

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

ILJA WALRAVEN

Ilja Walraven (1959) studied painting, drawing and design at the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague (The Netherlands). For him techniques are means to an end, so he uses other disciplines besides painting, such as steel sculptures or silk screen prints. For Ilja Walraven, art is more than a craft, it is a way of life. You will find him in his studio almost every day. He takes his work more than seriously and loves it so much that it is as necessary to him as breathing. Life and work are therefore interwoven. Consciously and unconsciously, life experiences are seeping into his art. Fine examples of that are his encounters with the arts of the aboriginals in Australia and the Dogon in Mali. Ilja Walraven feels a sort of kinship with them. The clarity of form, colour and structure has authenticity, no hint to please the viewer, no artificiality but urgency and depth. Maybe the tie of kinship has to do with a common source they all draw from. Be that as it may, it is important that Walraven does not copy themes or images but is developing them into something of his own. The result is that such elements appear in an innate way in the paintings of Walraven, although one can recognize the cultural sources. An example are paintings showing a mask that reminds of West Africa. Characteristics Outstanding characteristics of Walraven's art are: bright colors, monumental figurative forms and a touch of humor. The use of very bright colours strikes one immediately. Ilja Walraven often uses many layers of (transparent) paint which contributes to the high intensity of the colours. Another characteristic is that the forms are monumental most of the time, even in his smaller sized works. The images remind you of the real world, for instance when you recognise a table, but it may often have a touch of fantasy to it, especially when animals are concerned. They look like an elephant, a tiger or a kangaroo, but closer inspection reveals that they are fantasy relatives. The artist once remarked that the figurative elements in his work is a way of inviting viewers to enter the imaginary world of art. That is probably why figuration has become a characteristic of his work and the abstraction of his early period has almost faded away. The work of Walraven often has a touch of humour. At exhibitions you often see viewers smiling in reaction to the paintings, and children are attracted to them. That is one reason why a Dutch author of children's books suggest

WEBSITES

www.iljawalraven.nl

SOCIAL MEDIA

nl-nl.facebook.com/ilja.walraven

www.instagram.com/iljawalraven/

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

de Spanjaardshof

MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

Pulchri Studio, Pictoright

EDUCATION

1983 - schilderen, tekenen , ontwerpen Den Haag,
1988 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende
Kunsten diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2024 Protestaffiches Grafische Werkplaats Design
Museum Dedel Den Haag
[Group](#)

2024 Klein Werk Pulchri Studio Den Haag
[Group](#)

2023 Monumentaal in de Mesdagzaal Pulchri Studio
Den Haag
[Group](#)

PROJECTS

2025 Wet op beeld/de Saksenspiegel eeuwenoud
modern Leiden/den haag, Netherlands
www.medewerkers.universiteitleidennl/nieuws/2025/08/t-wet-op-beeld-verbndt-kunst-en-juridische-wetenschappen Gelijkwaardige
Samenwerking/onderzoek hoogleeraar &
kunstenaar

2025 DNA Digitaal Na Analooq prive Netherlands

2023	Hergebruik Kunstuitleen Voorburg Group		Augmented reality project met Rob Bothof
2023	Nieuw atelier Den Haag Solo	2010	Project 24 diverse locaties en Youtube 24 dagelijkse tekeningen filmpjes en een boek
2023	Nieuw atelier Den Haag Solo	2009	open ateliers en jong talent Vereniging Spanjaardshof open huis
2022	Textielfestival Weerribben Weerribben-Wieden Group	2008	Duo presentaties en open dag vereniging de Spanjaardshof open dag
2022	Presentatie installatie/monument Stoelen MOCAW Ossenzijl Solo	2007	VogelKasje Beelden in de Herfst beeldenmanifestatie
2021	Projectpresentatie I Saw MOCAW Solo		
2021	Atelierroute Weerribben Wieden Cultuurhus GIETHOORN Group		
2021	Projectpresentatie The Vaccination Series MOCAW Solo		
2021	Fluke Nynke& Blom Gorredijk Group		
2020	Projectpresentatie Quarantine series MOCAW Solo		
2019	Textielfestival Wieden-Weerribben Group		
2018	Atelierroute Steenwijkerland		
2017	Start Projectstudio Weerribben MOCAW Solo		
2017	Pulchri Studio Den Haag Group		
2016	Open Ateliers Den Haag Spanjaardshof Group		
2015	Pulchri Studio Den Haag DNA ilja Walraven. tentoonstelling in de twee grootste zalen Solo		
2015	CBK Emmen van A tot Zoo Group		
2014	open Ateliers solo atelierpresentatie Solo		
2014	beelden in Het Hof van Nieuwkoop beelden installatie Group		
2013	Haagse Kunstkring/Pulchri Studio Wij drukken bij de Grafische Werkplaats Group		
2013	Gallery Spirit Amsterdam schilderijen en beelden Solo		
2012	Kunstschau Westerschouwen solopresentatie beelden en schilderijen Group		

