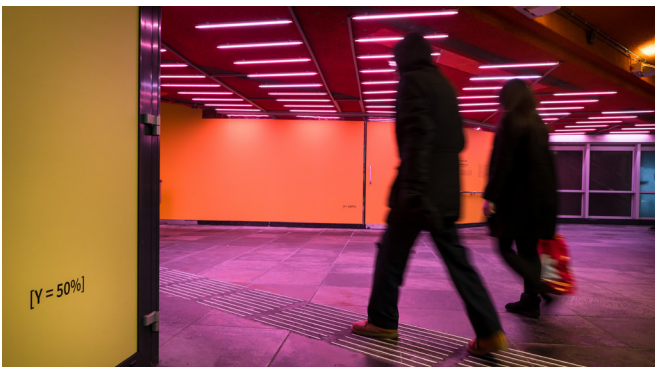
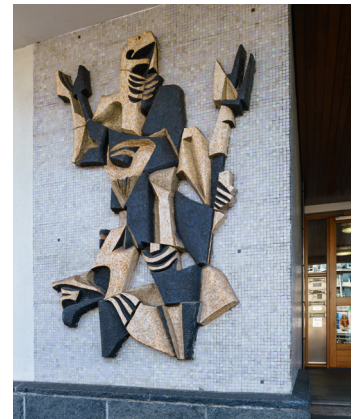


