

press release

KUNSTHAL ROTTERDAM



Press release, 1 October 2026

Kunsthall presents an exhibition of work by cartoonist Jip van den Toorn

Jip van den Toorn. Now That You're Here

7 November 2026 until 7 March 2027

This autumn, an exhibition of work by cartoonist Jip van den Toorn will be shown in the Kunsthall's HALL 5. Showcasing drawings, sketchbooks, and videos, *Now That You're Here* offers visitors a glimpse into what it is like to be a cartoonist in an increasingly unpredictable world.

The retrospective *Now That You're Here* features over 250 drawings Van den Toorn made over the past six years of her career. The exhibition shows how an idea is conceived and subsequently further developed: from the first note or doodle in her sketchbook to the final drawing. Visitors are also invited to use her work as a means of expressing their views on the state of the world. Also shown is the short NTR documentary *Jip van den Toorn – Boekhouder* ('Bookkeeper') (2026), in which director Stephane Kaas takes the viewers along in her creative process.

Humour and social commentary

Typical of Van den Toorn's cartoons is their hard-edged, contemporary visual language that combines humour with social commentary. Observing daily life using her infallible radar for human shortcomings, social tensions, and cultural trends, she subsequently reduces these observations to transparent, often disarming illustrations. Her style is minimalistic yet precise: using seemingly simple lines, she is able to uncover complex emotions and situations, with a satirical undertone that invites reflection.

About Jip van den Toorn.

Jip van den Toorn (1993) is one of the Netherlands' most famous cartoonists. Her drawings are regularly featured in publications like *de Volkskrant*, *De Morgen*, and *VPRO Gids*. In 2018 she won a World Illustration Award, and in 2022 she became the youngest and first ever female winner of the Inktspotprijs cartoon award. Her book *Hoe vond je zelf dat het ging?*

('How did you think it went?') appeared in 2025. A new yearbook for 2026 will be launched early November.

Activities

The exhibitions are accompanied by a range of activities. On Saturday 7 November at 17:30, Van den Toorn will give an Artist Talk in the Kunsthal Auditorium, during which she will explain more about her working method. The exhibition is also included in the ArtHopping tours that introduce participants to the Kunsthal's wide-ranging programme. Please sign up via kunsthal.nl.

→ For more press information and/or photographic material, please contact Kunsthal Rotterdam's communication department: Anne van den Dool, t. +31 (0)10-4400323, +31 (0)6-81052747; Sabine Parmentier t. +31 (0)10- 4400321, +31 (0)6-52636232; communicatie@kunsthal.nl
→ In case of publication, please mention: info +31 (0)10-4400301, www.kunsthal.nl, opening hours: Tuesdays – Sundays 10:00 – 17:00 hrs.

About Kunsthal Rotterdam

Kunsthal Rotterdam is one of the leading cultural institutes in the Netherlands, situated in the Museumpark in Rotterdam. Designed by the renowned architect Rem Koolhaas in 1992, the Kunsthal has seven different exhibition spaces. The Kunsthal annually presents a varied programme consisting of over 20 exhibitions. As visitors are always able to visit multiple concurrent exhibitions, the Kunsthal can offer them an adventurous journey through different worlds and art movements. Culture for a wide audience, from modern-day masters and contemporary art to overlooked cultures, photography, fashion, and design. The exhibitions are accompanied by an extensive programme of activities.

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