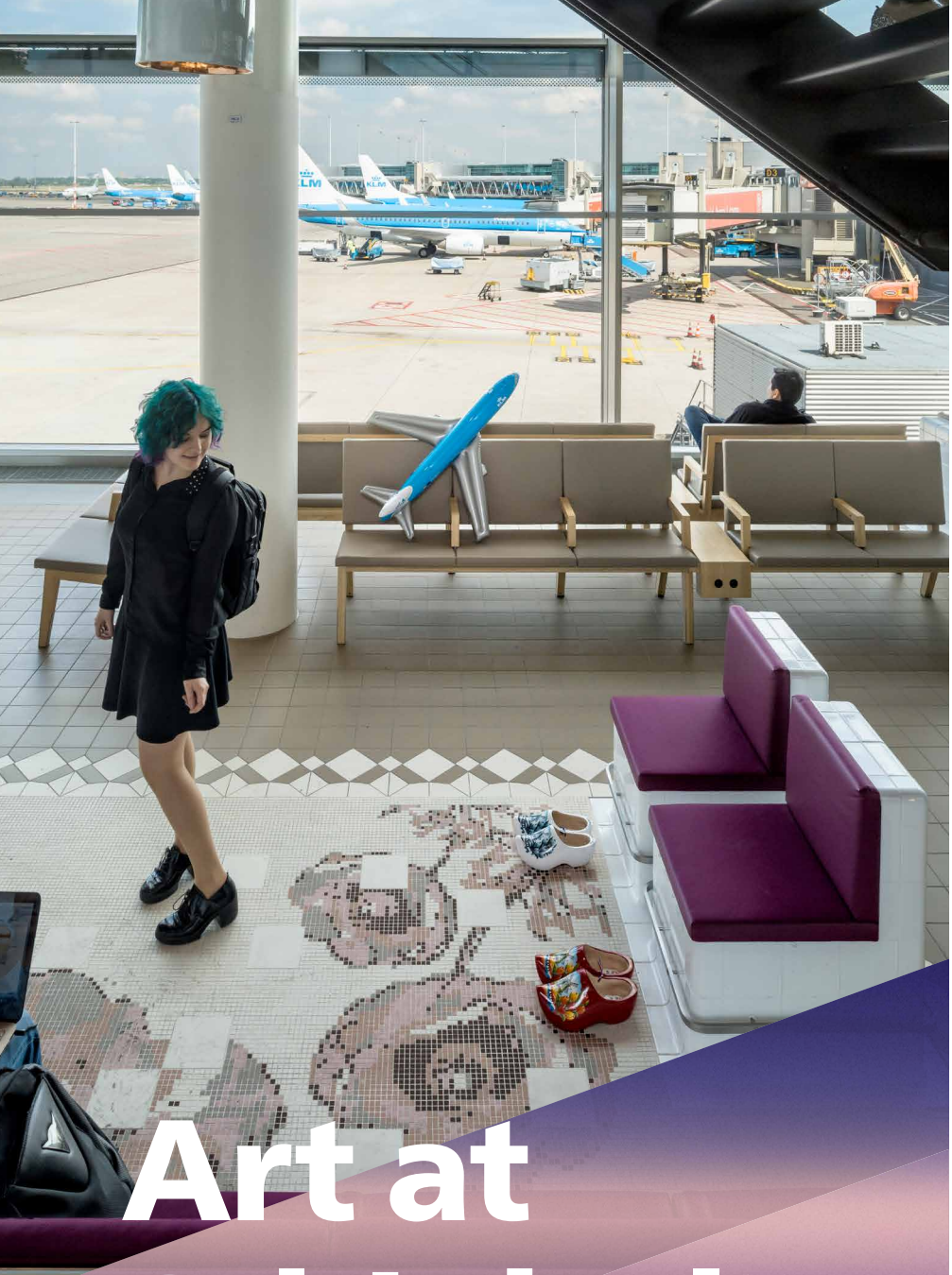

Art at Schiphol

(before security control)

