

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## ELLEN RODENBERG

While working in the unknown I search for beauty

To express my idea of life as a complex web of experiences and struggle, I use all kinds of drawing and painting materials. In recent larger drawings, I work in layers, painting and drawing to create effects of color, transparency, and line patterns. In this process, I see moving organisms/beings emerge that show me something of what lives consciously and unconsciously in and around my body. At a young age, I discovered the thrill of escaping from the garden gate, wandering aimlessly and ending up somewhere unexpected. I still feel this when I start a work of art. It can be a drawing, but also a performance or installation. I also seek that sensation of the unknown in my approach to work. This involves a phase of wandering while drawing. But I also arrive somewhere. A form, an association, an encounter between the other, the different, and myself. The drawing or other type of artwork is the witness. The paper I currently use can be of all kinds and ages, from cheap sheets to high-quality watercolor paper. It can be new or previously used, contain traces of previous paintings or be damaged; it fits my idea of a body that has lived, aged, and remembers. It also fits with escaping conventions about the holiness of a work of art. In my drawing-books, writings and drawings alternate. I see them as a separate artwork. Another expression of wondering. I draw everything I experience on my explorations (in my head or in the outside world), note it down in wondering language and drawing. In addition to participating in various exhibitions as an individual, since 2006 I have been working with the three-person collective EX-MÊKH, a collaboration with the aim of presenting individual work in joint installations or videos. To this end, we develop exhibition concepts in which individual processes and the dynamics of collaboration are explored, elaborated, and implemented. Depending on the location and situation, we invite artists from outside the collective to join us.

### WEBSITES

personal website

[www.ellenrodenberg.nl](http://www.ellenrodenberg.nl)

website collective

[www.ex-mekh.nl](http://www.ex-mekh.nl)

website collective

[www.art-s-cool.nl](http://www.art-s-cool.nl)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[mastodon.social/@exmekh](https://mastodon.social/@exmekh)

[pixelfed.social/ellen-rodenberg](https://pixelfed.social/ellen-rodenberg)

[@ellenrodenberg](https://twitter.com/ellenrodenberg)

[@ellenrodenberg](https://instagram.com/ellenrodenberg)

### MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

EX-MÊKH, Art-S-Cool

### MEMBER OF A PLATFORM, DIGITAL OR OTHERWISE

Stroom

arteventura

PlatformsProject

### EDUCATION

1992 - Painting, Drawing, Lithography Den Haag,  
1994 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende  
Kunsten diploma

1974 - Biology, Drawing Pedagogische Academie,  
1977 Amsterdam diploma

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Brota el Pueblo The area Puerto Gil Corteconcepción, Spain Initiated by Ellen Rodenberg and Maarten Schepers, an art event was organised on 28 June by Arteventura and Hybrid\_arte in the Puerto Gil neighbourhood. see for a report [www.ellenrodenberg.nl](http://www.ellenrodenberg.nl) Over de tentoontelling: Brota el pueblo resignifies the square, hermitage, lavaderos and other points of Corteconcepción with adapted works that play with the representation of nature and the inclusion of this in the process of creation. Nature acquires a spiritual dimension : the hermitage, a place of devotion and prayer, will be interpreted by the artists adding their works inspired by the environment and leaving them in this special space as relics of their own artistic practice. Water, fluidity, emergence and emanation are concepts that cross transversally the installations, as well as the memory of a people and the reinterpretation of its places from new perspectives. Seven international artists collaborate with three local to see what is and highlight what is new, and thus make the village sprout. Arteventura & Ana Sanfrutos - Hybrid Art [www.ellenrodenberg.nl/I/%20Brota%20el%20pueblo.%20Corteconcepci%C3%B3n.%20Arteventura%20y%20Ana%20Sanfrutos%20Group](http://www.ellenrodenberg.nl/I/%20Brota%20el%20pueblo.%20Corteconcepci%C3%B3n.%20Arteventura%20y%20Ana%20Sanfrutos%20Group)
- 2024 On Mèkh beach / Reversing the Tide Tobacco Factory Athens, Greece the collective EX-MÈKH jointly created a presentation depicting a beach with surf. Drawings and objects we had washed up daily or gave back to the sea. The last day in the form of exchange to the public. [platformsproject.com](http://platformsproject.com) Group
- 2024 ¿De dónde? Characters Hotel petit Palace Santa Barbara Madrid, Spain For Hybrid Art Fair 2024, EX-MÈKH created the installation "Con Alma" in hotel room 217. We received visitors during the day and slept there at night. All other rooms were also temporarily occupied and transformed by art initiatives. inhabited and transformed. In this room we asked ourselves: Where from? And with this question I made a drawing installation in the bathroom. Title: Characters see the exmekh site for pictures. [www.ex-mekh.nl/](http://www.ex-mekh.nl/) Group
- 2022 CON ALMA Hotel Petit Palace Sante Bárbara, Madrid Madrid, Spain For Hybrid Art Fair 2022, EX-MÈKH created the installation "Con Alma" in hotel room 110. We received visitors

