



**Gerard Verdijk**  
(Dutch, 1934 - 2005)

## Biography

Gerard Verdijk originally came from Boxmeer in the southern part of The Netherlands, but lived in The Hague from the late 1950's until he moved to the French countryside in 1994. In the 1950s and 60s he was part of a vibrant and innovative Hague art scene, which artist Theo Bitter once referred to as 'The Hague's answer to CoBrA'.

During that time Verdijk joined Fugare, a group of artists that also included Jaap Nanninga and Willem Hussem. He had previously taken part in a group exhibition, *Hague Artists* (1959), at Kunstmuseum Den Haag. Critics soon dubbed all this innovative activity in The Hague the 'New Hague School'. Although Verdijk always went his own way, he was an integral part of that exceptionally creative period in The Hague.

In his career Verdijk created works on paper and canvas interchangeably, his work always explored the contradictions in universal concepts and continued to be influenced by the post war abstract movements as he lived in Paris in 1956 & 1957, taking classes at the Académie de la Grande Chaumiere with Alberto Giacometti and at the Académie André Lhote with Serge Poliakoff. In Paris Verdijk also associated himself with Conrad Kickert, Kees van Dongen, Fred Klein & Marie Raymond and their son Yves Klein.

In 1991 the artist visited Japan; his second visit was the following year, in which his philosophical approach to his work was deepened resulting in a stronger connection between the depicted objects and the negative space around them.

Further travels took Verdijk to Africa and North America; he noticed in a visit to New Mexico in 1991 how native American symbols corresponded strongly to Celtic symbols from Europe. He was fascinated by the fact that so vastly different and distant cultures used these similar shapes; another defining moment in his artistic practice. His late paintings show a great restraint in minimalist compositions, yet they are filled with layered and sensuous color fields that fill the voids around solid objects and shapes, which - in turn - are often inspired by these ancient cultures Verdijk had encountered during his travels. A duality materialised between concrete objects and the oppositional void that surrounds them; between the shadows and the objects that cast them.

In 1994 Gerard Verdijk made the conscious decision to move to an isolated community in the Dordogne in central France to further explore these influences he had encountered over the previous years, still he continued to travel often and also to exhibit his works internationally. In his practice he continued to experiment with sculpture, often using glass, steel and other reflecting materials, yet his canvases are most profound during this later period. Signifying a true maturation of Gerard Verdijk's artistic practice.

Verdijk had solo exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Den Haag in 1972, and at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam in 1993. His work has also been shown in Japan, France, the United States and Italy. Retrospectives of his works have been held at the KunstMuseum Den Haag in 2020, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam in 1993/94, Noord Brabants Museum Den Bosch in 1998, and at Museum Dordrecht in 2017. Museum Dordrecht holds the largest museum collection of the artist and also held the artist's major overview in 1999 in honour of Gerard Verdijk's 65th anniversary.

#### Selected Collections

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL  
Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL  
Haags Gemeente Museum, Den Haag, NL  
Museum Boymans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, NL  
Van AbbeMuseum, Eindhoven, NL  
Het Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch, NL  
Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL  
Groninger Museum, Groningen, NL  
Cobra Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Amstelveen, NL  
Museum de Beyerd, Breda, NL  
Museum van Oudheden, Leiden, NL  
Museum de Lakenhal, Leiden, NL  
Haags Gemeentearchief, Den Haag, NL  
Philips Collectie Eindhoven, NL  
Collectie Reaal Verzekeringen, Utrecht, NL  
Collectie Ahold, Zaandam, NL  
Hoge Raad der Nederlanden, Den Haag, NL  
Ministerie van Sociale Zaken, Den Haag, NL  
Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, Den Haag, NL  
Collectie van Lanschot Bank, NL  
Collectie Mees Pierson Bank, Den Haag, NL  
Collectie Becht, Naarden, NL  
Collectie H.M. Koningin Beatrix, Den Haag, NL  
Collectie Paleis Noordeinde, Den Haag, NL  
Staatliche Grafische Sammlung, München, Germany  
Märkisches Museum, Witten, Germany  
Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany  
Sprengler Museum, Hannover, Germany  
Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Germany  
Overbeck Gesellschaft, Lübeck, Germany  
Palais des Beaux Arts, Bruxelles, Belgium  
Bibliothèque Royal, Bruxelles, Belgium  
Collectie Belgische Staat, Belgium  
Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Oostende, Belgium  
Le Club des 4 Vents, Paris, France  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom  
Foundation of Culture, Osaka, Japan  
Sammlung der Stadt Zürich, Switzerland  
Roberto Peccolo/Galleria Peccolo, Livorno, Italy



