

Hollands Kabinet (Dutch Cabinet)

Remarkable series of drawings by Dutch artist Sara van der Heide

From 21 January 2012 onwards, the Van Abbemuseum will show the serial work *Hollands Kabinet* (2010-2012?), an 'ongoing project' by Dutch artist Sara van der Heide. Van der Heide started her series of cabinets on 14 October 2010, the day of the installation of the government of Prime Minister Mark Rutte, a combination of VVD, CDA supported by the populist right-wing Freedom Party (PVV). Everyday, she makes a drawing of another 'Hollands Kabinet'. *Hollands Kabinet* is a colloquial term for the Dutch government, but also the name for a traditional Dutch storage cabinet. According to the artist, this wooden cabinet symbolizes the multiform nature and diversity of the Dutch history. On 21 January, there will already be a collection of 451 diversified cabinets on display in the long corridor from the museum to the museum café. The number will continue to grow each day the government of Prime Minister Rutte is in charge. The work will be on view in the Van Abbemuseum until 29 April 2012.



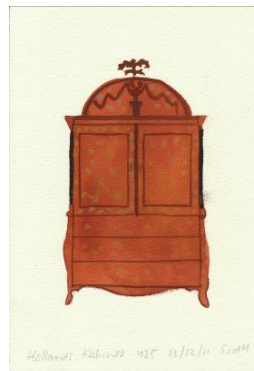
Sara van der Heide, *Hollands Kabinet 1-126*, installation view De Appel 2011. Photo Cassander Eeftinck Schattenkerk

The Van Abbemuseum wishes to promote and show art that addresses the social reality of today. *Hollands Kabinet* is in line with this vision. With Sara van der Heide's project, the museum returns to the issue of Dutch identity which was central to its big research and exhibition project *Be(com)ing Dutch* (2007-2008) as well as in other projects. Charles Esche, director of the Van Abbemuseum: "What is strong about Sara van der Heide's project, is that it builds something, where the current government is only deconstructing. The works shows that art is a fragile, exciting and mysterious activity, which creates a space for a type of reflection that is nowhere else to be found. If you lose this possibility, you will make society poorer and almost unaware of its own decisions."

Culture and identity

Our current government seems to have a difficult relationship with culture and identity. The growing collection of drawn cabinets of Sara van der Heide's *Hollands Kabinet* confronts the government in a forceful matter. 'What is national culture? What is 'Dutch'?' the ever growing list of drawings silently seems to ask. Is culture repetition? Is it identity? Is it familiarity? The cabinets – intimate pieces of furniture that are often passed on from generation to generation for decades – form an ever

growing mass, that undermines the uniform image of the supposed 'Dutch culture'. This typical Dutch piece of furniture in its different appearances, is a meeting place for many influences. The Dutch cabinets, which have been produced around the world during colonial times, bear traces of a culture that is not clear and uniform, but rooted in a complex, rich, international and sometimes painful history that can not simply be forgotten.



Sara van der Heide, *Hollands Kabinet 426*, 12-12-2011 from the series *Hollands Kabinet*



Sara van der Heide, *Hollands Kabinet 316*, 23-8-2011 from the series *Hollands Kabinet*

The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is one of the first public museums for contemporary art to be established in Europe. The museum's collection of around 2700 works of art includes key works and archives by Lissitzky, Picasso, Kokoschka, Chagall, Beuys, McCarthy, Daniëls and Körmeling. The museum has an experimental approach towards art's role in society. Openness, hospitality and knowledge exchange are important. We challenge ourselves and our visitors to think about art and its place in the world, covering a range of subjects, including the role of the collection as a cultural 'memory' and the museum as a public site. International collaboration and exchange have made the Van Abbemuseum a place for creative cross-fertilisation and a source of surprise, inspiration and imagination for its visitors and participants.

Van Abbemuseum
Bilderdijklaan 10
Eindhoven, The Netherlands
www.vanabbemuseum.nl

Press release
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Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 11:00 – 17:00

Every first Thursday of the month the museum is open until 21:00

Entrance

Adults: € 9,00

Groups of 10 persons or more, senior citizens: € 7,00

Students; holders of the Dutch young people's cultural pass (CJP): € 4

Every first Thursday of the month the museum is open until 21:00, entrance to the museum is free from 17:00

For the editors:

For more information and photographs, please visit:

www.vanabbemuseum.nl/en/press

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