## PROJECTS

- 2025 EQUINOX\_SAME BUT DIFFERENT 222lodge, Dordrecht Dordrecht, Netherlands [unnoticedart.com/equinox-same-but-different/](http://unnoticedart.com/equinox-same-but-different/) Equinox – same but different is an international event for public action for freedom for all people. Every year on the Equinox (around 20 March and 21 September), the duration of day and night is roughly equal around the world. In the spirit of cosmic equality, the event is a global connection for people performing together in public space. This sharing of time and space brings us closer together, as a temporary (global) community to encourage, through performance art, non-violent expressions for locally specific conditions. There will be no programme of consecutive performances but everything takes place simultaneously, collaborations can arise spontaneously.
- 2016 PARALLELSHOW#6 Unnoticed Art Festival Delphi, Greece [theparallelshow.com/?page\\_id=630](http://theparallelshow.com/?page_id=630) performance prepared and executed in Delphi, Greece
- 2016 EPILODGE 222citylodge, Dordrecht Dordrecht, Netherlands [222lodge.nl/index.php/home-of-lots-of-stuff/](http://222lodge.nl/index.php/home-of-lots-of-stuff/)
- 2015 CITYLODGE 222lodge, Dordrecht Dordrecht, Netherlands [222lodge.nl/index.php/home-of-lots-of-stuff/](http://222lodge.nl/index.php/home-of-lots-of-stuff/)
- 2012 MALIEVELD 222citylodge, Dordrecht Den Haag, Netherlands [www.ellenrodenberg.nl/P\\_Malieveld\\_2012.htm](http://www.ellenrodenberg.nl/P_Malieveld_2012.htm) from 2012 to 2014 we met every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon with a number of artists at Malieveld. We made and documented art and then left again.

during the day and slept there at night. All other rooms were also temporarily occupied and transformed by art initiatives. inhabited and transformed. [ex-mekh.keeskoomen.nl/con-alma](https://mekh.keeskoomen.nl/con-alma)  
Group

- 2022 WORMHOLE “Nikos Kessanlis” Exhibition Hall of the Athens School of Fine Arts Athens, Greece The paintings of SCRIPT are part of the installation WORMHOLE which the collective EX-MÊKH ( Ellen Rodenberg, Maarten Schepers, Kees Koomen) made for the independend Art Fair for Platforms Project in Athens. [ex-mekh.keeskoomen.nl/wormhole](https://ex-mekh.keeskoomen.nl/wormhole)  
Group
- 2021 STAGE AROUSAL (2) EP7 Paris Paris, France The exhibition on the facade of EP7 Paris (KRAATZ invited artists group Ex-Mêkh) is accompanied by a weekend of performances, workshops, and an official curatorial ceremony around the opening.  
Group
- 2020 FE\_MALER Vitrine U Berlin, Germany A project 'Femmes City' by A Trans for showcases of Metro station 'Kleistpark' Fe- Maler was performed in installations and performances by EX-MÊKH during the month of September 2020. [atrans.org/archive/a-trans-feat-ellen-rodenberg-ex-mekh-femaler/](https://atrans.org/archive/a-trans-feat-ellen-rodenberg-ex-mekh-femaler/)  
Solo
- 2019 MÊKH\_WEB LIVE Quartair Den Haag, Netherlands EX-MÊKH is a collaboration in making exhibitions by Ellen Rodenberg, Kees Koomen, Maarten Schepers. In Mêkh-web live, they invited several artists to participate.  
Group
- 2019 CQUENSE Culture Centre, Athens Athens, Greece The video CQUENSE was made during the Covid pandemic. The video shows performances performed on the Malieveld in The Hague. [ex-mekh.keeskoomen.nl/cquence](https://ex-mekh.keeskoomen.nl/cquence)  
Group
- 2019 EX MÊKH\_PROBE Haus der Statistik Berlin, Germany 8.12. — 31.12.2019 | Open Hours permanently In this exhibition EX-MÊKH will show their inspiration and working method, the themes that have always been important to the collective. The preceding acts together with the collective of KRAATZ during the performance weekend will be used as fertilizer for the process that will eventually result in an exhibition about the creating of an exhibition. [atrans.org/archive/a-trans-feat-ex-mekh-probe/](https://atrans.org/archive/a-trans-feat-ex-mekh-probe/)  
Group
- 2019 AS\_IF... Ruimtevaart Foundation Den Haag, Netherlands [www.stichting-ruimtevaart.nl/archief.htm](https://www.stichting-ruimtevaart.nl/archief.htm)  
Solo