### Selected Exhibitions

2017

Retrospective, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL

2016

Retrospective, Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL

2009

*Mélange - De kunstcollecties van de De Nederlandsche Bank en het Dordrechts Museum*, De Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam, NL

2007

*SIXTIES! Kunst, mode, design, film en fotografie*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL

*Onmetelijk Optimisme - Kunstenaars en hun bemiddelaars in de jaren 1945 – 1970*, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL

2005

Solo: *Hommage aan Gerard Verdijk*, Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL  
*Dutch Pop-Art & The Sixties*, Cobra Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Amstelveen, NL

2004

Solo: Cobra Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Amstelveen, NL

2002

*Hofvijver in Poëzie & Beeld*, Haags Historisch Museum, NL

2000

*Kopen voor de eeuwigheid*, Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL  
*Presentation / De Voorstelling*, Guest Curator Princess Beatrix of The Netherlands, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL

1999

Solo: Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL  
*Benefit Auction Exhibition*, Museum Boymans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, NL

1998

Solo: Retrospective: *40 jaar werk op papier*, Het Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch, NL  
*De Vertelling*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL

1995

*Van Appel tot Zadkine*, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL

- 1994  
*Visions in Dutch Art*, Prague Castle, Czech Republic  
*Collectie*, Het Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch, NL
- 1993  
Solo: *Retrospective*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL
- 1992  
*150 jaar tekenen*, Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL
- 1991  
*Beeld en context*, Vrije Academie, Den Haag, NL
- 1990  
.31, Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL  
*Pictura*, Het Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch, NL
- 1989  
*Zuidenwind*, Het Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch, NL  
*Rijksaankopen '88*, Rijksmuseum Twente, Enschede, NL  
*Verzameling aan zee 2*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL
- 1988  
Solo: Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL  
Solo: Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*Verzameling aan zee*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*Op het eerste gezicht: De collectie Cleveringa*, Het Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch, NL
- 1986  
*Het oog op Den Haag*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*Aspecten van het tekenen in de naoorlogse Nederlandse Beeldende Kunst*, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL  
*De stand van zaken*, Rijksdienst Beeldende Kunst, Amsterdam, NL  
*Ooghoogte*, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL  
*Collectie-Aanwinsten*, Museum Boymans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, NL
- 1985  
Solo: Stichting de Burcht, Leiden, NL  
Solo: Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL
- 1984  
Solo: Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, NL  
Solo: Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, NL  
Solo: Zeeuws Museum, Middelburg, NL  
*Overwegingen*, De Waag, Leiden, NL
- 1983  
*In het teken van de Islam*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL
- 1982  
*De Plastic Tas*, Rotterdamse Kunststichting, Rotterdam, NL
- 1981  
*Techniek van het tekenen*, Nederlandse Kunststichting, Amsterdam, NL
- 1978  
*Contour nader bekeken*, Museum Prinsenhof Delft, NL  
*Lininairstructuren*, Maerz Verein, Linz, Austria
- 1977  
*Beeldende Kunst na 1945*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL
- 1974  
*Druckgraphik aus Holland*, Kunstverein für Rheinland und Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 1972  
Solo: *Transferdrukken en tekeningen*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*Aktuele Stromingen*, Nederlandse Kunststichting, Amsterdam, NL  
*Zeefdruk*, Nederlandse Kunststichting, Amsterdam, NL
- 1971  
*Miniaturen*, Kunstverein, Gütersloh; Paderborn; Kassel, Germany  
*Holländsk Nutidskonst*, Konsthall, Helsingfors, Finland
- 1970  
Solo: Groninger Museum, Groningen, NL
- 1969  
*Nederlandse Galeriers*, Kasteel Hoenlo, Olst, NL
- 1968  
*Nederlandse Kunst na 1945*, Koornmarktspoort, Kampen, NL  
*Critici kiezen grafiek*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL
- 1967  
Solo: Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
Märkisches Museum, Witten a/d Ruhr, Germany  
*Artypo*, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL  
*5 Haagse Kunstenaars*, Kunststichting de Doelen, Rotterdam, NL  
*Stad en Stijl*, Gemeentemuseum, Arnhem, NL  
*Contour*, Museum Prinsenhof Delft, NL  
*Balans*, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL  
*Leidse Verzamelaars*, Museum de Lakenhal, Leiden, NL

