



OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2025

## HOW CONTRIBUTIONS HELPED

The Rijksmuseum is there for everyone. Thanks to our benefactors, we can keep that promise every day. Whether large or small, their support makes a huge difference and allows us to bring people, art and history closer together. The contributions of individuals, funds and corporate benefactors help us realise exceptional projects, organise activities and enhance our collection. Together, we can keep our cultural treasures alive and share them with the world, while creating a lasting legacy that reaches far beyond the walls of the museum. I am proud of everything we have realised this fourth quarter with the support of our benefactors.

Roos Munten, Head of Development

# RIJKS MUSEUM

Would you also like to contribute and expand the Rijksmuseum's impact? Check out [www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/support](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/support) for the various ways of doing so. You can also contact us at +31 20 6747000 or e-mail us at [development@rijksmuseum.nl](mailto:development@rijksmuseum.nl).



2020–2025

## LETTERS PROJECT

For the past five years, employees of the Rijksmuseum have written personal letters every two weeks to people in need of some diversion. The letters share stories about their favourite work of art, or their daily work at the museum. What began as an initiative to offer older people something to occupy their minds during the pandemic has grown into a much-loved project. The spontaneous contributions of various **grateful and generous readers** have helped us to continue our dedication to this project.



4 OCTOBER

## HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2025

Guido Faas (Ichtus College, Kampen) has been voted History Teacher of the Year 2025. The prize goes to the teacher with the most inspiring approach to making pupils enthusiastic about history and society. It was initiated 11 years ago by the Rijksmuseum, the **National Archives of the Netherlands** and the **NTR**. The prize highlights the importance of good history education and rewards teachers who succeed in challenging their pupils to link the past to the present.



17 OCTOBER–11 JANUARY

## AT HOME IN THE 17TH CENTURY

The most frequently asked question in the Rijksmuseum is: how did people really live in the 17th century? Both younger and older visitors could find answers to that question in the exhibition *At home in the 17th century*. It followed the rhythm of a typical day, from the first light of dawn to the moment the candles were extinguished. Personal stories showed how young and old people, both rich and poor, lived, worked, ate, played, prayed and mourned in the 17th century. Thanks to the striking scenography designed by theatre maker Steef de Jong, visitors could wander past nine diorama-style displays that showed aspects of daily life. The exhibition combined masterpieces of the applied arts with objects that could be found in any home. The highlights of the exhibition were the dolls' houses of Petronella Oortman and Petronella Dunois.

*At home in the 17th century* was possible thanks to the support of the **Friends of the Rijksmuseum**, **Stichting Zabawas**, **Stichting Thurkowfonds** and, through the **Rijksmuseum Fonds**, the **Fonds Jan van Orden**, **Lucy en Bas van der Vlist Fonds**, **Sara Geertruida Aalders-Huender Fonds**, **Fonds Sascha Ladenius** and a private donor.

5 OCTOBER

## TEACHERS VISIT THE RIJKSMUSEUM FOR FREE TEACHERS' DAY

Teachers' Day highlights the important work that teachers do: sharing knowledge, stimulating curiosity and making a real difference to the lives of their pupils and students. To thank them for their efforts, **ThiemeMeulenhoff** and the Rijksmuseum invited teachers to visit the museum for free on Teachers' Day. They received a ticket for themselves and someone important to them, because appreciation should be shared.

For the past 10 years, **ThiemeMeulenhoff** and the Rijksmuseum have developed educational programmes for primary, secondary and vocational education, because learning about art and history happens not just at school, but far beyond.



17 OCTOBER

## DOLLS' HOUSE ONLINE SPECIAL

The entire dolls' house of Petronella Oortman can now be admired online for the first time. None other than the British actress Helena Bonham Carter has brought the famous dolls' house to life. In the online tour, you can embark on a journey of discovery through the astonishing miniature world of this 17th century masterpiece. The tour even includes hidden areas, such as the library, basement and toilet. The Dutch version features the voice of actress Monic Hendrickx. We were able to create this online tour of this masterpiece in miniature thanks to the support of **KPN**.



23 OCTOBER

## POLSPOTTEN

POLSPOTTEN, founded in Amsterdam in 1986, takes a distinctive and individual approach to interior design. When two 'Dutch stars' decide to work together, a special result is guaranteed. In October 2025, the Rijksmuseum and POLSPOTTEN joined forces for a contemporary reinterpretation of our national heritage.

Inspired by the exhibition *At home in the 17th century*, **POLSPOTTEN** created a special, limited collection by reinterpreting historical forms in unexpected colours and textures with playful details. With a mix of tradition and innovation, craft skills and pleasure, each design tells a story with a playful twist. The collection consists of mirrored cups, vases and plates with bird motives, coloured glasswork and a special version of the Drip Candle Holder.



1 NOVEMBER–11 JANUARY

## DOCUMENT NEDERLAND ASYLUM

*Document Nederland*, the annual photography assignment by the Rijksmuseum, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025. Each year, a Dutch photographer is asked to study and photograph a current social issue. The project is possible thanks to the support of the **Floor Fonds/Rijksmuseum Fonds**, the **Familie van Ogtrop Fonds/Rijksmuseum Fonds** and **Rijksmuseum NEXT**. This year, the Iranian-Dutch photographer, filmmaker and artist Tina Farifteh (1982) was asked to visualise the subject of asylum. The central figure in her exhibition is B., who is applying for asylum at a centre in Ter Apel after spending more than four months in immigration detention at Schiphol Airport. Tina Farifteh is a photographer, filmmaker and artist. Her work examines the impact of power structures on the lives of ordinary people. Her previous works include the audiovisual installation *The Flood* (2021), and the short documentary *Kitten of Vluchtelng? (Kitten or Refugee?)* (2023), for which she won the Zilveren Camera award in the Storytelling category (2024).