# Art route Rotterdam

from Zuidplein to Central Station

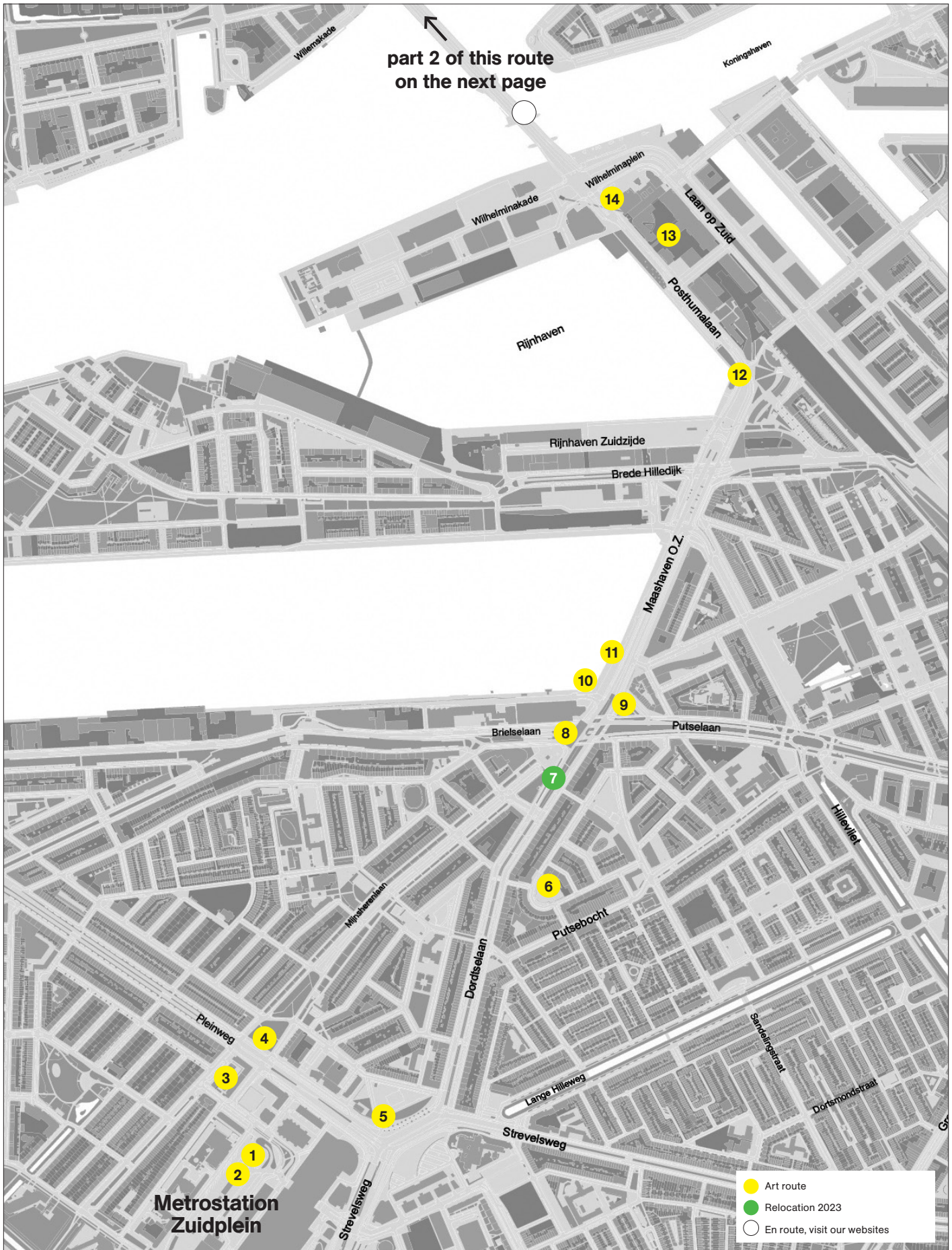
38  
artworks  
6 km





# Art route Rotterdam

from Zuidplein to Central Station

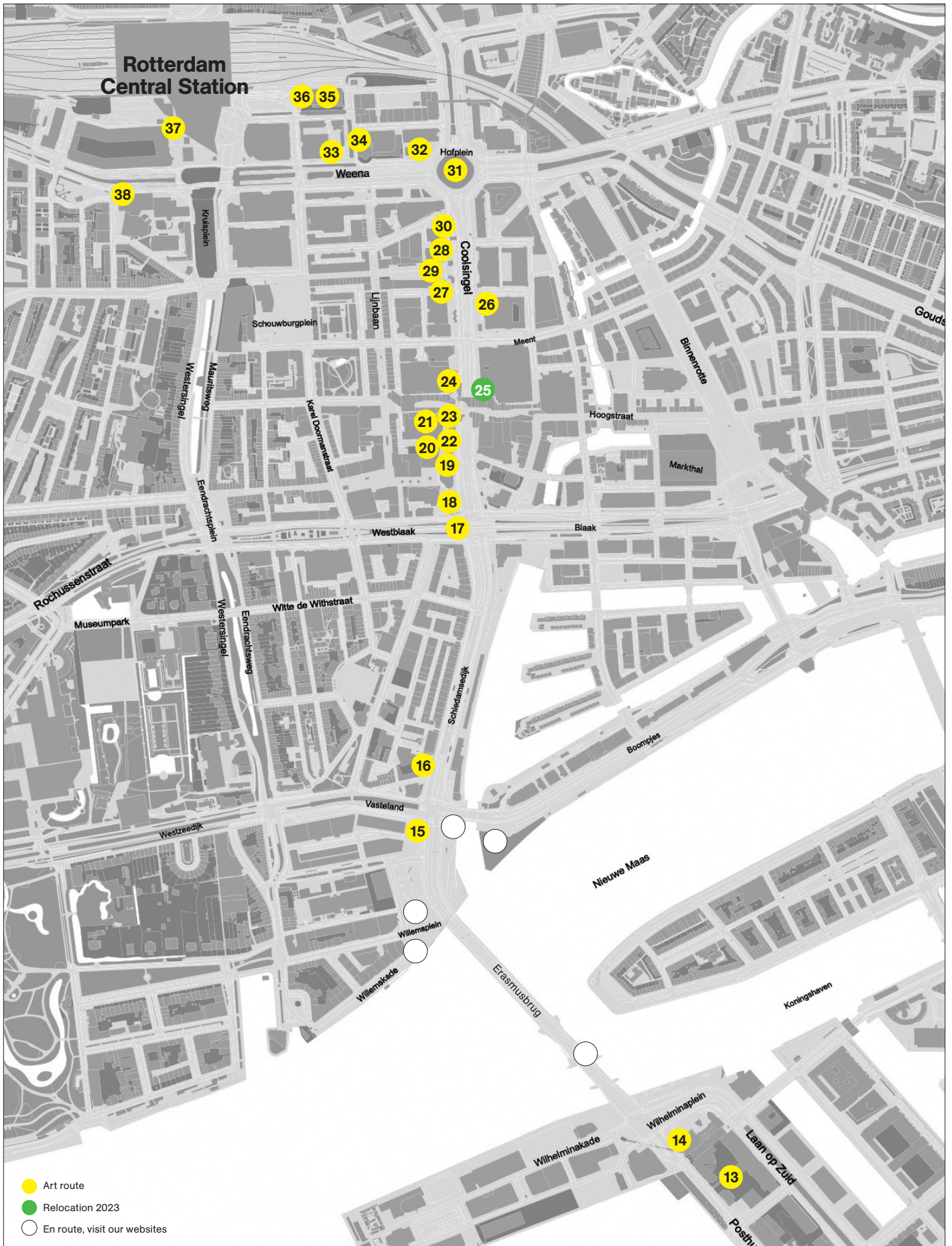


Part 1 of the art route



# Art route Rotterdam

from Zuidplein to Central Station



Part 2 of the art route





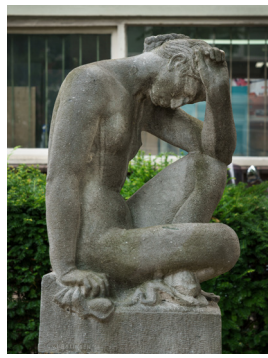
### 1. Kunst & Vaarwerk OPGEROLDE KRANT (1981)

In the 1970s, the three artists of Kunst & Vaarwerk started using colour and humour to counter the harsh urban appearance of the grey city of Rotterdam: if you only use enough paint, a column can be magically transformed into the newspaper *Het Vrije Volk*. And that bravado also perfectly matches the headline that declares Rotterdam to be the world's largest port.



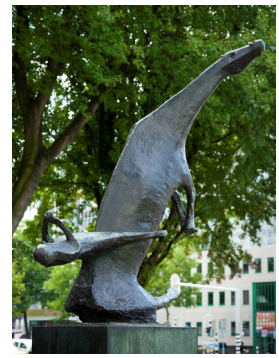
### 2. Brigada Luis Corvalán ZONDER TITEL (1976)

It is not surprising that there is an entire Wikipedia page in Spanish dedicated to Zuidplein metro station as the last of the Chilean political murals can still be seen there. In the 1970s, so-called 'painting brigades', consisting of Chilean refugees, filled Rotterdam with art in protest of Pinochet's political coup. Former mayor Van der Louw participated in protest marches against the military dictatorship.



### 3. Cor van Kralingen TREURENDE VROUW (1958)

Sometimes the most extraordinary art is hidden away in corners and alleyways. This *Grieving Woman* is crying in stone because on 12 March 1945 the occupying forces executed twenty people here in retaliation for an act of resistance.



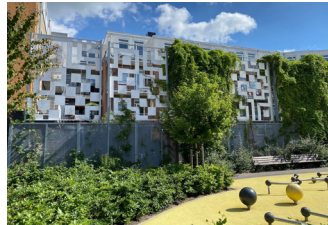
### 4. Marino Marini IL GRANDE MIRACOLO (1958)

The fact that Rotterdam is not a city of equestrian statues is once again obvious from this work: although we now finally have a horseman, he has tumbled off his horse. The sculpture was not originally designed as a war monument, but as it depicts fear it was still acquired for that purpose and placed here as a memorial.



