

ooggetuigen  
van strijd

Dumas

Beuys



VAN  
ABBE  
MUSEUM  
EINDHOVEN

31.08 – 06.10.2019

Goya

Press release, 31 August 2019

Prints Hogart and Goya shown together for the first time in the Netherlands

## Powerful images of artists who witnessed war and conflict

This fall the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is presenting a poignant exhibition with work by artists who were eyewitnesses of war and conflict. *Eyewitnesses of Conflict: Goya, Beuys, Dumas* shows how artists from different periods transformed their traumatic experiences, precise observations of injustices and satirical social criticism into powerful images. They provide material for reflection about the conflicts which surround us today. The exhibition presents approximately 70 works by fourteen artists and covers almost three centuries of art history. The heart of the exhibition is formed by the 18th-century, bold prints by the British artist William Hogarth (1697-1764) and the Spanish artist Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes (1746-1828). It is the first time that these prints will be exhibited together in the Netherlands. They are combined with striking works from the collection of the Van Abbemuseum, inter alia, by Constant, Joseph Beuys, Marlene Dumas, and Anna Boghiguian. The exhibition is only on for five weeks, from Saturday 31 August to Sunday 6 October 2019.

### Radically different

Goya was almost certainly familiar with Hogarth's prints, who commented on, and was ironical about, social and political events in a way that was unusually liberal for his time. Goya broke away from the tradition of showing the heroic side of war and presented the horrors of war in his sinister prints. Both artists had an eye for the injustices in the world they lived in and did not hesitate to depict them. They managed to reach a broad public with the use of their prints. Goya made full use of the possibilities of etching techniques to design his dark scenes. The loans of works by Goya and Hogarth are the result of a long-term partnership with the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester and corresponds to the new policy of the museum to exhibit modern art more often in combination with classic historical artworks.

### Different types of conflict

After this, the exhibition leaps forward in time. The works chosen from the museum collection date from shortly after the Second World War, up to the present day. The artists reflect on the concept of conflict in different ways using various techniques. The installation *Voglie vedere i miei montagne* (I want to see my mountains) is a key work from the oeuvre of Joseph Beuys (1921-1986). He created it in 1971 especially for one of the galleries of the Van Abbemuseum. The work refers to his youth in Germany during the 1930s and 1940s, but also refers to the human duty to refrain from the use of violence with the word "think", which is shown written on a rifle. The painting *Het kwaad is banal* (Evil is Banal) by Marlene Dumas shows a portrait of a young white woman (herself), looking both tempting as well as sinister. The title is taken from the controversial philosophy on the banality of evil by the political philosopher Hannah Arendt. Also, there are works by Brook Andrew, Anna Boghiguian, Chto Delat, Constant, Michal Heiman, Asger Jorn, Patricia Kaersenhout, Gülsün Karamustafa, Stijn Peeters, Ustad Salam, Mohammed Tamim Sahaebjada, Erzen Shkololli and Erwin Thomasse.

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The exhibition *Eyewitnesses of Conflict: Beuys, Goya, Dumas* is supported by Stichting Promotors Van Abbemuseum and BankGiro Loterij.

#### Also on show

At the same time as *Eyewitnesses of Conflict*, two other exhibitions at the museum also look back at the Second World War, a moving period during the history of Eindhoven.

#### Occupied Eindhoven: 75 tangible memories

The city of Eindhoven is celebrating 75 years of peace in September 2019 and will reflect on its liberation in 1944 with an extensive programme. The exhibition *Occupied Eindhoven: 75 tangible memories* opens in the Van Abbemuseum on Saturday 31 August next. 75 objects from the Second World War are presented, telling stories about the occupation and liberation of Eindhoven. Many of the objects are taken from private collections of people from Eindhoven, including a Phillips dynamo torch, a teddy bear and a cookery book with the inscription "in austere times". The exhibition also presents the results of many years of investigations into the soil after bombs fell during the "Sinterklaas" bombings in 1942 and the bombing on 19 September 1944. Besides, the exhibition reflects on the history of the Van Abbemuseum itself and the role which the museum played at the time of the occupation and the liberation. A special educational programme has been developed in the context of the exhibition in collaboration with Stichting 18 september and Stichting Veteranen Zuid-Oost.

The exhibition *Occupied Eindhoven: 75 tangible memories* is developed in collaboration with Gemeente Eindhoven, Erfgoedhuis Eindhoven, Eindhoven in Beeld, Stichting 18 september, Brabant Remembers and Stichting Veteranen Zuid-Oost.

#### Ad Snijders: Free Painting

On Saturday 8 September next a retrospective exhibition of the work of the Eindhoven artist Ad Snijders (1929-2010) will open. Snijders was self-taught and started to paint during the years after the Second World War. He was an admirer of the CoBrA artists who were working at that time. His long career of painting shows the influences of successive movements in art history. Snijders always felt free to process these in his way to create new images. Moving between different styles, Snijders' oeuvre tells the story of an inspired painter as well as providing an insight into the life of an artist during the second half of the twentieth century.

#### NOTE FOR EDITORS

##### Invitation press preview

You are very welcome to preview the exhibition *Eyewitnesses of Conflict* on Thursday 29 August at 2 pm. Charles Esche, director Van Abbemuseum and curator of the exhibition, will give a short tour of the exhibition. Register via [pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl](mailto:pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl)

High-resolution images are available online at [vanabbemuseum.nl/en/press](http://vanabbemuseum.nl/en/press)  
Images of Hogarth and Goya available upon request: [pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl](mailto:pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl)

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### Visiting Address

Bilderdijklaan 10, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

[vanabbemuseum.nl/en](http://vanabbemuseum.nl/en)

### Opening Hours

Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm.

First Thursday of the month until 9 pm (with the exception of August).

The museum is closed on New Year's Day, King's Day and Christmas Day.

### Tickets – also online

€ 13 Adults

€ 6 Youths 13 to 18 years, students, CJP card

Free 12 and under, Museumkaart, BankGiro Loterij VIP-kaart & every Tuesday afternoon after 3 pm

### About the Van Abbemuseum

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 more than 3.000 works of art includes key works and archives by El Lissitzky, Joseph Beuys, René Daniëls, Marlene Dumas, Sheela Gowda, Hito Steyerl en Iris Kensmil. The museum has an experimental approach towards art's role in society. Openness, hospitality and knowledge exchange are important to us.

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.