

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## SONJA VAN KERKHOFF

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Over the years I have approached art-making like a researcher, which for me includes constantly learning new techniques, so these days the sense-idea combinations in my art cross and mix a wide range of media. I began as a maker -- drawing, painting and sculpting -- so often I play with the possibilities in the media during the process of following a script or working out an idea. The result is an artwork that shifts ambiguously between abstraction and ideas. I often use text ambiguously as visual-tactile stimuli and conceptual element in my videos, sculpture, installations, performances, prints, paintings, drawings or interactive works. Often there is a social political personal reference that is also a play on the aesthetic and the multicultural or culture in general. In the Truisms photo-painting-prints the play between languages is not just between the New Zealand (where I was born and raised) Maori and English texts but also between the language of abstract expressionism and the conceptual, in miniature. "Bed Peace" was a performance/installation intervention surrounded by televisions showing videos also part of the Leiden Int. Short Film Festival. More > [www.sonjavank.com](http://www.sonjavank.com)

### WEBSITES

Sonja van Kerkhoff is a New Zealand born artist based in the Netherlands + Aotearoa. She uses diverse materials and media to produce lyrical work often with a conceptual edge. "My works are narratives as aesthetic experiences in sound or vision, whether in static, interactive or time-based media."

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

Reviews or about shows I have curated

[sonjavank.wordpress.com](http://sonjavank.wordpress.com)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.facebook.com/sonja.vankerkhoff](https://www.facebook.com/sonja.vankerkhoff)

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

nee

### MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

nee

### EDUCATION

2005 - Masters in Media Technology Leiden

2008 University diploma

1998 - one year webdesign course

1999

1989 - diploma of fine arts / old style / 5yr course

- 1993 Maastricht, Hogeschool Zuyd, Academie Beeldende Kunsten diploma
- 1986 - Diploma of Secondary Teaching Dunedin  
1986 Teachers College diploma
- 1980 - Diploma of Fine Arts Otago School of Fine  
1982 Arts diploma

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 The Poetic Condition | De Dichterlijke Aard NorthArt Auckland, New Zealand  
Aesthetic explorations of the individual in society by artists from The Hague and Aotearoa | New Zealand.  
[sonjavank.wordpress.com/2018/11/08/the-poetic-condition-northart/](http://sonjavank.wordpress.com/2018/11/08/the-poetic-condition-northart/)  
Group
- 2018 Rubbish 2 – A New Collection Village Arts Gallery Kohukohu, New Zealand 20  
Participants. Works that engage with recycling materials conceptually and / or by media  
[www.villagearts.co.nz/2018/10/rubbish-2/](http://www.villagearts.co.nz/2018/10/rubbish-2/)  
Group
- 2017 Where Shall We Call Home Depot Artspace Devonport, Auckland  
featuring over 50 artists who are presenting work at Depot Artspace to support refugee resettlement in Aotearoa.  
[depotartspace.co.nz/event/where-shall-we-call-home/](http://depotartspace.co.nz/event/where-shall-we-call-home/)  
Group
- 2016 Radicalisation: a range of defiance,' Festival Voice4Thought, Scheltema Leiden, Netherlands 'Radicalisation: a range of defiance', in collaboration with Kunstroute Leiden. With Zoe Kate Reddy, Jacco Weener, Inge Reisberman & Michiel Keller, Sonja van Kerkhoff, Sapin Makengele and Anastasia Pirvu  
[voice4thought.org/programme-festival-v4tleiden-2017/](http://voice4thought.org/programme-festival-v4tleiden-2017/)  
Group
- 2015 Stories and memories Wittem monastery gardens Wittem, Limburg, Netherlands outdoor sculpture or

## PROJECTS

- 2018 He Punawai Hohourongo | Peace, Water, Power intercreate.org Parihaka, Taranaki, New Zealand [www.intercreate.org/2018-workshops/](http://www.intercreate.org/2018-workshops/) international media art residency at the historic Parihaka marae
- 2018 The Colorfield Performance coordinated by Dirk Hakze Sloten, Friesland, Netherlands  
[www.dirkhakze.com/projecten/the-colorfield-performance-ch-2018-en.html](http://www.dirkhakze.com/projecten/the-colorfield-performance-ch-2018-en.html) A land art project where each artist painted from dawn to dusk
- 2016 Stories and memories Creative Northland Whangarei, New Zealand  
[creativenorthland.com/key-events/whangarei-sculpture-symposium/](http://creativenorthland.com/key-events/whangarei-sculpture-symposium/) 10 day sculpture symposium where each makes a new work in wood or stone.
- 2015 curated by Ben van Kollenburg Wittem Monastery, Netherlands

installations by 16 artists  
[sonsonja.wordpress.com/2015/06/10/land-art-sculpture/](http://sonsonja.wordpress.com/2015/06/10/land-art-sculpture/)  
Group