1966

*100 jaar museumvrienden*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*Grafische Herkenningen*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL

1965

Solo: Kunstenaars Centrum Bergen, NL  
*Contour*, Museum Prinsenhof Delft, NL  
*Collection '65*, Palais des Beaux Arts, Bruxelles, Belgium

1964

*Liga Nieuw Beelden*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL  
*Zuid-Hollandse Kunst*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*6 Jacob Maris Prijswinnaars 1964*, Vrije Academie, Den Haag, NL

1963

Solo: Märkisches Museum, Witten a/d Ruhr, Germany  
*Contour 10*, Museum Prinsenhof Delft, NL  
*Presentatie van de Nederlandse Kunststichting*, Slot Zeist, NL  
*Haagse Schilders*, Kunststichting Zonnehof, Amersfoort, NL

1962

*Start 10*, Groninger Museum, Groningen; Kunstcentrum  
Prinsentuin, Leeuwarden; Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL  
*Collection 62*, Palais des Beaux Arts, Bruxelles, Belgium  
*Negen Haagse Kunstenaars*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*20 Peintres Hollandais*, Palais des Beaux Arts, Bruxelles, Belgium  
*Contemporary Dutch Art*, Municipal Museum, Dublin, Ireland;  
Cork, Ireland; Belfast, Ireland  
*Liga Nieuw Beelden*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL

1961

Solo: Kunststichting de Krabbedans, Eindhoven, NL  
Solo: Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL  
Atol, Museum de Lakenhal, Leiden, NL  
*Contour*, Museum Prinsenhof Delft, NL  
Biennale de Paris, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris, France  
*Jonge Nederlandse Kunst*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL

1959

*Industrie*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*Haagse Kunstenaars 1959*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL

#### Selected Literature

2018

*Gerard Verdijk: The Mountain of Einstein*. Published by Josephine Sloet

2004

*Gerard Verdijk. Recente schilderijen, recent paintings*.  
Cobra Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Amstelveen, NL

2002

*Gerard Verdijk. There is not much more than all there is*.

1999

*Van 't Ene tot 't Andere. Keuze van Gerard Verdijk uit zijn tekeningen,  
schilderijen en objecten na 1990*. Dordrechts Museum, NL

1998

*Gerard Verdijk. Veertig jaar werk op papier*. Noordbrabants Museum,  
Den Bosch, NL

1994

*Gerard Verdijk: de orde betekend*, een onderzoek naar de betekenis van  
de ordeningen in het werk van Gerard Verdijk. Margo Slomp,  
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, NL

1990

*Gerard Verdijk retrospectief 11*. Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL

1984

*Gerard Verdijk*. Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL

1979

*Gerard Verdijk Haagse Ateliers 46*. Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL

1972

*Gerard Verdijk, Transferdrukken*. Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL

1969

*Gerard Verdijk. Combined Paintings and transfers*.  
Groninger Museum, NL

1967

*G. Verdijk*. Kunstmuseum Den Haag, NL  
*Gerard Verdijk*. Märkisches Museum der Stadt Witten, Germany

1963

*Gerard Verdijk*. Märkisches Museum Witten, Germany

