

persbericht
press release

**VAN
ABBE
MUSEUM**



Cave 2020 uit de serie Melting Heart van Diewke van den Heuvel

Groepstentoonstelling Soils verkent een hernieuwde verbinding met onze grond

Van 15 juni t/m 24 november 2024 te zien in het Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven

De bodem is de basis van ons leven. Het is waar onze voorouders ooit leefden en waar toekomstige generaties een bestaan gaan opbouwen. Het is de schakel tussen verleden, heden en toekomst. De bron die ons voedt. Maar de relatie tussen mens en aarde is ook vaak gespannen. Van gronduitutting en overproductie tot landroef en (arbeids)exploitatie. Hoe kunnen we opnieuw aarden in onze omgeving? En hoe helpt ons dat opnieuw de verbinding met elkaar aan te gaan? Over deze vragen buigt de groepstentoonstelling *Soils* zich. Internationale kunstenaars, ontwerpers, boeren en activisten werken aan meer empathie voor onze gronden.

Vier bodems

De titel *Soils* komt van Palestijns denker, schrijver en voormalig wiskundige Munir Fasheh. Hij stelt vier bodems voor als de kern van het leven op aarde: de aardbodem, de culturele bodem, de gemeenschappelijke bodem en de spirituele bodem. In *Soils* staat de menselijke relatie met deze bodems centraal. Een verhouding die dikwijls ingewikkeld is, zoals natiestaten die wij kennen als Australië, Colombia, Indonesië, Mexico en Nederland laten zien. Voor de kunstenaars zijn deze namen minder relevant. Liever zoeken zij naar uiting op basis van verwantschap en geearde kennis, zoals dat wordt gedaan door het Wurundjeri land, het door de Iku volkeren bewaakte Chundwa (het Hart van de Wereld), de Pasar en Pamona taalgemeinden, Sinanché in het Maya Yucatán en Eindhoven in Noord-Brabant.

Van Abbemuseum en de bodem

Als museum voor moderne en hedendaagse kunst, richtte het Van Abbemuseum van oudsher zijn blik op de mondiale en kosmopolitische trends in de kunstgeschiedenis. Vaak spelen die zich af in de grote steden van de westerse wereld. De aandacht voor de directe landelijke omgeving was tot nu toe onderbelicht. De moderniteit scheidde ons van een verbinding met het land. Hoe kunnen we die connectie weer herstellen? In *Soils* leren makers ons hoe belangrijk het is om ons denken en doen te gronden in de bodem waarop we leven.

Lokaal, nationaal en internationaal

In *Soils* graven lokale, nationale en internationale kunstenaars onder de oppervlakte. Door gebruik te maken van voorouderlijke kennis en tastbare sporen van andere denkwijzen, creëren ze een web aan relaties.

Zo brengt de Eindhovense Diewke van den Heuvel met haar geluids- en fotowerk *Melting Heart* een poëtische ode aan de Alpengletsjer. Jaarlijks legt ze dit slinkende ijslandlandschap vast. Wat gebeurt er als Europa's grootste gletsjer ons door

Klimaatverandering niet meer van drinkwater kan voorzien? Iedereen beseft dat een transitie in de veehouderij noodzakelijk is. Hoe is de verschijningsvorm van de koe – en dus het landschap – de afgelopen jaren al veranderd? Dat vraagt de Nederlandse kunstenaar Wapke Feenstra zich af. In haar project *Koe en Landschap* brengt ze dit, samen met verschillende generaties boeren uit o.a. Noord-Brabant, in beeld.

In *Soils* bouwt Suumil Mooktaan een Maya huis met materialen uit Nederland. Het huis is een ambassade voor de Mayacultuur en nodigt bezoekers uit om er te rusten en naar zijn verhalen te luisteren.

Dieren, voedsel en natuur: het zijn de materialen waar het Indonesische collectief Jatiwangi art Factory mee werkt én die het wil beschermen. In 2023 stond hun *New Rural Agenda Temple* al in het Van Abbemuseum in de tentoonstelling *Positions #7: Alles van waarde doe je met anderen*. In *Soils* toont het collectief een nieuwe versie hiervan.

De werken van maker D Harding, afkomstig van de Bidjara-, Ghungalu- en Garingbalvolkeren uit Australië, poppen af en toe op in de tentoonstelling. De monochrome werken zijn gemaakt met natuurlijke pigmenten uit de omgeving van het Van Abbemuseum en het TarraWarra Museum of Art, gelegen in het land van de Wurundjeri, nabij Melbourne. Het samenbrengen van deze twee aardpigmenten in dezelfde ruimte symboliseert waar *Soils* voor staat: het subtiel en duurzaam samenbrengen van culturen, ondanks een kolonial oordeel.

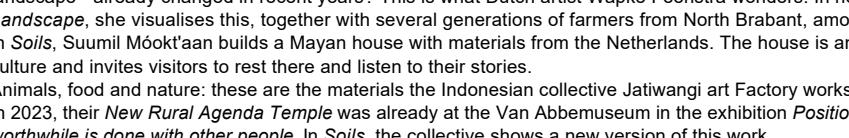
Deelnemende kunstenaars en collectieven

Kunstenaars, activisten en denkers die aan *Soils* deelnemen: Valiana Aguilar, Patricia Kaersenhout & Rolando Vázquez, Soph Boobyer, The Committee for Resurrection (Adelina Luft, Ovidiu Tichindeleanu, Raluca Voinea), Peta Clancy, Megan Cope, Zena Cumpston, Wapke Feenstra, Steffie de Gaetano & Giulia Pompli, Lian Gogali and Institut Mosintuwu, D Harding, Diewke van den Heuvel, Jatiwangi art Factory, Moelyono, Suumil Mooktaan, Hira Nabi, Tom Nicholson, Yurni Sadariah, Dorieke Schreurs, Keg de Souza, Brooke Wandin, Pluriversity Weavers (Ana Bravo Pérez, Li Yuchen, Aldo Ramos, Aliki van der Kruis).

