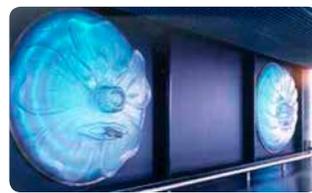
Metamorphosis, Escher (1969)

A genuine Escher is temporarily on display at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. The painting, entitled Metamorphosis, is 48 metres long and normally hangs in The Hague's central post office. The painting is on loan from TNT Post and is now displayed in Departure Lounge 4.

Pictograms

Even the signposting at Schiphol qualifies as art. As an example of Dutch design, the airport's signage has been awarded many prizes and serves as a model for other airports around the world. A great deal of prior research was carried out on the signposting, which was developed in the early 1960s by Total Design and updated in the 1990s by Bureau Mijksenaar in Amsterdam.





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The Elements, Jan Murk de Vries (2000)

For the opening of the Meditation Centre of the Airport Chaplaincy in 2000, the Dutch artist Jan Murk de Vries created glass panels representing the elements Fire, Water, Earth and Space. The elements underline the multireligious character of the Meditation Centre.

Nice Trip, Hugo Kaagman (1993)

A characteristic of Kaagman's work is its commentary on typical Dutch culture. He takes clichéd forms such as Delft blue and interweaves them with motifs and patterns from other cultures, particularly the abstract Islamic art he encountered in Morocco. The wall he created for Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is a personal and romanticised perspective on clichéd images of Holland, and leaves transfer passengers in no doubt about which country they are in. 'Nice Trip' is located on Holland Boulevard between Departure Lounges 2 & 3.



Four Seasons, Rob Birza (2000)

Pier B is home to a display of Rob Birza's large-scale 'Four Seasons', composed of four round, plastic reliefs that are lit from behind and constantly change colour. The work evokes

representations of the seasons as depicted in medieval books of hours, or even lamps shaped like the sun or moon found in children's rooms. References of this type are typical of Birza's work, always treading a fine line between art and kitsch. Birza could be compared to a beachcomber in the broadest sense: he gathers his material from art history, but also takes to the streets to collect all sorts of bits and pieces that are ultimately integrated in his work. He has no particular agenda or consistent style; rather, Birza takes a totally free-style approach to assembling his paintings, installations and renditions.

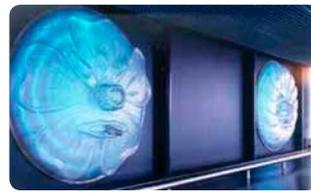
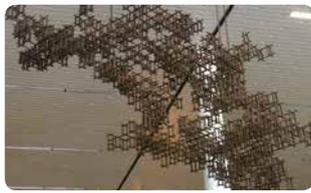


Cloud and Waterfall, Cornelius Rogge (1974)



Cornelius Rogge regularly changes the concepts he presents. His work is characterised by these transformations. Objects (tents, tables, windows, towers and vehicles) come together to create a personal mythology, a private universe, fed by the artist's theosophical background. They become ritual objects, bearing witness to the spiritual nature of all living and dead things.

'Cloud and Waterfall' is located at Pier F.



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SO GO ON, Marc Ruygrok (1995)

Three pairs of imposing, stacked up illuminated letters offer directions to transfer passengers: SO GO ON. There's no ambiguity to the message in this particular transfer area. The work is by Marc Ruygrok, who began using letters in his work early on his career, both in terms of form and content. The structures he creates in this way make references to architecture. Indeed, Ruygrok sees sculpture and architecture as two sides of the same coin. Ruygrok's beautiful SO GO ON is located on the second floor of Pier D.



Rust Cloud, André Volten (1967)



The definition of space is an architectural challenge and is one of the fundamental concerns of sculpture, along with volume and weight. These fundamental concepts are recurring themes in Volten's work, many of which have been conceived on an impressive scale. The Rust Cloud is a typical example of his work from the 1960s: industrial objects like H-beams are cut into small pieces and used to create a new, open structure. The Rust Cloud, one of the oldest art works in the terminal at Schiphol-Centre, is located in Departure Lounge 1.