21 OCTOBER

## VRIENDENLOTERIJ CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR THE RIJKSMUSEUM

The VriendenLoterij, a Dutch lottery that supports culture, sport and welfare, has extended its support for the Rijksmuseum for four more years. The Rijksmuseum will once again receive an annual contribution up to 2029.

The **VriendenLoterij** has supported the Rijksmuseum since 1998 with an annual contribution towards the cost of acquiring works of art. They also regularly support other projects, including the showing of the 34-hour-long film *Occupied City* by Steve McQueen on our façade on the Museumplein in 2025.



12 NOVEMBER

## WOMEN OF THE RIJKSMUSEUM WITH KATY HESSEL

The well-known art historian and bestseller author Katy Hessel addressed a packed auditorium during her lecture on her favourite female artists from the Rijksmuseum collection. It was an evening full of inspiration, reflections and words of encouragement from female artists, as expressed in her book *Hoe leef je een kunstrijk leven* (How to live an artful life). Her new five-part podcast series *Vrouwen aan de muur* (Women on the wall), which presents new perspectives on women, art and history, was also launched. The evening was possible thanks to the support of the **Vrouwen van het Rijksmuseum Fonds** and **Nijgh & Van Ditmar**.



27 NOVEMBER

## TECHNIQUES OF GUSTAVE LE GRAY REDISCOVERED

For the first time, it is possible to learn more about how the pioneering photographer Gustave Le Gray created his famous seascapes. Photographer and expert Christian Klant was tasked with exploring Le Gray's innovative techniques of the 1850s and bring them back to life. Thanks to a contribution from the **Theo Appeldoorn Seascapes Fund/Rijksmuseum Fonds**, Klant could discover more about the methods used by Le Gray, which had largely remained a mystery up to the present day. In November, Klant shared his findings for the first time during a lecture in the Rijksmuseum.



2025

## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AIMEE ZITO LEMA

In 2025, the Rijksmuseum organised an Artist in Residence programme for the first time, in which an artist was given the space for research, experiments and to create new work. This year, Aimée Zito Lema, our first Artist in Residence, was given access to our collections, the library, the archive, the labs and the expertise of the museum. We were able to realise this fellowship with the support of the **Mondriaan Fonds** and, through the **Rijksmuseum Fonds**, the **Conrad Whelan 42 Fund**, **ABREZIEL Fonds** and a **private donor**. Zito Lema's work will be shown in the museum in the future. The second Artist in Residence will join us in 2026.

18 NOVEMBER

## NEW PARTNER HANAB

**Hanab**, the specialist in energy, technology and connectivity, is now a proud partner of the Rijksmuseum. Through this partnership, the company will contribute to the management, preservation and future of the national cultural heritage that the Rijksmuseum cares for.

**Hanab** and the Rijksmuseum can both trace their origins to the nineteenth century – a period in which craft, skill and innovation were the engine of progress. Today, we share those same foundations and are driven by a shared commitment to excellence.



NOVEMBER

## DONATION OF COLLECTION OF ENGLISH CERAMICS

**Nicholas van Eek** has donated his impressive collection of English ceramics to the Rijksmuseum. In the 18th century, the English ceramics industry experienced a major period of innovation and grew to become a (relatively) affordable alternative to Asian and European porcelain. From 1763, the import of English ceramics into the Netherlands grew explosively. Crockery in the form of vegetables and fruit was particularly popular at the time. A new subcategory emerged in the same period: "*Dutch-decorated creamware*", white English pottery that was decorated in the Netherlands. The popularity of this fashionable, less porous pottery meant the end of the glory days of

Delftware. English ceramics became an important part of Dutch cultural heritage, a story that can now be told in a Dutch museum for the first time thanks to this donation. Since November 2025, seven objects from the collection have been on display in the 18th century rooms. Thanks to the **Nicholas van Eek Fund / Rijksmuseum Fonds** established by the donor, the collection can be further researched and expanded. A more extensive presentation will follow in the Special Collections in March 2026.



2025

## PARTNERS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE RIJKSMUSEUM

We are proud and grateful that our partners **Rituals**, **Bloomberg**, **Royal Talens** and **Lucas Bols** have committed to continuing their support and partnership in the coming years. Thanks to their contributions, the museum can continue investing in a wide range of projects, activities and events for our visitors, both physically and online. Our valued partnership with them helps us inspire and engage with a wide audience, and will enhance the impact the museum can make in the coming years.

2025

## NEW BENEFACTORS VIA THE RIJKSMUSEUM CLUB

Our business club – the Rijksmuseum Club – makes an important contribution to the museum. Its joint membership fees help make the annual (free) sculpture exhibition in the Rijksmuseum gardens possible. Connection, however, is a two-way street, so we open our doors just a little bit extra for our corporate friends. This quarter we welcomed our new club members **act legal**, **Conservatorium Hotel**, **SEB Professional** and **Walda's Kunsthistorische Educatie en Reizen**.