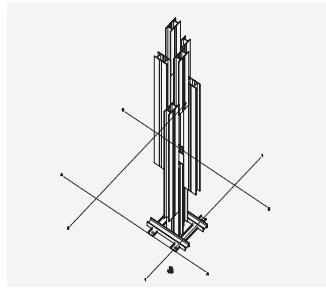
### 5. Berry Holslag CITY WALK (1998)

When Holslag was asked to 'reflect on human beings in the 20<sup>th</sup> century', she concluded that these always tend to be in a great rush. Walking at a vigorous pace, these two city-dwellers – the man dressed in a turquoise suit, the woman in a saffron-yellow summer dress – are destined to bump into each other at the Strevelsweg. Even the slanted pedestals seem to be following them in their haste.



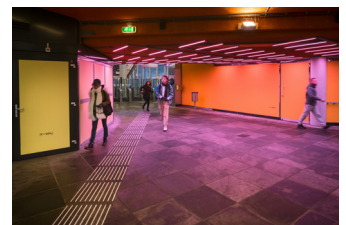
### 6. Narcisse Tordoir BOGOLAN WAND (2005)

When a row of houses was demolished, some other homes became too much exposed. Therefore Tordoir designed an artistic form of protection based on West-African textile designs. He used these same patterns for making the tea towels that he gifted to the local residents, who have since been able to dry their dishes with a work of art.



### 7. André Volten ZONDER TITEL (1964)

Volten's industrial-looking sculptures act as if they are participating in the harsh pragmatism of the surrounding urban architecture, were it not for the fact that they are not at all functional and only there to bring beauty. They are so similar to the built environment that one winter a painter accidentally painted over one of the wall reliefs in the city centre. Relocation 2023.



### 8. Adrien Lucca YELLOW-FREE ZONE (2018)

Some passers-by may not even notice it, but in this conspicuously advertisement-free metro station, the lighting has been adjusted to filter out the colour yellow. This creates a fleeting moment of surrealism in the hurried lives of commuters.



### 9. Cosima von Bonin THE IDLER'S PLAYGROUND (2010)

Spraypainted in an eye-catching shade of green – a camouflage colour in this small park – this sculpture is an ode to the idler. The, apparently lying, Pinocchio was first standing in the city centre. But here in South Rotterdam he is now providing a counterbalance to the port area that is shaped by industriousness, perhaps by saying: why not indulge in doing absolutely nothing now and then.



### 10. Jeroen Jongeleen FONTEIN MAASHAVEN (2022)

During the official unveiling of this fountain, a group of people simply stared at a flat water surface: the fountain did not work. This was because it is an 'objet trouvé, a found object; an existing drainpipe that the artist designated as a fountain. Not even the artist knows if and when it will work. And that is exactly the surprise element that makes it fun for locals, but completely unsuitable for city marketing or gentrification purposes.



### 11. Ek van Zanten DIJKWERKERS (1970)

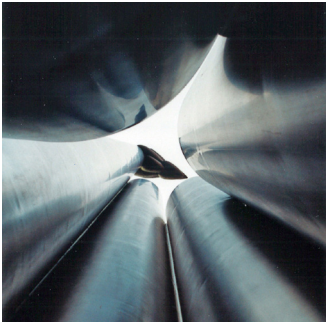
The sculptor Ek van Zanten had initially portrayed some pleasant 'figures playing with a ball', as he originally called this design. But when the municipality announced it planned to realize a monument to working man, he replaced the ball with a block of basalt and now they commemorate the arduous manual labour involved in constructing the docks.



### 12. John Körmeling 1989 (1992)

According to the commissioning party, placing the letters SOUTH in neon on the roof would be much too confrontational, so they said no. At that time, this term was still synonymous with problem neighbourhoods. As an alternative, Körmeling selected the year when these flats were constructed. However, it is usually written on a gable stone, never in the shape of a colossal neon sign like this.





**13. Joost van den Toorn  
THE ASYLUM (1996)**

Walk through the glass doors of the Galleria to this square of West8, pass the bronze *Wilhelmina*, and then use the little door to enter this bleak, steel asylum, as it is described as in the title. Oppressive? Well, the artwork was commissioned to accompany the adjacent court of law and tax office after all.



