



Culture Guide (November 2023)

Updated 26 October 2023 at 12:34

Explore Amsterdam's buzzing cultural scene with our guide to this season's must-see art and photography exhibitions, theatre, opera and dance performances and film festivals.

ART & EXHIBITIONS

Meredith Monk: Calling



Image from Stephanie Berger

This autumn, Meredith Monk's soul-stirring voice will echo seamlessly through the imposing Gothic architecture of Amsterdam's oldest building: De Oude Kerk. Don't miss the most comprehensive survey of the contemporary music legend, which unfolds in the monumental surroundings of Oude Kerk. This unique retrospective presents sound recordings, film pieces, immersive installations and a series of Monk's world-famous compositions performed by a new generation of local musicians.

[Meredith Monk: Calling](#) | 21 October - 17 March | [Oude Kerk](#)

Ted Noten & co. - about value





Why do we wear jewellery and what is its value? Jewellery designer Ted Noten shares his critical but down-to-earth view of the world of jewellery and bags. Recent works will be displayed alongside interactive pieces, where you can exchange your own ring for a 3D-printed Miss Piggy ring - designed by Noten himself.

About value | 4 October - 4 February | [Museum JAN](#)

Eye to eye - mummy portraits



When the Romans ruled Egypt, deceased people were embalmed with lifelike portraits attached to their facial areas. This fascinating exhibition at Allard Pierson displays 38 of these rare Egyptian portraits - some of which are almost 2000 years old - inviting viewers to look a mummy directly in the eye.

[Eye to Eye](#) | 6 October - 25 February | [Allard Pierson](#)

Nan Goldin: This will not end well



| Image from Nan Goldin

Stedelijk presents the first comprehensive retrospective of the acclaimed American artist's film pieces and slideshows, whose challenging explorations of human existence have inspired generations. The exhibition surveys Goldin's oeuvre from her groundbreaking work *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* (1981–2022) and magnum opus, *The Other Side* (1992–2021) - a homage to her trans friends whom she photographed between 1972–2010 - to the more recent *Memory Lost* (2019–2021), a claustrophobic journey through drug withdrawal. The exhibition will be installed in six unique architectural spaces designed in response to each piece by Hala Wardé.

[This will not end well](#) | 7 October to 28 January | [Stedelijk](#)

Van Gogh along the Seine





Van Gogh Museum rounds off its anniversary year with an exhibition of works by Seurat, Signac, Bernard, Angrand and the man himself, Van Gogh. These ambitious artists each spent time along the River Seine outside of Paris, capturing the changing landscape as markers of the 19th-century industrial revolution steadily replaced the lush greenery. Here, they found new, contemporary motifs and developed their colour palettes and brush techniques to remarkable effect.

[Van Gogh along the Seine](#) | 13 October - 14 January | [Van Gogh Museum](#)

To Dance is to be Free



| Image from Ronald Schnets

With the exhibition, *To Dance is to be Free. Club Culture in Amsterdam From 1980 Until Today*, the City Archives recalls memories of Amsterdam club life, from Club RoXY to Trouw and everything surrounding it. This exhibition promises to bring back fond party memories for the nostalgic clubber - but also with a look to the future of nightlife in Amsterdam.

[To Dance is to be Free](#) | 14 October - 18 February | [Amsterdam City Archives](#)

Carlijn Jacobs: Sleeping Beauty

| Image from Carlijn Jacobs

Carlijn Jacobs's quirky yet alienating images invite viewers into a dream-like world where anything is possible. Through a fascination with traditional forms of costume and disguise, she relates phenomena such as the Japanese geisha and the age-old tradition of the Venetian carnival to today's beauty and fashion scene. In her recent experiments with Artificial Intelligence, her captivating film stills are reminiscent of a strangely attractive nightmare.

[Carlijn Jacobs: Sleeping Beauty](#) | 6 October - 21 January | [Foam](#)

Random International



| Image from ESTEBAN SCHÜNEMANN

Postdigital art group Random International arrives at Nxt this autumn, the home of new media art in the Netherlands. In their mesmerising large-scale works, the collective presents newly completed works and others never yet seen in Europe, tracing a line through the artists' creative process from 2006 until today.