- 2013 "The Poetic Condition | De Dichterlijke Aard," The Shutter Room Whangarei, New Zealand The Poetic Condition | De Dichterlijke Aard looks at today's big questions as an aesthetic exercise where these artists from The Netherlands and Aotearoa / New Zealand, explore, respond or extend the theme of our human nature and the relevance of the aesthetic of poetic intervention to the self, socio-political or society.  
[www.sonjavank.com/projects/curated/2016/the-poetic.htm](http://www.sonjavank.com/projects/curated/2016/the-poetic.htm)  
Group
- 2013 SCANZ 2013 – 3rd nature Puke Ariki, Museum of Taranaki New Plymouth, New Zealand Art, science, technology and indigenous perspectives meet in 3rd nature, an exhibition celebrating a new way of seeing. The title 3rd nature suggests a hybrid space – the third space – of overlap between cultures.  
[pukeariki.com/Exhibitions/3rd-nature](http://pukeariki.com/Exhibitions/3rd-nature)  
Group
- 2013 Portraits of the Spirit | Ngā Whakaahua o te Wairua Rotorua Arts Village Rotorua, New Zealand residency and exhibition in the Rotorua Arts centre  
[sonjavank.com/portraitsof.htm](http://sonjavank.com/portraitsof.htm)  
Group
- 2013 Film + Art Galerie de Pieter Leiden, Netherlands I curated this in the old Leiden city post office. 45 participants with a programme of theatre, music and performance.  
[sonjavank.com/projects/curated/2013/filmkunst.htm](http://sonjavank.com/projects/curated/2013/filmkunst.htm)  
Group
- 2012 CONVERGENCE//DIVERGENCE Los Medanos College Art Gallery Pittsburg, CA, United States perspectives on the theme of water and its global and local roles.  
[sonsonja.wordpress.com/2012/11/03/convergence/](http://sonsonja.wordpress.com/2012/11/03/convergence/)  
Group
- 2011 Nothing To Declare 2011 Yuchengco Museum Manila, Philippines Nothing to

Declare is a multi-pronged, multi-venue, and multi-media international art project on contemporary discussions on migration conceptualized by Flaudette May Datuin, Precious Leaño, and Josephine Turalba. The exhibits feature 50 artists from 18 countries

[yuchengcomuseum.org/art-exhibits/nothing-declare/Group](http://yuchengcomuseum.org/art-exhibits/nothing-declare/Group)

2011 ISEA 2011 ISTANBUL, UNCONTAINABLE: Second Nature Cumhuriyet Gallery Istanbul, Turkey 17th International Symposium on Electronic Art ISEA2011 Istanbul  
[www.leoalmanac.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ISEA2011Uncontainable-vanKerkhoff-McGlenn.pdf](http://www.leoalmanac.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/ISEA2011Uncontainable-vanKerkhoff-McGlenn.pdf)  
Group

2010 The Unwanted Land Museum Beelden aan Zee, Scheveningen The Hague, Netherlands 6 artists - site specific installations, sculpture and video  
[www.sonjavank.com/unwantedland.htm](http://www.sonjavank.com/unwantedland.htm)  
Group

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2018 Irsina, Italy 5 week art residency  
[www.sonjavank.com/projects/exhibitions/2018/arte.htm](http://www.sonjavank.com/projects/exhibitions/2018/arte.htm)

2018 Dazzling Spark Arts Foundation Burnlaw Centre, Northumberland, United Kingdom 5 day event, international group of artists gather in Burnlaw, Northumberland to explore the theme 'Writing the Future'.  
[vimeo.com/294785143](https://vimeo.com/294785143)

## COMMISSIONS

2018 Pūmotomoto Kaipara Coast Sculpture, New Zealand site specific sculptural form people walk inside  
[www.kaiparacoast.co.nz/sculpturegardens.php](http://www.kaiparacoast.co.nz/sculpturegardens.php)  
finished

## SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2017 Depot Artspace collector Depot Artspace collector Auckland, New Zealand, Nieuw-Zeeland print-painting, Justice is..., Truisms series

## PUBLICATIONS

2016 Crossing Contexts - Sonja van Kerkhoff Zelf Sonja van Kerkhoff The Hague  
[www.sonjavank.com/books.htm](http://www.sonjavank.com/books.htm) bilingual softcover 24 page catalogue

- 2017     Josephine's Mother Barbara Greenberg,  
private collector Maastricht, NL,  
Nederland print-painting, Josephine's  
Mother
  
- 2016     Cornerstones Private collector  
Whangarei, Nieuw-Zeeland purchased  
our Whangarei Sculpture Symposium  
sculpture

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 2001 - -- writes art / media reviews On-going
  
- 2001 - -- translator into English from Dutch On-  
going
  
- 1996 -     curates a show once or twice a year On-  
2025     going



Last call for green, 2019  
1 min. video with a soundscape by Gareth Schott, 1 min.  
video



An unfinished symphony, 2019  
video + music, 2 min 48 sec, stereo sound



"Ad Hoc" - Childs Play series, 2018  
photographic print on dubond, 10 x 15 cm



Coloured Portraits: the feminist, 2018  
triptych, acrylic on recycled wood, hinges, stone, 60 x 70  
x 10 cm



Caravan to Irsina, 2017  
performance, 1 hour



19 Gay Men and The Throne of God, 2017  
video with soundscape + music, 5 min 10 sec





Once our world had edges, 2017  
video (NASA footage) with music by Gareth Schott, 3 min.  
22 sec



Cornerstones, 2016  
upcycled wood and flax, approx. 7 meter diameter x 2  
metres



Bed Peace 2013, 2013  
15 monitors, 2 performers, posters, c. 3 x 3 meter



Rubbish Blooms, 2013  
floating sculpture