NICO LAAN

Disappearing Drawings in the Landscape.
I try to transform landscapes in an intriguing way, using the elements already present in that landscape. Think of water, sand, and stones, but also light, shadow, wind, and tides. These interventions are ephemeral by nature, deliberately designed to disappear after a while.The focus is not on the on-site experience, but on the image that emerges from the ideal viewing point. Photography, therefore, becomes the final work. In a playful way, using simple means, I aim to evoke a sense of wonder.

WEBSITES

personal website

nicolaan.nl

SOCIAL MEDIA

vimeo.com/1004669135

MEMBER OF A PLATFORM, DIGITAL OR OTHERWISE

vimeo

behance

EDUCATION

1982 - 1985 Monumental Textiles Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2023 Disappearing Drawings Exhibition Foyer, The Hague Museum of Photography Den Haag, Netherlands Selection of Large-Format Temporary Drawings www.fotomuseumdenhaag.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/tijdelijke-tekeningen
Solo

PROJECTS

2026 Shallow water Zandmotor, Terheijde, Netherlands nicolaan.nl/tijdelijke-tekeningen/ondiep-water-2/ Pyramids of sand in shallow water. Photographed very early in the morning in calm weather.

2026 Not yet decided Resea Coastal Resort — a seaside destination in Beidaihe, China www.instagram.com/purpleroofpublicart/ Discussions regarding a project to be carried out are still ongoing. The same for a possible exhibition of my work.

2025 Shadow Shading, video Zandmotor, Terheijde, Netherlands nicolaan.nl/video/schaduw-arcering/ Slow video about a specific moment in time.

2025 Snowtrack Les Terasses, La Grave, France nicolaan.nl/tijdelijke-tekeningen/sneeuwspoor/ A trail of snow patches that were cut out.

2024 Shadow Zandmotor, Terheijde, Netherlands nicolaan.nl/video/schaduw/ Drawing Your Own Shadow.

COMMISSIONS

2002 Installation in the atrium of Economic Affairs Min Economische Zaken The Hague, Netherlands On point of view and perspective. The installation consisted of 729 silver spheres suspended throughout the enormous space. Although the artwork was originally intended as a temporary exhibition lasting only six weeks, it was such a success that the spheres ultimately remained in place for three years. nicolaan.nl/installaties/ballen/
finished

2001 Stairway to Heaven Min Economische Zaken The Hague, Netherlands Panels made of paper and wood suspended from two steel cables running from the first floor to the highest point on the opposite side of

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2021 Crowdfunding Voor de Kunst Amsterdam Prints of my work selected by 44 crowdfunders from my independent publication 'Tijdelijke Tekeningen' (500 copies, sold out)

-- n.v.t. n.v.t. n.v.t. My work has been purchased by 65 private collectors. Most are from the Netherlands, but some are also from Australia, Germany, and Belgium.

the atrium. nicolaan.nl/installaties/hemelladder/ finished

PUBLICATIONS

2022 Disappearing Drawings Book eigen beheer uitgegeven Nico Laan The Hague, Netherlands nicolaan.nl/tijdelijke-tekeningen/ Overview of Temporary Drawings up to 2022

REVIEWS

2026 Quest 9/2026 Magazine Noah Blom Amsterdam, Netherlands nicolaan.nl/geen-categorie/quest-9-2026/ This issue features a four-page visual story dedicated to the series “Temporary Drawings,” with a focus on optical illusions.

2021 Geometrische Illusies Newspaper Harmen van Dijk Netherlands www.trouw.nl/cultuur-media/met-touw-hark-en-deegroller-schept-nico-laan-tijdelijke-illusies-langs-de-vloedlijn~bdd9b140/ Using line, stakes, and a rake, Nico Laan creates enormous drawings on the beach.

2021 Sandmotor Drawings Magazine Caroline Ludwig Den Haag, Netherlands issuu.com/cieremansvanreijn/docs/hr_levendenhaag_47_zomer2021_e=141&o=1 Article about Nico Laan's sand drawings.

2021 RTL Video Report TV RTL Duitsland Zandmotor, Netherlands nicolaan.nl/video/piramide-rtl-duitsland/ RTL Video Report

2020 Exploring the meaning behind the artist’s enormous sand paintings Website Alex Kahl Den Haag, Netherlands wepresent.wetransfer.com/stories/nico-laan-on-sand-artworks-in-netherlands Included in the WePresent collection

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2012 - 2026 Teacher of the photography minor at The Hague University of Applied Sciences.



