

BRENDA

THEME OF THE FORTNIGHT: **F R E E D O M**

"To me it's all about openness and promoting diversity... I think we can be anything we want to be." - Bibi Altink

To be human often means we lack the freedom to express who we truly are. Many of us suppress our true selves in fear of what others might think. Sometimes we are forced to hide parts of ourselves away from family members, friends, or society. We can feel ashamed of who we really are, or what we want in life.

Many of us turn to art as a source of escape from the world, for it is a place where we can find freedom in fantasy, in our own imaginary landscapes. We can create worlds and visions that never existed before, we can 'take the dark out of the nighttime and paint the daytime black', as Bob Dylan wrote. Art is a way to freedom.

We can create our own unique worlds, and we can share those unique worlds with those around us- to give new insights into ideas; to spark something in someone they might not have known before. To reach people. To help others. Art can ignite vital conversation, change opinions, create movements. Art is freedom to express ourselves however we like. Nobody can take that away from us.