March 2019

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Welcome to Amsterdam Airport

Art before security control

The first works of art at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol date back to the 1960s.
One well-known older piece is Kees Franse's Apple, which dates to 1975. This massive wooden apple has long served as a meeting point, and many passengers sign their names on this eye-catching work of art.
Art has a special meaning at Schiphol. It adds human perspective and creates restful focus points.
At Schiphol, art is intended to embellish, to entertain and to surprise. It aims to lift the spirit and inspire a sense of wonder. Many artworks feature typically Dutch elements and themes, giving Schiphol a unique sense of place.

Schiphol

Schiphol is a hub for large numbers of international travellers. They all have their own backgrounds and religions. Art may be provocative, but it should never cause offence or hurt people. Therefore, works of art exhibited at Schiphol must meet certain criteria. Also, they should not be too fragile and should never impede safety.
Amsterdam Airport Schiphol has a collection of some hundred artworks by well-known and lesser known Dutch and international artists. The works of art at Schiphol are purchased by a special art committee.
What makes this corporate art collection unique is that most of the works, around sixty of them, are on display in public spaces where they can be seen by passengers, visitors and employees.

Artworks are also on display in the areas beyond security control, in the departure lounges and piers.

As well as admiring this Schiphol collection, passengers can also visit an annex of the Rijksmuseum.
Paintings by famous masters of the Dutch Golden Age, including Ferdinand Bol, Jan Steen and Jacob van Ruysdael, will be on display in the Rijksmuseum's annex at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol as from autumn 2017, where they form part of a permanent exhibition. Temporary exhibitions are also organised here.
The Rijksmuseum at Schiphol can be found on Holland Boulevard between Piers E and F.

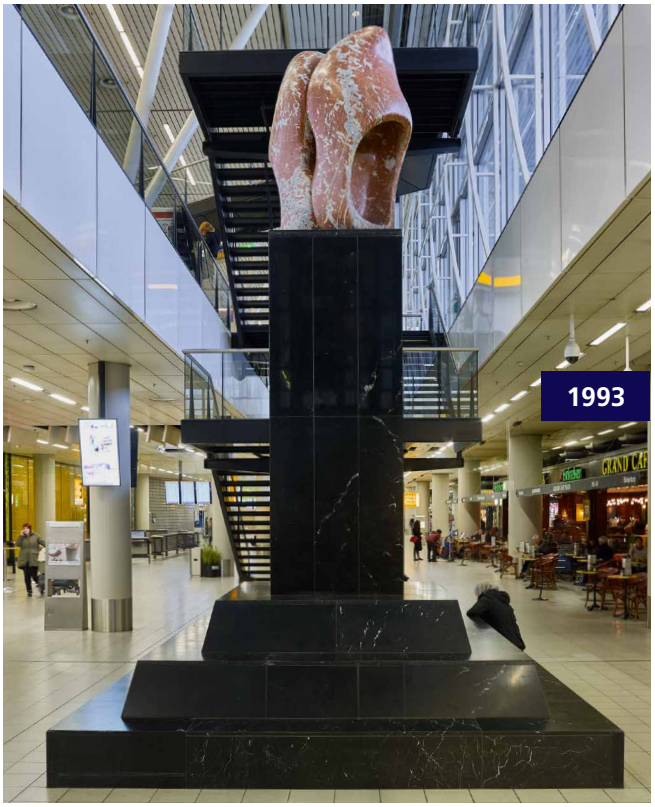
AirportCity

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol exudes the atmosphere of a true world metropolis and is a prime example of an AirportCity that provides its visitors and the businesses established there the services they require, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Royal Schiphol Group is an airport business with Amsterdam Airport Schiphol as its main airport. We aim to create sustainable value for our stakeholders, with due regard for their various interests. It is Schiphol Group's ambition to develop Schiphol into Europe's Preferred airport.
Royal Schiphol Group's mission is Connecting the Netherlands: facilitating optimal links with the rest of the world in order to contribute to prosperity and well-being in this country and elsewhere.**

