

persbericht
press release



Van Abbemuseum is enriching its collection with the Lidewij Edelkoort design collection

Lidewij Edelkoort and the Van Abbemuseum will demonstrate the close ties between visual arts and design during Dutch Design Week 2022 (DDW) in the exhibition *The collection is...*. This will mark a historic moment for the museum. The Van Abbemuseum will acquire around 50 works from Edelkoort's private collection, and in doing so, will be adding design objects to its collection for the very first time. The Van Abbemuseum is located at the heart of the design city Eindhoven and has been actively researching the use value of visual arts since 2009. *The collection is...* will be on display from 8 October to 6 November 2022.

According to Edelkoort it is: "A revolution in the museum world to unify and merge these spheres and to bring them on an equal footing. With this, the Van Abbemuseum is exploring the boundaries between autonomous design and visual art. The interplay between the various disciplines encourages us to think about the major social transitions and disruptions that are currently taking place. This includes issues such as climate change, migration, racism, loneliness and melancholy."

About the exhibition

The museum is starting the dialogue with an enigmatic title: *The collection is...*. Lidewij Edelkoort and Steven ten Thije, Head of Collection at the Van Abbemuseum, will merge design objects from the Edelkoort collection with art from the Van Abbemuseum collection. The exhibition illustrates that there is no longer a dividing line between autonomous design and visual art. Art works and design objects from both collections will be on display in ten rooms of the museum, each in its own poetic setting. The interplay between the two disciplines allows us to think creatively about major social issues, such as: climate change, migration, loneliness and melancholy, or the relation between the city and the countryside. Additionally, the exhibition encourages a dialogue about what a collection really is. A second exhibition of these dialogues can be seen in Kazerne 'Home of Design'.

Steven ten Thije: "A collection is, by definition, a compilation of different but related things. A collection enables you to look for connection and to find meanings by playing with difference and similarities. It helps to see things in a perspective, to visit again and again, to discover new connections, or to fathom the background of well-known phenomena."

About the Edelkoort Collection

The Edelkoort Collection consists of unique pieces by autonomous designers, with an emphasis on alumni and (former) teachers from Design Academy Eindhoven. Many of the pieces are unique prototypes or have a personal link to Edelkoort. Prominent pieces in the exhibition include works by Maarten Baas (1978), Jurgen Bey (1965), Nacho Carbonell (1980), Piet Hein Eek (1967), Hella Jongerius (1963) and Studio Job.



Van Abbemuseum (Dutch) design collection policy

The acquisition of the Edelkoort collection is an important development in the collection policy of the Van Abbemuseum. The museum will be collecting pieces from designers who have ties to Eindhoven and will also be looking specifically at design that has been created based on a social vision. The inspiration for this development stems from multiple factors. Since 2009, the museum has been working with Cuban-American artist Tania Bruguera on researching the use value of art, and it developed the art archive *Arte Útil* (useful art). Another motivation is its location in Eindhoven, where technology, knowledge and design form the major pillars. A major driving force behind design is the Dutch Design Academy, of which Edelkoort was a prominent director at the beginning of the century. Head of Collections Steven ten Thije: "It was a long search to find a fitting approach for acquiring design, and the Edelkoort collection was by far the best answer to that."

Acquisition initiative

The acquisition is mainly thanks to Annemoon Geurts, founder of Kazerne 'Home of Design'. It was her initiative that brought the Van Abbemuseum and Edelkoort together for the transfer of the design collection. In weekly meetings over a period of two years, Steven ten Thije, Christiane Bermdes (curator and former Head of Collections at the Van Abbemuseum), Annemoon Geurts and Lidewij Edelkoort prepared this important step for the museum. Even after the acquisition, the museum will continue to expand its design collection with new pieces. Edelkoort herself will add work to the collection every year.

On display during Dutch Design Week 2022

The exhibition *The collection is...* will be on display from 8 October to 6 November 2022 on the ground floor of the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven. The exhibition in Kazerne 'Home of Design' is on show until spring 2023. For more information about the exhibition and other projects of the Van Abbemuseum during Dutch Design Week 2022, we refer to our website and the website of Dutch Design Week. During the Dutch Design Week, from 22 to 30 October, the exhibition can only be visited with a DDW admission ticket (wristband).

About Lidewij Edelkoort

As a world-renowned trend forecaster, former Director of Design Academy Eindhoven, design curator, collector and activist, Edelkoort is a defining voice in recent design history.

Partner



Note to editor

Preview & interviews

You are warmly invited to visit the exhibition before the Dutch Design Week. Are you interested in having an interview or would you like more information about a preview? Please send an e-mail to: pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl

Tickets & opening hours during the DDW

During the Dutch Design Week 2022, from 22 to 30 October, *The collection is...* can only be visited with a DDW admission ticket (wristband). During the DDW, the museum is open daily from 11 am to 6 pm. Regular opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm.

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Images (top to bottom, left to right): Gallery view *New Melancholy* exhibition, 2020, Van Abbemuseum in samenwerking met Lidewij Edelkoort & Kazerne. Photo: Joep Jacobs | Pieke Bergmans, Crystal Virus, glass and wood, Edelkoort collectie. | Julia Lohmann, Belinda, sculpted foam with leather and a wooden frame, Edelkoort collectie. Rodrigo Almeida, Chair, stainless steel, rope and textile, Edelkoort collectie.

Visiting address
Stratumsedijk 2, Eindhoven
The Netherlands

Opening hours
Tuesday to Sunday 11am - 5pm.
The museum is closed on New Year's Day, King's Day and Christmas Day.



Admission
€13 Adults
€6 Students, CJP card holders
Free Children aged up to 12, holders of a Museumkaart,
VriendenLoterij VIP card & every Tuesday afternoon after 3pm.

Book tickets online vanabbemuseum.nl/tickets

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