[Random International](#) | from 27 September | [Nxt Museum](#)

Janis Rafa: Feed me. Cheat me. Eat me.

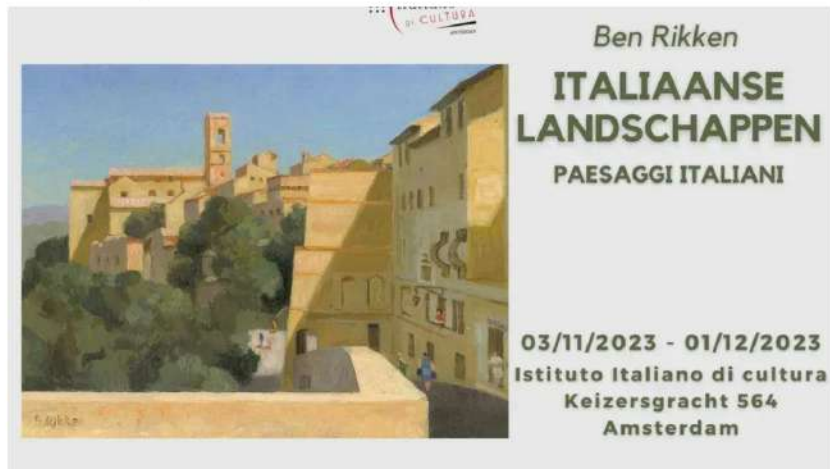


| Image from Janis Rafa

Spoken language rarely features in artist and filmmaker Janis Rafa's evocative films and installations; she focuses instead on the silent presence of non-humans, allowing them to become the leading force within her poetic compositions. In this new solo presentation, Rafa's narratives emphasise animalistic instincts and untamed behaviours alongside human fears. An extensive programme of public talks and screenings accompanies the exhibition.

[Feed me. Cheat me. Eat me.](#) | 14 October - 7 January | [Eye Filmmuseum](#)

Italian Landscapes



| Image from Ben Rikken

The Italian Institute presents "Italian Landscapes" by Ben Rikken, who embarked on a journey through France, Cornwall, Norway, Italy, and Spain, occasionally returning to Groningen. Their art evolved from tonal to a distinctive and extreme colour scheme, influenced by these diverse landscapes. The exhibition will feature a selection of their Italian paintings and drawings, and the opening on Friday, November 3 at 6:30 PM will include a concert by the duo Elisabeth Rikken, a pianist and niece of Ben Rikken, and cellist Anna Nagy.

[Italian Landscapes](#) | 3 November - 1 December | [Istituto Italiano di cultura di Amsterdam](#) [↗](#)

Cas Oorthuys, resistance photographer



| Image from Verzetsmuseum/Fotomuseum

An overview of the work that the Dutch photographer and resistance fighter Cas Oorthuys (1908-1975) made during the Second World War in the Netherlands and Indonesia on the eve of independence. The exhibition reveals the personal story of a resistance photographer who risked his life to document the circumstances.

[Cas Oorthuys, resistance photographer](#) | Until January 14 | [Verzetsmuseum Amsterdam](#) [↗](#)

Urban Activism



Street art and graffiti become potent tools for artists to express themselves on environmental issues and more. At the museum, explore 15 artworks focusing on the environment, with a standout being a giant flamingo installation inspired by endangered birds. Visitors follow floor symbols and an audio tour to discover the art and environmental insights. Children can grab coloring pages, and information kiosks spotlight activist stories and the history of graffiti and street art.

