

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## RAMON OTTENHOF

### A quest for Love

A Quest for Love is an artistic report of my search for a new girlfriend. The project started in 2006, after my 15-year relationship ended. After I got a steady partner in 2015, the project transformed into an investigation into the obstacles you can encounter in your love life. And although I didn't think it would take so long, it is still an ongoing project. The result of this search is a collection of more than 100 artworks I have made over a period of almost 20 years. The majority of these structures are houses made of sponge. I call these houses Modern Shrines. It wasn't that long ago that it was standard for couples to be paired up by their parents. And it's even more recent that, no matter how bad their connection was, they stayed together. This is changing, especially in the Western world, but also elsewhere. Women and men choose their own partners and end the relationship sooner if it doesn't work out. Women in particular have gained more say in this process. That doesn't mean that it doesn't bring many new problems for both sexes. How do you find a partner, how do you deal with the uncertainty and what demands do you make of your partner? Men have been the waiting party in this process for a long time, but with the ongoing feminization (and the counter-reactions to it) it is extra interesting to look for new ways to give substance to the role as partner in a love relationship from a heterosexual male perspective. Symbolism, clichés and metaphors are an important part of my work. These are images - in my case often literally toy figurines - that communicate well and immediately convey a clear message. I cannot possibly surpass the expertise and precision with which many of these figurines are designed, but I can use their power in the story I want to tell. And by choosing a scouring pads as a building material, I give myself, on the one hand, a nice limitation within which creativity can flourish (like a painter has his canvas), and on the other hand, space, because it is a completely new and innocent material in the Visual Arts.

### WEBSITES

report of A quest for Love

[www.ottenhof.com](http://www.ottenhof.com)

bureau voor hedendaags avontuur, a project about social esthetics (2007)

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

Agenda and Gallery Chantals

[www.chantals.info](http://www.chantals.info)

report of A quest for Love

[www.modernshrines.com](http://www.modernshrines.com)

report of A quest for Love

[www.aquestforlove.com](http://www.aquestforlove.com)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.facebook.com/ramon.ottenhof](https://www.facebook.com/ramon.ottenhof)

[www.instagram.com/ramon\\_ottenhof/](https://www.instagram.com/ramon_ottenhof/)

[www.linkedin.com/in/ramon-ottenhof-0880696/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ramon-ottenhof-0880696/)

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

Chantals

## EDUCATION

- 1992 - education sculpture Tedja Duyvesteijn.  
1994
- 1984 - Photography Den Haag, Koninklijke  
1985 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten
- 1982 - assistent studio Norman Trapman  
2000

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 What used to be a beautiful villa  
Billytown The Hague, Netherlands What  
used to be a beautiful villa  
[www.billytown.org/gallery/what-used-to-be-a-beautiful-villa](http://www.billytown.org/gallery/what-used-to-be-a-beautiful-villa)  
Group
- 2023 Hok gallery The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.hokgallery.com](http://www.hokgallery.com)  
Group
- 2016 Frozen 1646 The Hague, Netherlands  
Frozen [1646.nl/nl/programma/boucks-festival/](http://1646.nl/nl/programma/boucks-festival/)  
Solo
- 2015 Drop your Weapon!! EXO The Hague,  
Netherlands Up on her knees  
[www.aquestforlove.com](http://www.aquestforlove.com)  
Solo
- 2014 Fête de l'Amour Gallery Chantals The  
Hague, Netherlands Fête de l'Amour  
[www.chantals.info](http://www.chantals.info)  
Solo
- 2012 Temple of Love Gallery Chantals The  
Hague, Netherlands Temple of Love  
[www.modernshrines.com](http://www.modernshrines.com)  
Solo
- 2010 The House of Love Gallery Chantals The  
Hague, Netherlands The House of Love  
[www.ottenhof.com](http://www.ottenhof.com)  
Solo
- 2007 Bureau for Contemporary Adventure  
The Hague Sculpture The Hague,  
Netherlands Bureau for Contemporary

## PROJECTS

- 2024 A Quest for Love The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.modernshrines.com](http://www.modernshrines.com) A Quest for Love  
is an artistic report of my search for a new  
lover. The project started in 2006 and  
although I didn't think it would take that  
long, it is still ongoing.

Adventure, a project about social esthetics (2007)  
[www.bureauvoorhedendaagsavontuur.nl](http://www.bureauvoorhedendaagsavontuur.nl)  
Group

1999 Salva Mea De Grote Kerk The Hague 30 sculptors with the theme Salva Mea  
Group

## COMMISSIONS

2000 Gemeente Zierikzee Zierikzee, Netherlands Sketch assignment sculpture town hall

2000 Gemeente Diemen Diemen, Netherlands Sketch assignment sculpture town hall

## PUBLICATIONS

2007 Bureau for Contemporary Adventure Catalog BVHA: Erik Jutten & Ramon Ottenhof, Den Haag Gerrit Jan de Rook, Selma van Panhuis, Wim van der Beek, Ina Boiten, Hans Nauta, Marjolein Schaap, Carolien van den Akker, Riet van der Linden, Marijn van der Jagt, Wiebe van der Hoeven, Roos van Put, Machteld Leij, Angela van der Elst, Evelien Baks, Phil Den Haag, Netherlands  
[www.bureauvoorhedendaagsavontuur.nl](http://www.bureauvoorhedendaagsavontuur.nl)  
Bureau for Contemporary Adventure, a project about social esthetics (2007)

## SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

1997 Stadcollectie The Hague, Nederland three different sculptures

## REVIEWS

2023 What used to be a beautiful villa Blog/Vlog chmkoome's blog The Hague, Netherlands  
[chmkoome.wordpress.com/tag/ramon-ottenhof/](http://chmkoome.wordpress.com/tag/ramon-ottenhof/) vario exhibitions

2023 What used to be a beautiful villa Website Art viewer The Hague, Netherlands  
[artviewer.org/what-used-to-be-a-beautiful-villa-at-billytown/](http://artviewer.org/what-used-to-be-a-beautiful-villa-at-billytown/) groups exhibition

2020 Hoogtij, de geschiedenis van de Haagse rondgang – deel 1 Website jegens en tevens The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.jegensentevens.nl/2020/02/hoogtij-de-geschiedenis-van-de-haagse-rondgang-deel-1/](http://www.jegensentevens.nl/2020/02/hoogtij-de-geschiedenis-van-de-haagse-rondgang-deel-1/) Hoogtij, de geschiedenis van de Haagse rondgang – deel 1

2020 Hoogtij, de geschiedenis van de Haagse rondgang – deel 2 Website jegens en tevens The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.jegensentevens.nl/2020/03/hoogtij-de-geschiedenis-van-de-haagse-rondgang-deel-2/](http://www.jegensentevens.nl/2020/03/hoogtij-de-geschiedenis-van-de-haagse-rondgang-deel-2/) Hoogtij, de geschiedenis van de Haagse rondgang – deel 2

2014 Blog/Vlog trendbeheer The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.trendbeheer.com](http://www.trendbeheer.com) report exhibition

- 2014 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2014  
Blog/Vlog trendbeheer The Hague,  
Netherlands [trendbeheer.com/page/1/?s=ramon+Ottenhof](http://trendbeheer.com/page/1/?s=ramon+Ottenhof) vario exhibitions 2005,  
2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2014
- 2012 Interview with Ramon Ottenhof Magazine  
Blend The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.blendbureaux.com/2012/10/10/interview-with-ramon-ottenhof/](http://www.blendbureaux.com/2012/10/10/interview-with-ramon-ottenhof/) interview
- 2007 Op avontuur met wildvreemden Newspaper  
Trouw The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.trouw.nl/voorpagina/kritieken-op-avontuur-met-wildvreemden~ba620538/](http://www.trouw.nl/voorpagina/kritieken-op-avontuur-met-wildvreemden~ba620538/)  
Bureau for Contemporary Adventure
- 2002 Peter Cleutjens Award Newspaper NRC The  
Hague, Netherlands [www.nrc.nl](http://www.nrc.nl) report  
Peter Cleutjens Award
- 2001 Hoogtij Newspaper Volkskrant The Hague,  
Netherlands [www.hoogtij.net](http://www.hoogtij.net) report Hoogtij
- 2001 Galerie Hüsstege Magazine Art-NL Den  
Bosch, Netherlands exhibition
- 1999 Salva Mea Newspaper Volkskrant The  
Hague, Netherlands [www.volkskrant.nl](http://www.volkskrant.nl)  
Salva Mea
- 1999 Een Haagse Rondgang Magazine Tubelight  
The Hague, Netherlands  
[www.tubelight.nl/een-haagse-rondgang/](http://www.tubelight.nl/een-haagse-rondgang/)  
report Haagse Rondgang (hoogtij)
- 1998 (Luxus, 1646, de Ooievaar) Magazine Kunst  
Forum International The Hague,  
Netherlands [www.kunstforum.de](http://www.kunstforum.de) report of  
the start of the artists in itiatieves

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2014 - EXO  
2015

2007 - Gallery Chantals  
2014

2007 - Bureau for Contemporary Adventure  
2008

2003 - Art Madurodam

2003

1999 - Salva Mea  
1999

1997 - Hoogtij On-going  
2002

1997 - Peter Cleutjens Award  
2002

1995 - 1646 On-going  
1997

1994 - diverse artist initiatives (Hotel Den  
2004 Haag, Hot Red International, Galerie  
Sophie, Suite, De Ooievaar)



Butterfly Chapel, 2023  
mixed media, h. 55



Butterfly Chapel, 2023  
mixed media, h. 55



Only the Hope is Left, 2023  
mixed media, h. 55



The Warrior, 2023  
mixed media, h. 66



The Warrior (detail), 2023  
mixed media, h. 66



An Unrivaled Force of Nature, 2022  
mixed media, h. 67



Der Klapperstorch, 2022  
mixed media, h. 65



Der Klapperstorch (detail), 2022  
mixed media, h. 65



Der Klapperstorch (detail), 2022  
mixed media, h. 65



Welcome Little One, 2021  
mixed media, h. 73