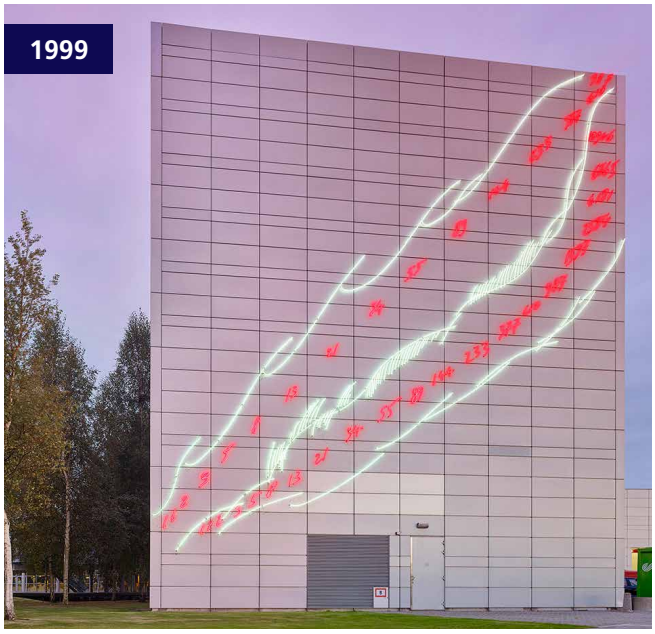
Fibonacci Series

Mario Merz - The head office for Royal Schiphol Group, which you can see from the A4 motorway, shows Mario Merz's Fibonnaci series. This Italian artist was an important figure in the Arte Povera movement, and this is the largest neon artwork that he has ever made.



Dellaert

Jeroen Henneman - To celebrate Amsterdam Airport Schiphol's 90th birthday, Jeroen Henneman created a statue of the founding father of present-day Schiphol: Jan Dellaert. For this piece of art, Jeroen Henneman uses the sky as his canvas. The former airport manager and eventual CEO of Amsterdam Airport Schiphol now looks out over the hustle-and-bustle of the modern airport from his place on the edge of the roof of Schiphol Plaza.



I meet you

Mark Brusse - The pair of wooden clogs that Mark Brusse created for Amsterdam Airport Schiphol are invariably interpreted as symbolic of the Netherlands. And in a certain sense they are. The clogs are a meeting point for travellers arriving in Arrival Hall 3 and the people picking them up. The stepped base alludes to the national monument on Dam Square in the heart of Amsterdam, a tourist meeting point. Clogs feature elsewhere in Brusse's oeuvre as well, chosen not just for their symbolic value, but for their clean and simple form.

Green Wedge, Fountain of Mist

West 8 - In an environment as busy as that of an airport, landscaping is very important. Just like art, trees and green spaces can bring peace and a human dimension to a landscape filled with buildings and concrete. The Fountain of Mist (Nevelfontein) is situated within the Green Wedge, a park that runs from the Jan Dellaertplein to the Hilton Hotel.

Knot

Shinkichi Tajiri - When Shinkichi Tajiri came to the Netherlands from Paris in 1956, he found himself a fairly solitary figure in modern sculpture. His international background, new casting techniques and the expressive substance of his work influenced many Dutch sculptors. Tajiri has built up a diverse oeuvre with some regular motifs, such as the knot and the warrior. Shinkichi's 'Knot' is located in Arrivals Hall 1.

Flying Fish

Carel Visser - When Carel Visser, one of the best known post-War Dutch sculptors, was commissioned to create a piece for Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, he immediately felt drawn to ideas of a gliding, hanging or swimming element. This enormous red and black aluminium flying fish poetically expresses a fascinating link to aviation. You will find the flying fish in Departure Hall 3.