2012	Pulchri Studio Den Haag 'curator en deelnemer 'Tussentijds" Solo
2012	Gemeente Museum Den Haag 'Liefde" Group
2011	galerie Quadrant Vorden schilderijen en buiteninstallatie Duo

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

--	verschillende Kunstuitlenen/Artotheken in Nederland 1988-2022
--	particulieren in Nederland, V.S, Brazilië, Oostenrijk, Zwitserland, Frankrijk , Engeland, Duitsland, België 1988- 2022

PUBLICATIONS

2025	Wet op beeld/ de saksenspiegel eeuwenous modern Helen Stout en ilja Walraven Den Haag, Netherlands www.medewerkers.universiteitleid.nl/nieuws/2025/08/t-wet-op-beeld-verbndt-kunst-en-juridische-wetenschappen Flipboek van het gelijkwaardige onderzoek van hoogleraar en kunstenaar
2021	Erasmus School of Law for starters, abrief introduction to Sanders Building Div. Beeldredactie
2018	The building speaks its own language Helen Stout & ilja Walraven (eds.)
2010	Project 24 eigen beheer Het Boek van Project24
2008	VogelKasje Delfgauw fotoboek Kasproject 'VogelKasje'
2006	EH&I galerie: kunstenaar ilja Walraven Eigenhuis & interieur artikel
2004	Slaapkus DUOboek gedichten (Henk van Zuiden) vormgeving (Dick Visser) en beeldende kunst (ilja Walraven)
1997	Word nooit verliefd op walvis DUOboek tweede boek met Henk van Zuiden
1996	DUO DUO gedichten Henk van Zuiden, bij kunstwerken ilja Walraven
1996	Onderzoek en Ontwikkeling NMB- Amstelland catalogus
1995	Mijn Olifant Kan Bijna Alles o.a. Lemniscaat Rotterdam vertaald in Engels, Duits, Frans, Italiaans en Koreaans

REPRESENTATION

--	Jan van Hoof Galerie 's-Hertogenbosch nl.
--	Gallery Spirit Amsterdam nl.

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2014 - 2016	kunst en architectuur adviseur Erasmus School of Law
2012 - 2016	bestuurslid Grafische Werkplaats Den Haag
2007 - --	ontwikkeling en productie

'Geheugenkunst' met IDEE

- 2005 - -- geven workshop voor hoger management ministerie VWS
- 2003 - -- Schoolkunstproject 'Walvis in de buurt', Gouda
- 2001 - lid ballotage commissie Pulchri Studio
- 2004
- 1997 - lid tentoonstellings commissie Pulchri Studio
- 1999
- 1997 - bestuurslid Pulchri Studio
- 1998
- 1995 - voorzitter vereniging de Spanjaardshof
- 2016



Wet op beeld/ de Saksenspiegel eeuwenoud modern, 2025
Installatie



Drei Männer im Schnee, 2024



Nieuw atelier Den Haag, 2024



Klein werk, 2023



, 2022



, 2021



I Saw, 2021
2.41



The Vaccination Series, 2021



The Quarantine Series, 2020



Project Studio, 2017