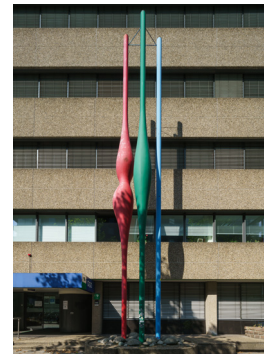
**14. Michael Jacklin  
GATHERING OF THE TRIBES (1997)**

Artists are not overly fond of authority, as is also obvious from this sculpture. It was named after the eponymous 1967 San Francisco protest meeting where artists and rock bands rallied against the establishment. These sculptures also form a mob, right around the corner from the court of law.



**15. Frans Tuinstra  
ZONDER TITEL (1956)**

With no less than 14 floors, in 1956 this block of flats was the highest residential building in the Netherlands, as well as the only high-rise construction on the Maas river. At the entrance, this eyecatcher was decorated with a relief featuring ships, harbour equipment, and mermaids. The artwork on the north side depicts a nautical god carrying a trident. All works are executed in a modern cubist style, as if they are some kind of port Picasso's.



**16. Leen Droppert  
GROEIVORMEN (1978)**

With the emergence of the plastic era, Pop Art, and Minimal Art under his belt, Droppert designed these colourful poles with expansions that make them look as if they are pregnant or have eaten a pig. This expressly distinguishes them from the grey architecture in the background, even though they were specifically designed for this location.



**17. Atelier van Lieshout  
CASCADE (2010)**

These career-driven figures are attempting to reach the top by way of these oil barrels. The title, however, predicts their impending fall. And that immediately turns this ode to Rotterdam, the world's largest oil port, right here at the heart of the business centre, into a clever anti-capitalist sculpture as well.



**18. Henk de Vos  
DE LASSER (1968)**

This gargantuan welder pays homage to the colossal endeavour of building the first metro network in the Netherlands – above the stairs on the right you can see his helmeted head among sparks and flames. A sculpture by André Volten was rejected because people thought it would make the hall look disorganized. Alternatively, a piece of light art by Johan van Ree de was realized near the other exit.



**19. Oswald Wenckebach  
MONSIEUR JACQUES (1959)**

Wenckebach created an entire series of sculptures of this petty bourgeois man; a stereotype from an era when venturing into the worldly big city to shop and promenade through the streets was considered to be the height of fashion and sophistication. From the top of his own little flight of stairs he is complacently looking down on the Coolsingel, which was renovated in 2021.



**20. Gérard Héman  
ZONDER TITEL (1948) /  
OORLOG EN VREDE (1948)**

There was one branch of industry that still had money to invest after the war: the banking world. This richly decorated bank building with symbols for trade, cattle breeding, industry, and prosperity adorning its entrance, is an example of this. However, if you look away from this scene, the roof edge shows war images with death, madness, and an emaciated child. The rest of the façade also contains some conspicuous ornamentation, such as the coat of arms of Amsterdam.



**21. Piet Starreveld  
WELVAART (1953)**

Originally, this personification of prosperity adorned a bank building on the Blaak street. With a peace dove in her hand, she is supported by a man sowing, a black smith, and a plougher. But as her nicknames suggest, the post-war reconstruction symbolism were not the most noticeable assets of this 'Nakie van het Blakie' (Nude of the Blaak), or the untranslatable 'Bank-Bil-Jet', which prosaically refers to her bottom.



**22. Thom Puckey  
THE HUSBAND OF THE DOLL (1991)**

Female nudes are everywhere in art, but you will not come across an unashamedly nude chappie like this very often. And yet this little caricatural sculpture is filled to the brim with art-historical references, for instance to Baroque and the dancers of Degas. It is situated in the so-called 'pocket park' that pretty much serves no purpose whatsoever and therefore perfectly matches this bronze show-off.



**23. Shinkichi Tajiri  
DE KNOOP (1976)**

During World War II Tajiri fought in Europe as an American soldier. He stayed here and settled in the village of Baarlo, in the southern Dutch province of Limburg, where he left so many sculptures behind that you can now go on a walking tour past his knots. These knots can be interpreted as symbolic for connection, embrace, harmony, but also for problems, struggles, bondage. 'A knot is a knot,' Tajiri said, 'Nothing can go wrong with the interpretation thereof.'



