

Press release 2015



robert smit
schrittmacher

26 february – 18 april 2015
opening: 25 february, 18.30

opening hours: we – fri 2 – 7 p.m., sa 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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In the complete history of art exists the phenomenon of outstanding personalities which do not belong to any “school”, to any current or movement, but claim their own singular and separated position. To this category we associate Robert Smit, born in 1941 in Delft / NL, hometown of light blue fayences, like the sky above Holland. In 2014 he was awarded with the Goldenen Ehrenring of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Goldschmiedekunst. In 2016 he will celebrate his seventy fifth birthday.

Smit, as young observer, has witnessed the departure in avant-garde art after the Second World War. He was among the circle of NUL in Delft (the Dutch version of ZERO), in particular close to Jan Schoonhoven. In the beginning of the sixties he went to Pforzheim to study jewelry with Klaus Ullrich. Since then he is known worldwide as a jewelry artist.

In the meantime we can look back on a rich and varied oeuvre full of surprises, which include both drawing and classical goldsmith’s labor, experimental research as well as the conceptual examination of artistic questions and technologies used in the digital production of images. Color sound, linear structure, the handling of paper and pen, composition and narrative tendencies shape his creative range. From a young age Smit had the opportunity to absorb parallel and similar reflections in other areas of the arts. This was essential for his ongoing process and has been a decisive factor for his artistic autonomy.

In 1972 he left jewelry, to turn back in 1984 and confess his love for gold. He remains faithful to a sort of constructivist interpretation of jewels, and to graphics and drawings as expression of material thinking. His pieces are reminiscent of Dutch still lifes, sea landscapes, vedutas and genre paintings – this however only as background information and reference to his origins.

At the same time matrix and reduction testify in his work a narrow relationship to abstract traditions in art. The quintessence lies at the end in a metaphorical sign, in a poetic synthesis between modernity and contemporary language, a development which is becoming stronger with the combination of words and a gestural esthetic vocabulary.

With Smit jewelry is transforming in cultural message and reminiscence. It talks about cultural experience and memory. Ornament, figuration and abstraction conspire in perfect harmony.

Our exhibition, consisting of about 30 important pieces represent a small survey concentrating on the present experiments with word and text fragmentation as well as painterly composed inventions.

R.S.

- 1941 Born, Delft, The Netherlands
 1954/1957 Technische School voor Delft en omstreken
 Getuigschrift instrumentmaker
 1963/1966 Staatliche Kunst und Werkschule Pforzheim, D
 Staatlich geprüfter Gestalter Fachrichtung Einzelschmuck
 Succesfull graduated (Cum laude)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selection)

- 1969 Galerie R.G., Curacao
 1971 Galerie Tietz-Odenwalt, Hamburg, D
 1973 Stedelijk Museum 'De Volle Maan', Delft, NL
 Galerie Riekje Swart, *Different Information*, Amsterdam, NL
 Galerie Waalkens, Finsterwolde, NL
 1977 Galerie Orez Mobiel, *Series of 10 exhibitions*, The Hague, NL:
 1978 *Towards the liberation of drawings 1:*
 Approaching my intentions & approaches to my intentions
 some time afterward (6.1.78.)
Towards the liberation of drawings 2:
 Felt-penned/lithographic-crayonned/charcoalled/patelled/
 paintbrushed/erased/ballpointed/penned/pencilled/brushed,
 each of wich with: felt pen/lithographic crayon/charcoal/
 pastel/paintbrush/eraser/ballpoint/pen/pencil/brush (28.2.78)
Towards the liberation of drawings 3:
 Aquarelled (4.4.78.)
Towards the liberation of drawings 4:
 Timed distances - drawing without intervention (21.4.78.)
Towards the liberation of drawings :5
 Cwrt from ffynnon geredig nant gwanaf (spring), allt bryn
 llywwwwelyn, ty'r-lan, cae'r-blaidd, gwar-allt, lletty'r-aderyn,
 allt pant-y-cerrig, ffinnant, pantycerrig, bryn-dafydd, pant-ydderwen,
 maes-ifan, maes-yr-haidd. (11.5.78.)
Towards the liberation of drawings 6:
 A second look at an outside activity in Wales. The aquarelle (23.6.78.)
Towards the liberation of drawings 7:
 The insignificant flatness of printed matter/towards the liberation of drawings 8'
 (Museum Journaal, Oktober 1978)
Towards the liberation of drawings 8:
 (Executed on 28.10.78.)
Towards the liberation of drawings 9:
 And here a piece of paper subjected to the drawing and this drawing
 subjected to the stone & Just as there a stone subjected to the drawing and
 that a drawing subjected to the stone (22.9.78.)
Towards the liberation of drawings 10:
 (8.12.78.)
 1981 Galerie Orez Mobiel, The Hague, NL
 1984 Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL
 1984 Galerie Orez Mobiel, The Hague, NL (met J.J. Schoonhoven)
 1985 Galerie RA, *Ornamentum humanum*, Amsterdam, NL