The Niijima Floats

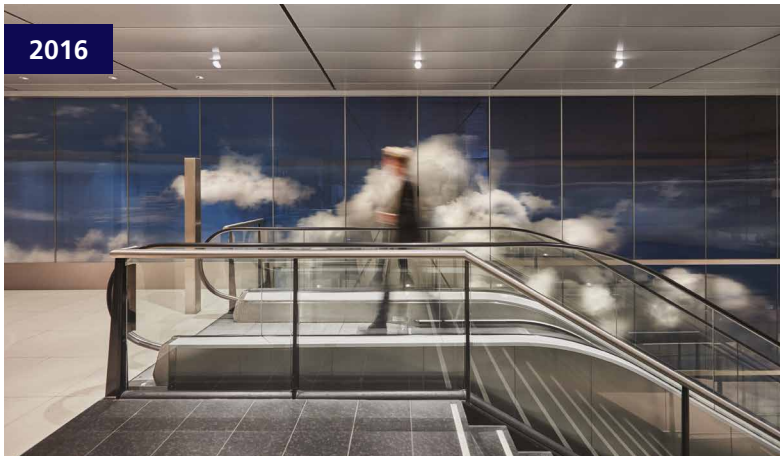
Dale Chihuly - Dale Chihuly's floating, coloured glass baubles at the entrance to the WTC are inspired by memories of his childhood, the small glass baubles from Japanese fishing nets that would wash up on the beach. He saw these baubles as 'other-worldly visitors'. A visit to Japan breathed new life into this fascination.

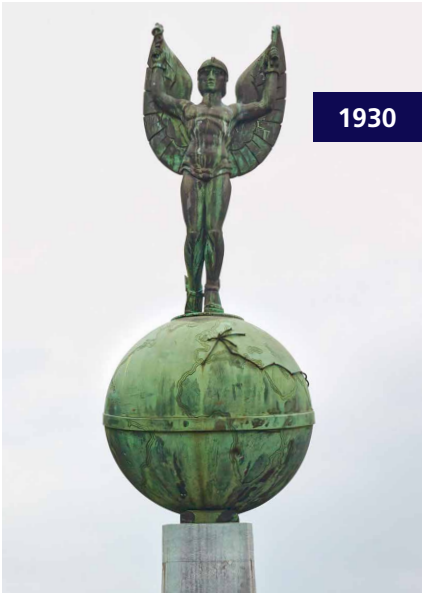
Wave

Henriette van 't Hoog - This work of art in the Smart Parking P3 long-term car park is a physical, geometrical and abstract representation of sea foam in the shape of a wave. It is made of aluminium, and the front has been painted with two tones of light grey, pearlescent car paint, while the back was painted with fluorescent orange car paint. The colours will continuously change as the sun moves through the open space in the car park during the day and the evening.

Beyond

Daan Roosegaarde - 'Beyond' is a 112-metre long 3D image of clouds and Dutch light; it is actually an amalgam of many cloudscapes. In this work, Daan Roosegaarde fuses the typical Dutch skies seen in paintings from the Golden Age with the clouds as seen by travellers through an aircraft window. Beyond is displayed in Departure Hall 3, just beyond the boarding pass checkpoint.