- 2015 AUGENTAUSCH ATRANS, Berlijn Berlin, Germany In the gallery of Atrans in Berlin, EX-MÊKH created the exhibition "Augentausch" At the beginning and at the end of the period, performances were performed.  
[atrans.org/archive/a-trans-feat-ex-mekh/Group](https://atrans.org/archive/a-trans-feat-ex-mekh/Group)
- 2015 EDGED Ruimtevaart Foundation Den Haag, Netherlands An exhibition by Pietertje van Splunter and Ellen Rodenberg in the exhibition series Edged. [www.stichting-ruimtevaart.nl/images/media/1510071.jpg](https://www.stichting-ruimtevaart.nl/images/media/1510071.jpg)  
Duo

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2025 arteventura Corteconcepción, Spain During this month-long residency, I developed new work. I also participated in an exhibition for which I was invited together with Maarten Schepers.  
[arteventura.eu/](https://arteventura.eu/)
- 2023 arteventura Corteconcepción, Spain I worked in a studio of arteventura from the 2nd to 30 of October 2023  
[arteventura.eu/](https://arteventura.eu/)
- 2011 Artist in residence, Post 15, Pécsbagota, Hongarije Pécsbagota, Hungary Artist in residence  
[www.elizabethdevaal.nl/air-pecsbagota](https://www.elizabethdevaal.nl/air-pecsbagota)
- 2008 Heden, Cemeti Art House Yogyakarta, Indonesia Artist in residence program, Landing Soon #7  
[rkd.nl/en/explore/library/198869](https://rkd.nl/en/explore/library/198869)

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 EX-MEKH Catalog EX-MÊKH The Hague, Netherlands Small brochure consisting of personal work from the artists from EX-MÊKH and collaborated exhibition work from the collective.
- 2024 PlatformsProject 2024 Catalog PlatformsProject Athens, Greece  
[www.platformsproject.com](https://www.platformsproject.com) A catalog of the presented platforms. Each platform has a page in full colour in the catalog.
- 2022 Art at Work Book eigen beheer- ellen rodenberg ellen rodenberg Den Haag, Netherlands [nl.blurb.com/b/11052552-ellen-rodenberg-art-at-work-2003-2021](https://nl.blurb.com/b/11052552-ellen-rodenberg-art-at-work-2003-2021) An artist's book in which a photographic overview relates works, collaborations and performances performed between 2003 and 2021.
- 2008 Ellen Rodenberg Catalog Cemeti/ Heden Sujud Dartanto Yogyakarta, Indonesia [rkd.nl/en/explore/library/198869](https://rkd.nl/en/explore/library/198869) The catalog consists of an overview of all activities in the 3 month residence period of Ellen Rodenberg in Cemeti Art House in Yogyakarta

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2020 Fe-Maler Atrans, Berlin Berlin, Germany see the description of the project Femme\_City

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 2019 - 2022 initiatiefnemer en uitvoerder van het educatieve programma tijdens de Atheense PlatformsProject.
- 2019 - 2022 educatie WEST Den Haag
- 2012 - -- Docent ART-S-COOL On-going
- 2007 - 2016 Docent, co-teacher beeldende kunst kinderen/ volwassenen/ leerkrachten SKVR Rotterdam



, 2026



part of the exhibition Brota el Pueblo, 2025  
acrylic, marker, pencil on cardboard, each 178x122 cm



Inner Moves (Christien)(fears and care around giving birth), 2025  
Acrylic, (multi)colourpencil, markers on white cardboard,  
178x122cm



Moving inside the dress, 2025  
Acrylic, (multi)colourpencil, markers on white cardboard,  
178x122cm





Walk, listen and draw, 2025  
performance



Weaving sounds and signs into moving traces, 2025  
acrylic, marker and local soil on cardboard, 5x 280x55 cm



Zoekogen, 2025



, 2025



Sois belle et tais-toi (waiting for the other context), 2024  
Gouache, colored pencil, multicolor pencil, pencil, marker on  
watercolor paper., 77x56,5cm



On Mèkh beach / Reversal of the Tide, 2024  
Coated cardboard, local founded materials, drawings, paintings  
with local earth as pigments, collage, 400x150x250cm