

Press release  
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## **Helen Verhoeven wins eighth edition ABN AMRO Art Award**

*Today it has been announced that Helen Verhoeven (1974, Leiden) has won the eighth edition of the ABN AMRO Art Award. In March 2019 an exhibition of her work, which is part of the prize, will open at the Hermitage Amsterdam, and in Circl.ART, ABN AMRO's art project space on the Zuidas. From Friday March 22 2019 on the exhibition is open to the public.*

With its choice of Helen Verhoeven, the jury of the eighth ABN AMRO Art Award has opted for an artist who links restrained emotion and contemporary social dilemmas with classical, historical and art-historical iconography.

Nothing in Verhoeven's work is what it appears to be. With her seemingly naive yet meticulous painterly style, she abandons the rules of place, time and space, harking back to a medieval idiom in which a number of potentially disparate elements exist alongside each other in one image. Her paintings seduce the viewer via their reassuringly familiar compositions, but upon further consideration, they prove to be full of conflicting messages: scenes in which perpetrator is simultaneously victim, in which violence and intimacy closely interrelate, and where status and pose mask deeply rooted isolation.

Furthermore, the jury is struck by a visual language that is entirely Verhoeven's own. She flirts with art-historical traditions and clashing styles, painting with masterly verve - at times deliberately coarse and awkward, yet then very precise - switching back and forth between perspectival views, close-ups, and fragmentation, without losing sight of the whole.

The ABN AMRO Art Award is intended as a stimulus for talent in the Netherlands. The quality and singularity of the work are principal criteria for selection. While making her mark with significant exhibitions within the country and abroad, Helen Verhoeven remains relatively unknown to a wider Dutch audience. Her intriguing and idiosyncratic body of work is rich and full of surprises, continually displaying new and unexpected developments. The jury considers Verhoeven a remarkably talented artist, deftly combining a thoughtful consideration of tradition, an acute topicality, and a visual language that is unique among those of her generation.



**Helen Verhoeven**, Hoge Raad der Nederlanden, The Hague, 400 x 647 cm, 2015. Photo: Johannes Schwartz. Courtesy: de Hoge Raad der Nederlanden and galerie Stigter Van Doesburg



**Helen Verhoeven**, installation view exhibition 'Oh God', Bonnefantenmuseum, 2018. Photo Peter Cox

### Jury Art Award

The jury of the ABN AMRO Art Award this year was comprised of the following members: Maria Barnas (poet and visual artist), Danila Cahen (curator ABN AMRO art collection), Stijn Huijts (artistic director Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht), Xander Karskens (artistic director Cobra Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Amstelveen) and Silvia Zonneveld (Managing Director ABN AMRO MeesPierson / Private Wealth Management).

### Helen Verhoeven

Verhoeven (1974, Leiden) studied at the San Francisco Art Institute (1992-1996), the New York Academy of Art (1998-2001) and was a participant at the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam (2005-2006). Her work has been shown in various solo and group exhibitions at, among other places, Stigter van Doesburg (Amsterdam), Wallspace (New York) and at the Bonnefantenmuseum (Maastricht). In 2008 she won the Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst, and in 2010 the Wolvecamprijs. Verhoeven's work can be seen in major collections, including that of the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Centraal Museum Utrecht and The Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami.

### ABN AMRO Kunstprijs

The ABN AMRO Art Award, an incentive prize for international talent in the Netherlands, was created in 2004. It was presented four times: to Fahrettin Örenli in 2004, Eylem Aladogan in 2005, Ryan Gander in 2006 and Melissa Gordon in 2007. In 2015 the ABN AMRO Art Award continued as an incentive prize for Dutch and foreign artists living in the Netherlands. The award that year was granted to Melvin Moti; in 2016, to Marijn van Kreijl; and in 2017 to Saskia Noor van Imhoff. The winner of the art award receives an exhibition at the Hermitage Amsterdam and at Circl.ART, accompanied by a catalogue and a monetary award of 10.000 euros. An acquisition of the artist's work is also made for the ABN AMRO art collection.

The ABN AMRO Art Award takes place within the context of the bank's sponsorship policy: 'We like to support single minded individuals in their pursuits. They are the driving force in our society, for when they attain their goals, we all benefit. As a bank, we take the responsibility to foster, stimulate and celebrate this single-mindedness. We do so in the fields of sport, art and culture, and entrepreneurship.'

**Please note**

Click here to download hi-res images: [deze link](#). More information about the ABN AMRO Art Award:

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