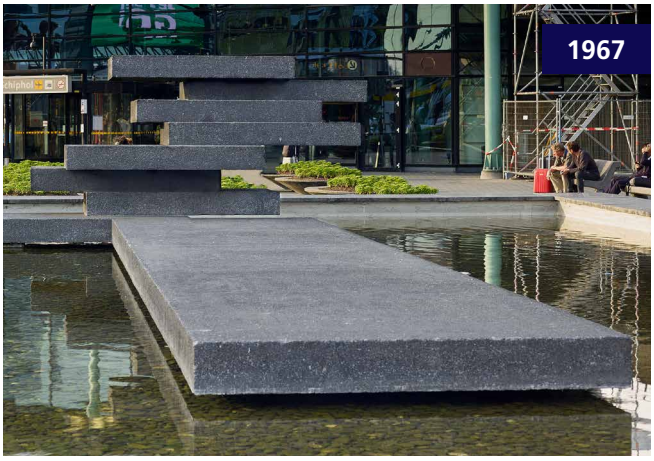


Mercurius Monument

Johan Polet - This piece of art depicts the winged Mercury, the Roman god of commerce, travellers and profits, standing atop a bronze globe. It was commissioned by the Municipality of Amsterdam, to commemorate KLM's inaugural scheduled flight to Batavia. The artwork was placed near the terminal building at Schiphol-East in 1930, and as of 2014 – exactly ninety years after KLM's first scheduled flight to Batavia – it can be found across from the entrance to the Sheraton Hotel at Schiphol-Centre.

Arrivals 3

Stanislaw Lewkowicz - Stanislaw Lewkowicz's wall in Arrival Hall 3 separates arriving passengers and customs from people waiting outside. It is covered in depictions of flowers and floral motifs, with graveyard bouquets to the left while the right hand side shows flowers at the Dockworker monument in Amsterdam, in commemoration of the February 1941 strike in resistance to the German occupation. The flowers give an almost ritualistic touch to the often joyous welcome that returning passengers receive.



Salami

Carel Visser - In 1967 the airport moved from Schiphol-East to its current location at Schiphol-Centre. Visser's 'Salami' was one of the first works of art displayed at the 'new' Schiphol. It is an example of geometrical stacked art: a massive elongated beam, with a stack of sections that are slightly off-set from one another. 'Salami' can be found on the Jan Dellaertplein.

Schiffe für Schiphol

Ludger Gerdes - The two ship models with their temple-like structures and poplar trees give the rather anonymous commercial landscape of Schiphol-Southeast an enigmatic and poetic touch. Gerdes found inspiration in the architecture of an English country garden, where art and nature are still joined in harmony.

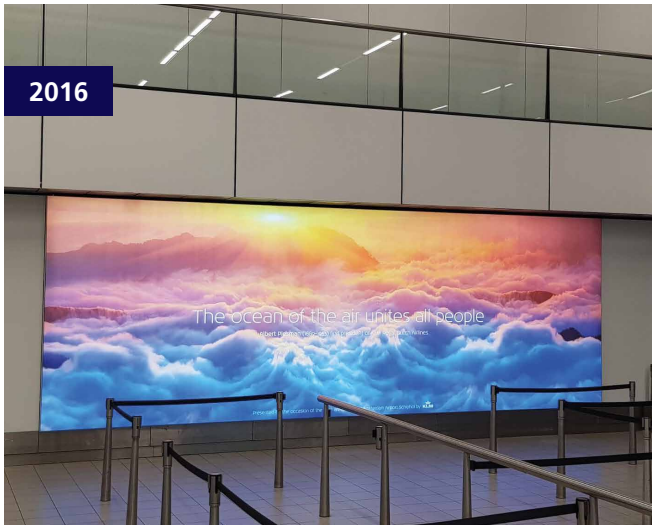
Apple

Kees Franse - Kees Franse was a painter but called himself a carpenter. In the late 1960s he started creating spatial objects. His Apple was a 'living piece' from the start, with travellers writing messages on it. It was one of the first meeting points at Schiphol. The Apple is located in Arrival Hall 4.

Eight columns in a row

Sol Lewitt - LeWitt is classified as being both a minimal and a conceptual artist. Just like his other art, this work made up of blocks of concrete, is based on the concept of lines, and combines horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines of shadow. You can view LeWitt's piece on the grass by the A4 motorway exit.

The ocean of the air unites all people, KLM

This quote from Albert Plesman (1889-1953), the first president of Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij N.V., has been combined with a contemporary image.
The statement reflects Plesman's intention to unite people via air transport. It also radiates optimism transcending national borders, and the great promise that aviation will make it possible to truly connect people. At the same time, the work emphasises the collaboration related to aviation.

The piece was commissioned by KLM and presented to the airport on the occasion of its 100thanniversary.