[Urban Activism](#) | Until January 28 | [STRAAT](#) [↗](#)

Zaanse Glorie



|Image from Stichting White Cube

Organized by the White Cube Foundation, "Zaanse Glorie" takes place at various Zaan region locations, including PLAY room gallery, the Zaans Museum, Atelier van Santen, Café de Fabriek, FluXus, and the Zaanse Regenboog Foundation. The exhibition showcases works by four artists; Kinga Wieczorek, Bert van Santen, and Teppo Korte have been drawn to the Zaan region, where they both work and reside, capturing the interplay of past and present, nature and industry. Zaanse artist Jaap Stellaart, in contrast, explores the cosmos from his Haaldersbroek studio. These four artists' worlds converge, inspiring one another.

[Zaanse Glorie](#) | Until January 14

The Great Indonesia Exhibition



Get a direct encounter with Indonesia's history, conveyed through numerous images and portraits, accompanied by countless audio narratives provided by representatives from diverse communities in both Indonesia and the Netherlands. This exhibition offers a comprehensive journey through Indonesia's extensive history and diverse cultures, spanning from the Majapahit empire to colonial rule, independence, World War II, and modern Indonesia. It celebrates the country's rich cultural diversity and invites visitors to explore various perspectives and personal experiences.

[The Great Indonesia Exhibition](#) | Until April 1 | [De Nieuwe Kerk Amsterdam](#)

Rembrandt Open Studio



|Image from Mark Bolk

In the 17th century, Rembrandt was not the sole occupant of the building on Jodenbreestraat; he mentored several students who worked on their art here, often simultaneously accommodating four or five of them. Now, nearly four centuries later, The Rembrandt House Museum aims to revive this tradition. Each autumn, two contemporary artists establish their studios in exhibition rooms for a two-month period. This year, the Rembrandt Open Studio hosts Abul Hisham and Guy Vording.

[Rembrandt Open Studio](#) | Until November 30 | [Rembrandthuis](#)

THEATRE & STAGE

International Storytelling Festival



|Image from Raymond van Mil

This weekend festival at Podium Mozaïek features thrilling plots, heartwarming tales, and real-life adventures from around the world, brought to life by master storytellers. In addition, enjoy talks, workshops, music, and a lively midnight saloon.

[International Storytelling Festival](#) | 1 - 4 November | [Podium Mozaïek](#)

In/with/in

This triptych of performances spans dance, visual art, design, and music. NDT 1 debuts "15" by Tao Ye, while choreographers Imre van Opstal and Marne van Opstal team up with Studio Drift for the world premiere of "The Point Being." The evening concludes with Marco Goecke's "I Love You, Ghosts".

[In/with/in](#) | 8 - 10 November | [International Theatre Amsterdam](#)

The Skin of Our Teeth



|Image from Rechtenwiltj Ira Yugag

Make sure to catch the performance of the absurd and comedic play, 'The Skin of our Teeth,' by American playwright Thomas Wright, presented by the Savor Acting Club Amsterdam (ACA). This 1942 play was remarkably ahead of its era and boldly challenged the traditional norms of theater.

[The Skin of Our Teeth](#) | 4-5 November | [Badhuis](#)

Lohengrin

Chief conductor Lorenzo Viotti, known for his interpretation of Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier, now takes on a new challenge: Wagner's Lohengrin with its distinctive melodies and dramatic motifs - in collaboration with the National Opera Choir.

[Lohengrin](#) | 11 November - 3 December | [Nationale Opera & Ballet](#)

Infamous Offspring

This fictional performance blends dance, film, and theatre, drawing inspiration from Greek characters. It revolves around a "Patchwork Family" with legendary musicians as parents and a troupe of enigmatic yet emotionally attuned dancers as their descendants.

[Infamous Offspring](#) | 22 - 23 November | [International Theatre Amsterdam](#)

CINEMA & FILM

IDFA: International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam





Image from Roger Cremers

Every year in November, this international film festival takes place in Amsterdam, making the city a paradise for documentary lovers. Check out the jampacked programme at various locations: from Rembrandtplein to deep in Amsterdam West and Zuidooost - or at IDFA's new permanent location in Vondelpark, including (inter)national premieres and competitions, films by debutants and students, documentaries for children, a film market and many international guests.

[IDFA](#) | 8 - 19 November

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26 October
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