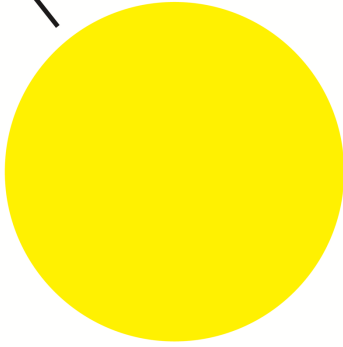


Utrecht, 28 June 2023



SUMMER EXHIBITION 'NEW HORIZONS' OPENS IN CENTRAAL MUSEUM UTRECHT

A summer's journey through the arts, featuring Etel Adnan, Gustave Courbet, Otobong Nkanga, Fiona Tan and many others

Friday 30 June marks the opening of the thematic exhibition *New Horizons* in Centraal Museum Utrecht. It is an exhibition in which artists from across the centuries reflect on travelling and the experience of the landscape. After all, artists have always sought new horizons, both literally and metaphorically.

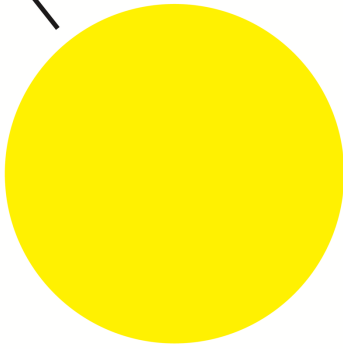
New Horizons includes works made specifically for the exhibition by Anna Aagaard Jensen and Baby Reni, as well as some special loan pieces such as Etel Adnan's *Le Soleil Toujours*. In *The Annex*, *The Undercurrent* by award-winning artist Rory Pilgrim is screened.

Bart Rutten, Centraal Museum's artistic director: '*New Horizons* is the first of a series of summer exhibitions in Centraal Museum. We wish to present surprising combinations of works from our own collection, complemented with loan pieces, that comment on contemporary issues and events.'

Landscape as a source of inspiration

New Horizons starts from the era of the Italianate painters: seventeenth-century artists from Utrecht who travelled to Rome, to soak up inspiration from the landscape and their Italian peers. After returning to Utrecht they introduced a new style of painting: landscape vistas with a Mediterranean quality of light, evocative of sultry summer days. The exhibition includes works by Jan Both, Cornelis van Poelenburch and Jacob de Heusch.

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Journeying through a landscape remains an important theme for contemporary artists. Works can be about experiencing a landscape, or about travelling towards a particular goal, or instead about travelling aimlessly, without a destination in mind. One of the works on display is *Le Soleil Toujours* by the Lebanese artist Etel Adnan, on loan from Museum Voorlinden. Consisting of 136 ceramic tiles, produced and painted by hand, the work depicts a monumental landscape with a large sun at the centre. Artist Joost Conijn traversed Eastern Europe in a self-made wooden car, and recorded the journey on video. It is the first time since 2003 that the car and video (*Hout auto*) are on view at Centraal Museum again.

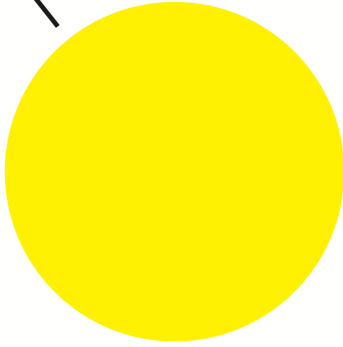


Etel Adnan, Le Soleil Toujours, 2019-2020

Anna Aagaard Jensen designed the pink furniture piece *Between here and the sun* specifically for this exhibition. The work is positioned opposite Adnan's *Le Soleil Toujours*, and visitors are welcome to take a seat.

Journeys are not necessarily light and fun, however. Landscapes can also bear witness to distressing current developments such as forced migration and the climate crisis. *New*

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Horizons presents a large number of critical works by contemporary artists, such as the video *Elsewhere* by Fiona Tan. While a voice-over offers a detailed description of an idyllic place, the images are of an urban environment increasingly affected by air pollution. Lungiswa Gqunta's work *Ntabamanzi* consists entirely of barb wire. With this installation, the South African artist wants to show that moving freely through a landscape is, for many, not at all a matter of course.

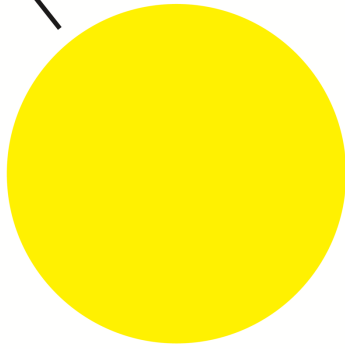
Also specifically for this exhibition, Baby Reni (Irene Ha) created the installation *Máy-bye* using a selection of fashion pieces from Centraal Museum's own collection. As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, she is interested in exploring the complex relationship between high fashion and the garment industry in Vietnam.

Annex: Rory Pilgrim

The last hall of the exhibition, the Annex, presents Rory Pilgrim's film *The Undercurrent* (2019). For this film the artist – recently nominated for the Turner Prize – follows ten young climate activists. Together they discuss the effects of the climate crisis and how this overwhelming problem affects them personally. The result is a combination of documentary registration and poetic images.

Fringe programme: from Bob Ross to Centraal Laat

Centraal Museum has also developed a wide range of activities to accompany *New Horizons*. Visitors can try their hand at painting landscapes in the famous Bob Ross style, there are workshops for all ages in a caravan parked in the museum garden, and there are special neighbourhood days. There will be open air film screenings in the museum garden, and a special edition of the Centraal Laat programme for young adults. Also, there is a specially developed guided tour for families, and visitors can create their own miniature landscape in the midway hall between the two galleries.



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The exhibition brings together works by Anna Aagaard Jensen (1990), Etel Adnan (1925-2021), Jan Both (1618-1652), Joost Conijn (1971), Gustave Courbet (1819-1877), Lungiswa Gqunta (1990), Jacob de Heusch (1656-1701), Carel Cornelisz. de Hooch (1577-1638), Chris Kabel (1975), Klavers van Engelen (1967, 1970), Dirkje Kuik (1929-2008), Martin Margiela (1957), Otobong Nkanga (1974), Oscar Suleyman (1972), Adrian Paci (1969), Antonis Pittas (1973), Cornelis van Poelenburch (1594-1667), Baby Reni (Irene Ha) (1997), Fiona Tan (1966), JCJ Vanderheyden (1928-2012), Evi Vingerling (1979), Jop Vissers Vorstenbosch (1986), and Jan Baptist Weenix (1621-1659).

New Horizons is on display until 27 August 2023.