

Het Parool

Our expert tips: 10 exhibitions in Amsterdam to look forward to



From masterpieces by Dutch masters to conceptual work by contemporary artists: in the coming months, there will be a wide variety of exhibitions in Amsterdam's museums.

Jan Pieter Ekker 8 January 2025, 11:38

Anselm Kiefer

Sag mir wo die Blumen sind

A year ago, Museum [Voorlinden](#) in Wassenaar already held a major exhibition on the work of Anselm Kiefer (Donaueschingen, 1945). Nevertheless, the exhibition *Anselm Kiefer – Sag mir wo die Blumen sind* in the Van Gogh Museum and the Stedelijk Museum is the museum event of this spring.

'From 7 March, two of the largest museums in the Netherlands will dedicate one exhibition to Anselm Kiefer, one of the most important artists of our time,' according to the well-oiled publicity machine. 'Two museums, one ticket!' The [English-language online press conference](#) – two museum directors and two curators in a non-descript room with houseplants – resembled *Jiskefet*.

At the Van Gogh Museum, the focus is on Vincent van Gogh's influence on the German artist, who at the age of 17 made a journey in the footsteps of Van Gogh, from Zundert across France.

In the Stedelijk Museum, which already bought two works by Kiefer in the early eighties, his connection with the Netherlands is central. There are also two works that Kiefer made especially for the exhibition, including the gigantic 'painterly installation' *Sag*

mir wo die Blumen sind, which will cover the entire gallery of the Stedelijk's historic staircase.

7 March - 9 June, [Van Gogh Museum](#) and [Stedelijk Museum](#)

Samuel van Hoogstraten

The illusionist

Samuel van Hoogstraten (1627-1678) was one of Rembrandt's best pupils. He learned and worked in the apprentice's studio in the attic of the Rembrandt House. He came there shortly after Rembrandt had completed *The Night Watch* and learned from him the game of illusion and visual deception. 'Van Hoogstraten was the 3D painter of his time,' according to the Rembrandt House about the exhibition *The Illusionist*.

In addition to numerous delusional paintings – which have never before been seen in the Netherlands – Van Hoogstraten's *Inleyding tot de hooge schoole der schilderkunst: anders de zichtbaere werelt* (1678) is also exhibited. It is his painting manual and exposition of artistic views in one. In the chapter on composition, he is the first to predict that *The Night Watch* will be superior to the competition in the eyes of posterity.

1 February to 4 May, [Rembrandt House](#)

From Rembrandt to Vermeer

Masterpieces of The Leiden Collection

The H'ART Museum is bringing together all 17 paintings by Rembrandt from the private collection of the American billionaire and collector [Thomas Kaplan](#) and his wife Daphne Recanati Kaplan for the first time in the exhibition *From Rembrandt to Vermeer – Masterpieces of The Leiden Collection*. It also shows Kaplan's Vermeer (the only Vermeer in private ownership): [Seated Woman at the Virginal](#). That painting was also in Amsterdam two years ago for the major Vermeer exhibition in the Rijksmuseum. Dutch masters Frans Hals, Gerard Dou, Frans van Mieris and Maria Schalcken are also represented in the exhibition.

9 April to 24 August, [H'ART Museum](#)

American Photography

After [Johannes Vermeer](#) and [Frans Hals](#), the Rijksmuseum is not focusing on medieval painting, but on photography. In an extensive overview of 20th-century American photography, the museum exhibits more than two hundred iconic works by photographers such as Sally Mann, Robert Frank, Lisette Model, Nan Goldin, Richard Avedon, Andy Warhol, Paul Strand, Diane Arbus and James Van Der Zee.

The works in *American Photography* show the development of the medium and give a good picture of the rich and multifaceted history of photography in the United States.

7 February to 9 June, [Rijksmuseum](#)

Saul Leiter

An Unfinished World

With the exhibition *An Unfinished World*, Foam is dedicating a major retrospective to the celebrated American artist [Saul Leiter](#) (1923-2013). Leiter is known as one of the most important pioneers of color photography, but his black-and-white photos are just as masterful. More than 200 works are on display, including his fashion photos, painted photos and (abstract) paintings.

24 January to 23 April, [Foam](#)

Koos Breukel

Meet the Artist

This month, Foam presents *Koos Breukel: Meet the Artist*. This exhibition shows an overview of Breukel's rich career as a portrait photographer and offers space to the people who were decisive for his development as a photographer and as a person. As the title indicates, [Breukel](#) himself will be present (a few days a week). Visitors can talk to him or have themselves photographed by him – by appointment.

17 January to 26 February, [Foam](#)

Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Inner Landscapes

The Turkish [Nuri Bilge Ceylan](#) made a name for himself in the international arthouse circuit with *Kasaba* (1999) and *Volken in May* (1999). He went on to win a cartload of awards for long, slow films, including *Uzak* (2002), *Iklimler* (2006), *Once Upon a Time in Anatolia* (2011), *Winter Sleep* (2014) and *About Dry Grasses* (2023). Much less well known is that Ceylan is also a gifted photographer: his cinemascope-sized photos stand on their own, but could also have 'walked away' from his films, is the premise of the exhibition at Eye.

18 January to 1 June, [Eye Filmmuseum](#)

Ilona Plaum

Presence

Presence in Huis Marseille is the first institutional solo exhibition by the Dutch artist Ilona Plaum. In it, she connects her three-dimensional models, painted representations and photography in illusions. In these illusions she uses the rules of paradox: she alternates surface and depth experience, she makes the background the foreground.

In an interview, Plaum once said that she sees herself as much a photographer as a sculptor or painter. "I didn't start photographing because I wanted to be a photographer, but because I saw

something. I saw something I didn't understand. But, and this is important, I saw it because of the camera. And although I have great irritations about how a lens translates space, this has always remained the case."

15 February to 22 June, [Huis Marseille](#)

Maarten Baas

Crescendo!

In [Maarten Baas](#)' first Amsterdam solo exhibition *Crescendo!*, the 'author-designer' uses a series of musical instruments to explore the tension between grand ambitions and practical realities. The title of the exhibition reflects the delicate balance between the elusive qualities of art and the practical limitations that makers have to deal with – a metaphor for human dreams that are often tempered by reality.

18 January to 9 March, [Galerie Ron Mandos](#)

Still Processing

Still Processing explores the evolution of image processing – both by machines and by humans. How do we perceive images and how do we produce them? How do algorithms influence our perception? What is lost in the process?

"We invite visitors to experience technological image processing and discover how perception bridges the gap between what is visible and what remains hidden," says Serbian-Dutch artist-curator [Bogomir Doringer](#). The exhibition features work by seven Dutch artists, including Rosa Menkman, Boris Acket, Gabey Tjon a Tham and Children of the Light.

7 February to 5 October, [Nxt Museum](#)