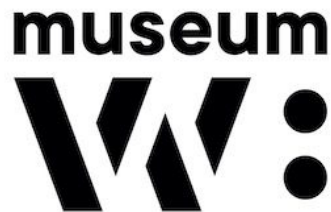


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New Museum W designed by Maurice Mentjens opens with solo Studio Job



Museum W / exterior design by Maurice Mentjens

Video installation Lost Spring. Lost Year by Emily Bates who created the first temporary video project especially for the two large screens in the new exterior façade. The video reflects on the Covid-19 pandemic and reveals 52 self-portraits with flowers referring to the vulnerability, resilience and rhythm of nature.

The past and the present are melded together in a golden-skinned

national heritage-listed building

The City of Weert can now boast a new, a lively icon thanks to the renovation of Weert's Municipal Museum (Gemeentemuseum Weert) by designer Maurice Mentjens. The museum has been established in Weert's former city hall since 1982. The project has rendered the monumental historic elements of this prominent national heritage site in the very centre of Weert visible once again and provided the building with a brand-new museum interior. Not only that: Mentjens added an unusual and surprising third façade to the building's partially new extension that reflects the distinguishing characteristics of our times through its eye-catching matte gold-skinned exterior.



Museum W / interior design & exhibition furniture permanent collection by Maurice Mentjens

Kinetic installation in entrance hall: Reflecting Holons by Studio Martens & Visser. This is a kinetic installation that immerses and surrounds its audience with ephemeral magic of light and movement.

Photo exhibition in council chamber: Gaze Into Space by Satijn Panyigay who was commissioned by Museum W to capture the empty museum building in photographs just before the renovations were due to start. The photos seem to portray the soul of empty spaces.

'Museums are the holy places of our present-day secularized society', explains the designer, 'and works of art are the relics of every culture. These are preserved for posterity in museums.' On the basis of this premise, the idea of designing the rear façade of the museum to resemble a gold-cladded reliquary, in which the relics of the holy are kept, was conceived.

Just as the sculptures and paintings in reliquaries recount the stories of the saints to which they were dedicated, the modern golden façade features two screens on which video installations created by artists or information about current or future exhibitions are projected.

The façade, which is fitted with golden shutters on all stories, refers not only to the historic façade on the Markt side with its characteristic red shutters flanking the cross-windows, but can also be construed as an enormous Advent calendar: behind every shutter a 'treasure' – a relic or work of art – is concealed. The shutters are fixed in place, but the façade – with seams 40 mm wide between the shutters – has been designed in such a way that it appears as if they can all be opened. Through this project Maurice Mentjens, as a designer and a storyteller, has embellished the history of the museum with a new chapter.



Museum W / Solo exhibition FOREVER ENDEAVOUR by Job Smeets & Studio Job (on entire ground floor)

FOREVER ENDEAVOUR - Job Smeets & Studio Job

Museum W and Studio Job announce the opening of a new solo exhibition FOREVER ENDEAVOUR, the inaugural show of the new Museum W in Weert, Netherlands. After over 20 years of international success, Job Smeets returns to his hometown Weert to exhibit there for the first time. This will also be his first show in the Netherlands in over ten years. Invited to be the first exhibitor of the newly renovated museum, Job has created a personal journey through all the

rooms of the museums' ground floor, creating a fully submersive installation of his work, both past and present, alongside influences from his life.

FOREVER ENDEAVOUR is anything but a classic installation, on the contrary the visitor enters the idiosyncratic and imaginative world of Job Smeets and not only becomes acquainted with his iconic design objects, but also with his roots and sources of inspiration.

Job Smeets grew up in Weert a town in the south of the Netherlands and these early influences can be seen much of his sculptural and design work; the traditional carnivals, folklore, the gloom of the local church and the local artisans. *“Through the process of working on this exhibition I discovered a context and a starting point for some of the themes in my work, from the Farm objects (Farm, 2008), through to the carnival-like elements in my work (i.e. B*llsh*t Circus, 2019; Always Close, 2018)”* explains Smeets, *“since I left Weert at 18 I’ve had this very international career, so like the classical story of a wanderer retuning from his travels, I now have the opportunity to show respect to the town that I grew up in. In the same year we have an important show in New York (R&Company Nov) it means a lot to me personally, to do a show as a thank you to where it all began.”*

This will be Studio Job’s first exhibition in the Netherlands since the solo show at the re-opening of the Groninger Museum in 2010 (Studio Job & The Groninger Museum). The exhibition title FOREVER ENDEAVOUR is a comment on Smeets’s eternal pursuit within his work, striving and labouring on an endless creative lifetime of art and design.

On display until 2 October 2022.

Museum W

Conservator John van Cauteren
Curator Patricia van der Lugt

Meikoel 2, 6001 EE Weert, The Netherlands

Open: Tuesday - Sunday, 11:00 - 17:00



[PRESS KITS \(EN\)](#)

[PERS EN BEELD \(NL\)](#)

Museum W - Maurice Mentjens (NL)

FOREVER ENDEAVOUR - Job Smeets & Studio Job (NL)

Reflecting Holons - Studio Martens & Visser (NL)

Gaze Into Space - Satijn Panyigay (NL)

Lost Spring, Lost Year - Emily Bates (NL)

Studio Job

maurice mentjens

Studio Job is a ground-breaking art and design studio based in the Netherlands and Milan. Led by Job Smeets (b.1969), a pioneer of contemporary conceptual and sculptural art and design, he founded Studio Job in 1998 in the renaissance spirit, combining traditional and modern techniques to produce once-in-a-lifetime objects. Smeets leads a team of craftspeople to produce art pieces, projects and products with highly a talented team from blacksmiths to painters. The physical studio developed in the Netherlands to work both in the fields of design and art, going on to grow to over 30 people, working with a vast range of high profile clients, galleries, and brands.

In the Studio Job atelier, a vast range of crafts are practiced in a Renaissance style, traditional craftspeople such as sculptors and specialists in casting bronze and making stained-glass windows and hand painting, work alongside experts adept in using lasers and 3D printing. In the atelier, technique, science, design and art come together as examples of what can be described as Gesamtkunstwerk - a total art work or an all-embracing art form.

Interior designer Maurice Mentjens is a storyteller at heart. He translates his conceptual visual language into designs that are typified by a highly multi-layered approach and a strong eye for detail, creativity, and aesthetics, in which local context or history is always taken into consideration. Mentjens designs mainly high-quality custom-made interiors and interior objects related to these, using materials of a sustainable quality. Together with his small yet dynamic team, he has dedicated himself primarily to the project-based furnishing of shops, catering establishments, offices, and museums. His clients include the Bonnefantenmuseum in Maastricht, the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem, Post Panic video producers in Amsterdam, the DSM main office in Heerlen, and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. The agency has won three Dutch Design Awards and three German Design Awards.

Museum W is supported by



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