**24. Naum Gabo  
ZONDER TITEL (1957)**

Although the creations of the Russian constructivist Gabo usually symbolized a better world, the one here on the Coolsingel was primarily used to solve a practical problem: in a conflict concerning the so-called 'building line' of their new department store, de Bijenkorf decided to commission this artwork. Problem solved. Although the engineers may have struggled to realize this sculpture, their efforts resulted in an artwork that is unique in the world.





**25. Jozef Geefs  
GIJSBERT KAREL VAN  
HOGENDORP (1867)**

The unveiling of this politically charged statue was accompanied by three days of festivities. The statesman Van Hogendorp is seen as the founding father of Dutch liberalism and co-authored the constitution. The statue has been kept in the spotlights thanks to shop owners, clean-up efforts by admiring Economy students, and because it was swallowed up Christmas tree markets every year – hurry for free trade! Relocation 2023.



**26. Elmgreen & Dragset  
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SAY  
SORRY (2011)**

Rain or shine: every Wednesday, exactly at noon, a man wearing a cap produces a megaphone and shouts: 'It's Never Too Late to Say Sorry', after which everyone can judge for themselves who has to say sorry, and to whom.



**27. Louis van Roode  
DE REIS VAN ERASMUS (1954)**

Some art commissions are almost impossible to realize. The Swiss insurance company that once occupied this office building demanded a mosaic featuring both the cities of Basel and Rotterdam, the river Rhine, as well as Erasmus on a horse, after a 16th-century engraving. The fact that the result still looks this good is a testament to the artist's talent.



**28. Jan Engelchor  
ZONDER TITEL (1957)**

The artist himself described this sculpture as 'an attempt to play with thoughts and surfaces'. At the same time, this abstract composition is a combination of the letters S and B as featured in the logo of the Slavenburgbank was located in this building at the time. The bank no longer exists as such, but their artistically disguised logo is still there.



**29. Mari Andriessen  
MONUMENT VOOR ALLE  
GEVALLENEN 1940-1945 (1957)**

This war memorial shows the past (the grieving woman) and the future (the child) with two figures from the present between them. The words 'sterker door strijd' (stronger through struggle) on the pedestal became the motto of Rotterdam after they were spoken by Queen Wilhelmina, who unveiled the *Memorial to the Fallen 1940-1945*.



**30. Bouke Ylstra  
ZONDER TITEL (1966)**

This abstract celebration of the port city full of bridges and cranes is an innovatively made sgraffito, for which the artist applied glue-based paint onto extremely smoothly polished concrete panels. Fans of graffiti elevated the work to cult status by calling it an early example of 'subway art'. Therefore, the graffiti tags on it are probably declarations of love instead of vandalism.



**31. Cor van Kralingen  
HOPPLEINFONTEIN (1955)**

In 1939, on the occasion of its hundredth anniversary, the shipping company Van Ommersen wanted to give the city of Rotterdam a present. But then came the war. This fountain with eight stone sculptures of land and aquatic animals – full of decorative drama, like a crocodile eating a duck and an octopus grabbing a fish – was therefore only unveiled in 1955.



**32. Willem de Kooning  
RECLINING FIGURE (1969) /  
SEATED WOMAN (1969) /  
STANDING FIGURE (1969)**

Because he found his hands too small, De Kooning wore three pairs of gloves on top of each other before he started modelling some sculptures. Once enlarged, an idea he got from his fellow sculptor Henry Moore, his thumbprints on these, somewhat aggressive-looking, sculptures of women even appear to be enormous.



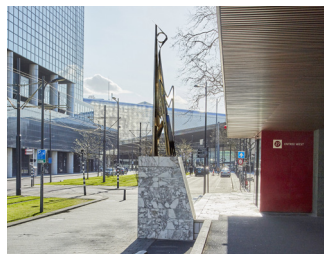
**33. Wessel Couzijn  
CORPORATE ENTITY (1963)**

Sculptor Couzijn was given complete freedom by Unilever and thus designed this abstract sculpture that appears to be floating. The only thing the company did not agree with was its title, *The Manipulator*, which they thought to be too negative. Therefore it is now called *Corporate Entity*. Made from 18,000 kilos of bronze it is perhaps the largest bronze sculpture ever to have been casted in the Netherlands.



