

Ellen Holleman VISUAL ARTIST

Artist Bio

Ellen Holleman is a painter, mixed-media artist, and spatial designer based in the Netherlands. She trained as a spatial designer at the Utrecht School of the Arts (the Netherlands). Holleman prefers working with oil paints and traditional painting techniques, but also enjoys experimenting and using contemporary techniques, like digital collage and photography, as part of her creative process. The themes in her art are strongly affected by her work and experience as an urban design professional.

In 2013, she was invited as an artist in residence at 'tHuisbasis' in Poelenburg, Zaanstad, in collaboration with Sarah Spanton, a UK-based artist. From 2014 through 2017, she was the creative director of IFIKZ, a cultural festival in Zaanstad, where she built an installation on a barge that traveled on the river Zaan as part of the festival's first edition. It moored at sites along the river for a series of storytelling events.

In 2020, after an intense artist retreat, she decided to focus on restarting a professional painting practice, shifting her career from the urban design field towards the arts. The following year, one of her new works was selected for a group show in the St. Maartens basilica, Zaltbommel, and she had her first solo exhibition at the cultural centre De Poortერი in September. In 2022, five paintings were exhibited in an augmented reality pavilion with ArtInside Gallery, and she had an online solo show running from April through May. Additionally, three of her artworks were published in issue #5 of The Huts Magazine. In September, her second solo show opened at the cultural centre De Poortერი, and two of her paintings were featured in Life as a Poem by Cista Art Gallery, London. In October 2022, she participated in the 5th edition of the International Artes Exhibition in Turin, Italy, where she was awarded third prize in the figurative paintings section. Holleman is a directory artist of Art Mums United.

1968 Born in Arnhem, the Netherlands

Currently Resides in Rossum, the Netherlands

Solo Exhibitions

2022

- Imaginary Narratives (Cultural Centre De Poortერი, Zaltbommel, the Netherlands)
- Urban Portraits: Finding Intimacy in City Life (Art Mums United, online)
- I See You - Urban Portraits (Artinside Gallery, Italy): Virtual exhibition in augmented reality

2021

- Kunstrandje XXL (Cultural Centre De Poortერი, Zaltbommel, the Netherlands)

1999

- Solo Exhibition (Galerie 1646, The Hague, the Netherlands)

1997

- Solo Exhibition (Restaurant Dudok, Rotterdam)

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Group Exhibitions

2023

- Stronger Together (online group exhibition featuring Art Mums United Directory artists, winter edition)

2022

- Mostra Internazionale Artes V Edizione (Galleria Febo & Dafne, Turin, Italy)
- Life as a Poem (Cista Arts Gallery, London, United Kingdom)
- Stronger Together (online group exhibition featuring Art Mums United Directory artists, summer edition)
- Pop-up Exhibition (Gastgalerie, Zaltbommel, the Netherlands)

2021

- Typisch Maasdriel (Sint Maartenskerk, Zaltbommel, the Netherlands)

2015

- Peace and Freedom (Weefhuis, Zaandijk, the Netherlands)

1993

- City Hall (Cancun, QR, México)
- Graduation Show (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

Projects/Residencies/Commissions

2020

- Guest Artist at Projectspace Kunstgenieloods (Zaanstad, the Netherlands)

2019

- Vierheemskinderenstraat (Culemborg, the Netherlands): Competition entry for an art project in public space, commissioned by Culemborg municipality.

2015

- Zaanse Verhalenbank: artwork and storytelling project (Zaanstad, the Netherlands)

2014/15

- Member of the Startup-Team for the Revitalization of the 'Honigfabriek' as a Creative Incubator
- Advisor at Community Garden De Groene Oase in Poelenburg, Zaanstad

2013

- Value in the Neighbourhood: Artist in Residency with UK-based artist Sarah Spanton (Poelenburg, the Netherlands)

2012

- Social Cities of Tomorrow (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2011

- Fair[e] City - Project Space Paris (Saint-Denis, France): Participated in a 4-day workshop in

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Paris by invitation of Wonderland as part of The Other City Series 2010-2011 to develop new strategies for promoting social cohesion in the banlieue of Paris.

2010

- What's up, what's down. Cultural catalysts in Urban Space, Studytrip organized by the former FBKVB (now Mondriaanfonds)

2009

- Competition entry 'The Connection', design for a new dike connection and landscaping, commissioned by Kunst en Cultuur Noord-Holland, the Netherlands
- Art project with pupils of primary school 'de Dijk', Zaandam, the Netherlands as part of Kunsteiland voor Kinderen (KEK)

Press

2022

- Painting our world: Personal Stories Of Artistic Ingenuity And Triumph, Curated Artist selected by the Art Mums United Team
- The Huts Magazine #5, Curated Artist Unveil section selected by the Huts Magazine Team
- Featured on PxP Contemporary's Instagram
- Art Mums United Podcast interview Once an artist, Always an artist

Work experience

2007-to date	Co-owner Islant urban design studio - Responsible for project management and design in various urban design, landscape architecture projects and public spaces
2015-2017	Creative Director IFIKZ, Conceptualized and programmed the IFIKZ Industrial Culture festival in Zaanstad as its Creative Director
2000-2006	Freelance designer - Worked on a variety of design projects, including concept development, editorial design, and spatial design
1997 - 1999	Assistant project developer and concept developer at Het Oosten housingcorporation, Amsterdam, Netherlands - Involved in the development of new housing projects from concept to construction, collaborating with architects and other stakeholders
1995-1997	Designer at Kuiper Compagnons, office for urban design and architecture, Rotterdam, Netherlands - Contributed to the design and execution of various urban design and architecture projects, such as urban masterplans and public spaces
1993-1994	Muralist at Mexico Magico, Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico - Participated in various mural projects, contributing to the design and execution of murals in theme park Mexico Magico

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