- 1987 Stedelijk Museum 'Het Prinsenhof', *Beyond Reach*, Delft, NL
Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam, NL
- 1988 Helen Drutt Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
Galerie Philip Debray, Riihimäki, F
- 1989 Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam, NL
- 1990 Helen Drutt Gallery, New York, USA
- 1991 Studio Ton Berends, The Hague, NL
- 1992 Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam, NL
Galerie Spectrum, Munich, D
- 1993 Galerie Spectrum, Munich, D
Galerie Contacto Directo, Lisbon, P
- 1994 Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam, NL
Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice, F
- 1995 Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam, NL
- 1996 Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam, NL
- 1997 Galerie Slewe, *Een familiale verzameling sieraden en berging*, in opdracht van Hein en Ria
Slewe ter gelegenheid van hun 40-jarig huwelijk, Amsterdam, NL
- 1998 Galerie Louise Smit, *Kortsluiting*, Stripverhaal i.s.m. Boris Claassen, Amsterdam, NL
- 1999 Galerie Slavik, Vienna, A
Schmuckmuseum, *Leeres Haus*, Pforzheim, D
Bayerische Kunstgewerbe Verein, *Leeres Haus*, Munich, D
- 2000 Deutsches Goldschmiedehaus, *Leeres Haus*, Hanau, D
Kunsthall, *Leeres Haus*, Rotterdam, NL
- 2001 Musei Civici di Padova, *Casa vuota*, Padova, I
Galerie Louise Smit, Amsterdam, NL
Galleria Claudio Zanettin, *La Ruota Antoichità*, curator Graziella Folchini Grassetto, Porto Rotondo, Sardinie, I
- 2003 Galerie Louise Smit, *KunstRai 2003, Bello in Padova*, Amsterdam
- 2004 Stedelijk Museum CS, *Metallic Yellow, Gold for Robert Smit*, Amsterdam, NL
- 2005 Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, curator Graziella Folchini Grassetto, Studio GR 20, Padova, I
- 2008 Galerie Louise Smit, *Madonna delle Dolomiti*, Amsterdam, NL
Klimt02|Gallery, *Madonna delle Dolomiti*, Barcelona, ES
Gallery YU, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 Schmuck, *Klassiker der Moderne*, Munich, D
- 2011 Design Miami, with Galerie Caroline van Hoek
- 2013 Gallery Locus Solus, The present is the result of the past, with Henk Peeters and Robert Smit, Antwerp, B
Villa Bengel, Robert Smit- Golden Years, From the Light of Delft to the Sparkle of the Dolomites, Idar Oberstein, D
- 2014 Galerie Caroline van Hoek, 'Letters to Madonna delle Dolomiti', Brussels, B
Musei Civici agli Eremitani, Padova, I. Curated by Graziella Folchinini Grassetto
Galerie Rosemarie Jäger, Hochheim, D - In honour to the Goldener Ehrenring 2014
Galerie De Zaal, Delft, NL
- 2015 Maurer Zilioli – Contemporary Arts, Munich, D

MASTERCLASSES

- 1980 Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten Rotterdam, NL
- 1985 Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten Arnhem, NL
- 1986 Gerrit Rietveld Academie Amsterdam, NL
- 1990 Royal College of Art London, UK
- 1991/1992 Gerrit Rietveld Academie Amsterdam, NL

1992	Akademie der Bildenden Künste Munich, D
1993	Contacto Directo, Lisboa, P
1994	Koninklijke Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten Antwerp, B
2003	Burg Giebichenstein, Halle, D
2003	Workshop Juweelontwerpen, Kinderbulletin Stedelijk Museum op de KunstRai, Amsterdam, NL
2004	Alchimia, Florence, I
2005/06/07	Alchimia, Tutor, Florence, I
2008	Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry, <i>All about me, Golden Years</i> , Tokyo, Japan Pinakothek der Moderne, <i>All about me, Golden Years</i> , Munich,
2010	Alchimia, Tutor, Florence, I

JURY

1999	Dannerpreis 1999, Dannerstiftung Munich, D
2004	Studentsaward Metallic Yellow, by Stedelijk Mus. Amsterdam, NL
2011	Dannerpreis 1999, Dannerstiftung Munich, D
2011	Cominelli Awards, I

LECTURES

1988	Royal College of Art London, UK
1988	Person's School of Art and Design, New York, USA
1990	Royal College of Art London, UK
1991	Akademie der Bildenden Künste Munich, D
1991	Fachhochschule Cologne, D
1991	"Haldenhof", Wissgoldingen/Stuttgart, D
1994	Koninklijke Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten Antwerp, B
2003	Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam, NL
2004	Alchimia, Florence, I
2008	<i>All about me Golden years</i> , Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, D <i>All about me Golden years</i> , Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry, Tokyo, Japan
2013	<i>All about me Golden years</i> , Hochschule Idar Oberstein, D

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL
 Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, NL
 Centraal Museum Utrecht, NL
 Stedelijk Museum 'Het Prinsenhof', Delft NL
 Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, NL
 Museum 'Het Kruithuis', Den Bosch, NL
 Gemeente Museum Arnhem, NL
 Rijksdienst Beeldende Kunst, The Haque, NL
 Haags Gemeente Museum, The Haque, NL
 Schmuckmuseum 'Reuchlinhaus', Pforzheim, D

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Dannerstiftung, Munich, D
Die Neue Sammlung – The International Design Museum, Munich, D
Museum of Fine Art Houston, Helen Willams Drutt Collection, Houston, USA
Goldschmiedehaus, Hanau, D
The Daphne Farago Collection, Boston, USA
Royal College of Art, London, UK
Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry, Tokyo, Japan
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
Francoise van den Bosch Foundation, Amsterdam, NL
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LA, California

AWARDS

1967	Bayerischen Staatspreis Munich, D
2004	Francoise van den Bosch award 2004, NL
2010	Bayerischen Staatspreis Munich, D
2014	Golden Ring of Honor 2014, Hanau, D



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