**34. Kunst & Vaarwerk  
RODE BMW (1987)**

Apparently, quite a few people are in shock when they see what appears to be a terrible accident. But fortunately this is only art. The Rotterdam art scene may only have been small, but because of these kind of pop-art contributions, the city still found itself in the vanguard.



**35. Kees Timmer  
PHOENIX (1959)**

This is just about as 'Rotterdam-ish' as art can get: a Phoenix, the firebird that after the bombings became a symbol for Rotterdam. Also, it is executed in steel, the material of the port. Timmer visited the workshop where Gabo's sculpture for de Bijenkorf was made and did not like that construction. Stylistically, however, his *Phoenix* does seem to be inspired by it.



**36. Louis van Roode  
ZONDER TITEL (1959)**

'A metre or so more does not faze me,' van Roode boldly said upon finishing this sculptural façade, which was the largest artwork in Europe. The sculptural concrete and glass windows were also his idea and led to this national monument being nicknamed the 'Post Cathedral'. For the interior another 15 artists were responsible for creating 34 murals, sculptures, and mosaics.



### 37. J.H. Baas 'SPECULAASJES' (1957)

For the station he designed, the architect Van Ravesteijn would have preferred an artwork by Henry Moore, but that was too expensive. He then asked one of his own employees to design two sculptures. Afterwards, these would become so highly appreciated that they were reinstalled on the platforms of the new station building, where they also return as a pattern in the interior.



### 38. Henry Moore 'WALL RELIEF NO.1' (1955)

In the 1950s the Vereniging Nederlandse Baksteenindustrie gave the new Bouwcentrum a gift: this brick wall by the British sculptor Moore. Each of these 16,000 bricks has been custom-made by hand. While the brickwork was being executed, every week photos were sent to Moore, who would then send back his comments by letter. Although *No.1* implies the beginning of a series, only this relief was ever realized. By now, the wall has been incorporated into the new building.

## FROM ZUIDPLEIN TO CENTRAL STATION

People who want to see all the art in the outside space of Rotterdam, would do well to set aside a couple of weeks to achieve that goal. Of all those hundreds of artworks, only a small selection is included in this map, so people walking or cycling along this route will encounter a lot more art along the way. The colourful columns at Maashaven metro station. The stone *Musk Ox* by Tom Waakop Reijers near the Art Hotel. The sensitive mural *Irreversible* by Ad Schouten near the Rijnhaven. Even the Erasmus Bridge is decorated with a poetic, text-based work of art. And a bit further afield, in the city centre, the Coolingsingel offers the pre-war art of the City Hall and the former post office,

contrastingly surrounding by a lot of art from the post-war reconstruction period. CBK Rotterdam is looking after these works through two of its programmes: BKOR (Beeldende Kunst & Openbare Ruimte – Visual Art & Public Space) focuses on artworks in the neighbourhoods and districts. And SIR (Sculpture International Rotterdam) safeguards the international ambitions of the collection. Together they are not only responsible for keeping the artworks in good condition, but also for a unique expertise and documentation centre about this amazing collection of public art.

## OREN EN OGEN TEKORT

Art and culture should be accessible to all, and that is exactly what we are hoping to achieve. Through the project *Beeld in Geluid* (Image in Sound) we provide objective descriptions of artworks in the public space. This information, combined with the sense of touch, may be just that little bit extra that people with a visual impairment need to form their own opinions about the artworks.



## COLOPHON

BKOR and SIR are programmes of CBK Rotterdam

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BKOR archief: 6, 13, 24, 35  
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Check out the websites for more information  
[www.bkor.nl](http://www.bkor.nl)  
[www.sculptureinternationalrotterdam.nl](http://www.sculptureinternationalrotterdam.nl)