De eerste editie van *Soils* opende in 2023 in TarraWarra Museum of Art in Australië. Na Eindhoven reist de project in 2025 door naar Jogjakarta.

Partners

Soils is een curatoriële samenwerking tussen het TarraWarra Museum of Art, Struggles for Sovereignty en het Van Abbemuseum.



NOOT VOOR DE REDACTIE

Voor beeldmateriaal en vragen

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15 en 16 juni 2024: feestelijke opening

Op zaterdag 15 en zondag 16 juni 2024 wordt *Soils* feestelijk geopend, samen met alle deelnemende kunstenaars. Er is een programma met performances, activiteiten en luistermomenten. Pers is van harte welkom. Voor meer informatie voor de persopening en interviewverzoeken neem contact op met pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl.

ENGLISH

Group exhibition Soils explores a renewed connection with our soil

On view from 15 June to 24 November 2024 at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven

Soils are the foundation of our lives. It is where our ancestors once lived and where future generations will build an existence. It is the link between past, present and future. The source that feeds us. But the relationship between human and earth is also often strained. From land depletion and overproduction to land grabbing and (labour) exploitation. How can we re-ground ourselves in our environment? And how does that help us reconnect with each other? The group exhibition *Soils* addresses these questions. International artists, designers, farmers and activists work towards more empathy for our soils.

Four soils

The title *Soils* comes from Palestinian thinker, writer and former mathematician Munir Fasheh. He proposes four soils as the core of life on earth: earth soil, cultural soil, communal soil and spiritual soil. *Soils* focuses on the human relationship with these soils. A relationship that is often complicated, as nation-states we know as Australia, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and the Netherlands show. For the artists, these names are less relevant. Rather, they seek expression based on kinship and grounded knowledge, as is done by the Wurundjeri land, the Iku peoples' guarded Chundwa (Heart of the World), the Pasar and Pamona language areas, Sinanché in Mayan Yucatán and Eindhoven in North Brabant.

Van Abbemuseum and soil

As a museum of modern and contemporary art, the Van Abbemuseum has traditionally focused its gaze on global and cosmopolitan trends in art history. These were often set in the big cities of the Western world. The focus on the immediate rural environment had been underexposed until now. Modernity separated us from a connection to the land. How can we re-establish that connection? In *Soils*, makers teach us how important it is to ground our thinking and actions in the soil we live on.

Local, national and international

In *Soils*, local, national and international artists dig beneath the surface. Using ancestral knowledge and tangible traces of other ways of thinking, they create a web of relationships.

Eindhoven-based Diewke van den Heuvel, for instance, brings a poetic ode to the Alpine glacier with her sound and photographic work *Melting Heart*. Every year, she records this shrinking ice landscape. What will happen if Europe's largest glacier can no longer provide us with drinking water due to climate change?

Everyone realises that a transition in livestock farming is necessary. How has the appearance of the cow - and thus the landscape - already changed in recent years? This is what Dutch artist Wapke Feenstra wonders. In her project *Cow and Landscape*, she visualises this, together with several generations of farmers from North Brabant, among other places.

In *Soils*, Suumil Mooktaan builds a Mayan house with materials from the Netherlands. The house is an embassy for Mayan culture and invites visitors to rest there and listen to their stories.

Animals, food and nature: these are the materials the Indonesian collective Jatiwangi art Factory works with and wants to protect.

In 2023, their *New Rural Agenda Temple* was already at the Van Abbemuseum in the exhibition *Positions #7: Everything worthwhile is done with other people*. In *Soils*, the collective shows a new version of this work.

Creator D Harding's works, from Australia's Bidjara-, Ghungalu and Garingbal peoples, pop up occasionally in the exhibition. The monochrome works are made with natural pigments from the area around the Van Abbemuseum and the TarraWarra Museum of Art, located in the land of the Wurundjeri, near Melbourne. Bringing these two earth pigments together in the same space symbolises what *Soils* stands for: the subtle and enduring bringing together of cultures, despite colonial judgement.

Participating artists and collectives

Artists, activists and thinkers participating in *Soils*: Valiana Aguilar, Patricia Kaersenhout & Rolando Vázquez, Soph Boobyer, The Committee for Resurrection (Adelina Luft, Ovidiu Tichindeleanu, Raluca Voinea), Peta Clancy, Megan Cope, Zena Cumpston, Wapke Feenstra, Steffie de Gaetano & Giulia Pompli, Lian Gogali and Institut Mosintuwu, D Harding, Diewke van den Heuvel, Jatiwangi art Factory, Moelyono, Suumil Mooktaan, Hira Nabi, Tom Nicholson, Yurni Sadariah, Dorieke Schreurs, Keg de Souza, Brooke Wandin, Pluriversity Weavers (Ana Bravo Pérez, Li Yuchen, Aldo Ramos, Aliki van der Kruis).

The first edition of *Soils* opened in 2023 at TarraWarra Museum of Art in Australia. After Eindhoven, the project will continue onwards to Jogjakarta in 2025.

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NOTE FOR EDITORS

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15 en 16 juni 2024: grand opening

Op Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 June 2024, *Soils* will be festively opened together with all participating artists. There will be a programme of performances, activities and listening moments. Press is welcome. For more information for the press opening and interview requests contact pressoffice@vanabbemuseum.nl.

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