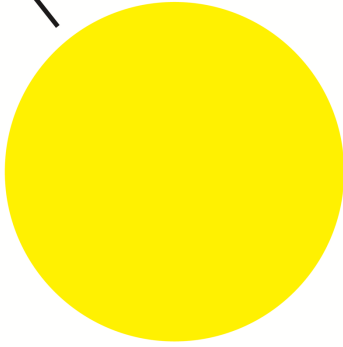


Utrecht, 7 December 2023



NEW COLLECTION DISPLAYS ON VIEW FROM 16 DECEMBER

'Collection Centraal' presents more than 400 objects in a completely new way

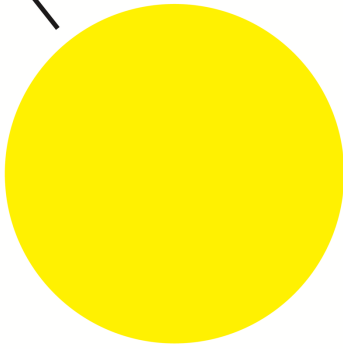
On 16 December 2023 we will celebrate the opening of the museum's new collection displays. The rehang presents a multifaceted collection of artworks and objects from makers past and present. The selection of more than 400 objects represents all aspects of the museum's rich collections, from old masters and modern and contemporary art to fashion, design and local history. *Collection Centraal* includes dozens of recent acquisitions that have never been displayed before. To celebrate the re-opening of the entire museum after almost two years, we are treating you to free admission on Saturday 16 December.

Collection Centraal

The artworks in the collection are presented in a new way: there is now a fixed route with a clear beginning and end, designed by Lies Willers and Bureau Caspar Conijn. *Collection Centraal* is basically chronological, but also provides space for contemporary interventions. Visitors can make their own connections between different time periods and sub-collections. The main question we pose is: what do you see? The new displays begin with a spectacular digital introduction, designed specially for us by Christian Borstlap and his studio Part of a Bigger Plan.

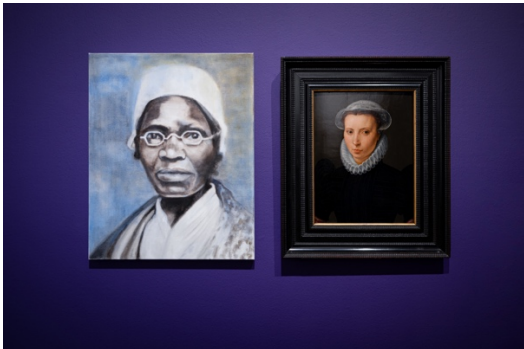
The galleries are organised according to themes, such as 'Museum as Ideal', 'Tastes Differ' and 'Attention for the World'. For the first time since 1987, fashion has its own thematic gallery, as does Gerrit Rietveld: the Centraal Museum has the world's largest collection of his work. Using digital resources, *Collection Centraal* offers space for in-depth exploration, making the new displays a unique mix of aesthetics and didactics.

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Contemporary Interventions

The 'Think of Me' gallery features portraits by the 16th-century painter Jan van Scorel and his contemporaries, mostly portraits of white men. This colonial version of history is interrupted by contemporary responses from Black artists in the form of Steve McQueen's neon tube artwork *Remember Me* from 2016 and Iris Kensmil's portrait of Sojourner Truth from 2018.



Iris Kensmil, Sojourner Truth, 2018 and Monogrammist B, Portret van een vrouw, 1573

Another example of a dialogue between old masters and contemporary art is the placement of Ed Atkins' work *Old Man* in the 'Pushing Boundaries' gallery, which features highlights from the museum's collection of the Utrecht Caravaggisti. Atkins uses advanced digital technologies, thus providing a new perspective on the representation of emotion, something that the famous Utrecht masters also excelled in. *Old Man* is being shown for the first time in the museum.

The various sub-collections also come together in a surprising way. For example, the introductory gallery 'Eye for the Collection' combines Iris van Herpen's *Look 9*, a dress from the Escapism collection with a collar that resembles a wing, with a fifteenth-

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century *Angel Holding a Candle*, *The Newcomers* by Jan van de Pavert and *Assist: Three Squared at Half Scale* by Jessica Stockholder.

New Acquisitions

In addition to masterpieces from the collection by artists and designers such as Vincent van Gogh, Marlene Dumas and Abraham Bloemaert, various recent acquisitions will be exhibited for the first time, including paintings by Miriam Cahn, *After Stella* by Yto Barrada and two terracotta works by Polly Apfelbaum. Specially for the new displays, Lily van der Stokker created a wall painting entitled *Interesting Really Beautiful*.

Granida and Daifilo by Dirck van Baburen, which the museum purchased in 2020, is being shown for the first time, alongside Gerard van Honthorst's version of *Granida and Daifilo*. *The Nave of the Buurkerk in Utrecht* by Pieter Janszoon Saenredam is also being displayed for the first time. By chance, a remarkable eighteenth-century paper globe used on the Berkenroode ship was discovered in the museum's storage facility, where more than 60,000 objects are stored. Research has shown that the hand-painted trade routes are of great historical importance. Because the globe is so fragile, it can only be shown in the museum for three months.

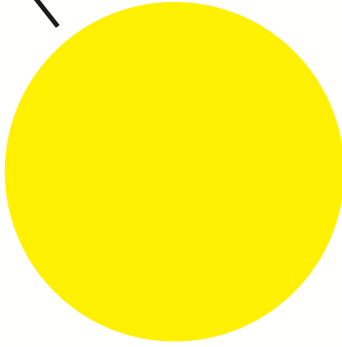
Mission

The *Collection Centraal* presentation fits with the museum's new mission. The Centraal Museum not only reflects upon society but also wants to contribute actively to changing it together with artists, designers and visitors. We hope our programming will encourage discussion and an exchange of different perspectives.

Opening celebrations

To celebrate the public opening of *Collection Centraal* on Saturday 16 December, visitors have free entry to the museum all day and evening. A food court is being set up in the museum's garden, where there will be a host of activities. For example, children can

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create their own artworks in a tent in the garden, there will be Utrecht bingo and lectures about the new displays. You can find the full programme on our website.

Sustainability

Collection Centraal is located in the 1920 wing, to the right of the entrance. Since March 2022, this part of the museum complex has been renovated and made more sustainable in partnership with Vastgoed Gemeente Utrecht (VGU). A state-of-the-art climate-control system means that the building is now more energy efficient. The roof has been insulated, the fire compartmentation has been improved and the control system has been replaced.

Collection Centraal has been made possible by the Municipality of Utrecht, the VriendenLoterij, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Mondriaan Fund, the Van Baaren Foundation, Fonds 21 and Stichting Zadelhoff Cultuurfonds. We are also indebted to Joost de Beij, Fiction Factory and everyone who made this renovation and the new collection displays possible.