Shalow water, 2026
Pressed sand, 4 x 4 meter



Shadow Shading, 2025
15.31 min.



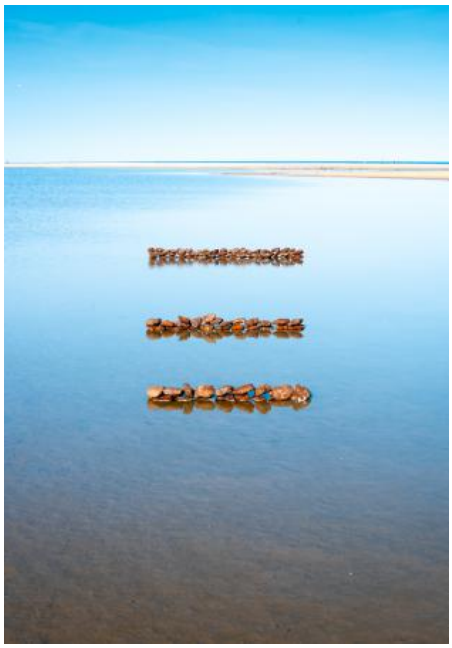
Lac du Puy, 2025
1.09 min.



River stones, 2025
Stones arranged in a line., 15 meter



Snow track, 2025
Patches of snow at regular intervals., 70 meter



Stone lines, 2025
Iron ore stones in shallow water., 1,5 x 4,5 x 12 meter



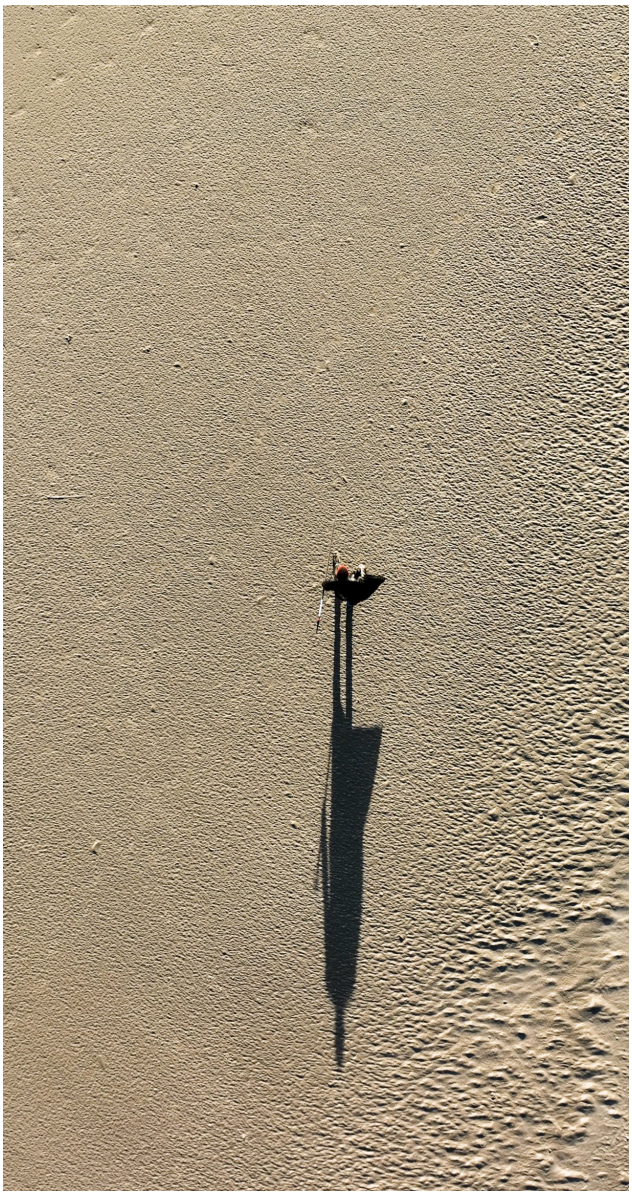
No end, 2024
9.10 min.



Straight Line, 2024
1.20 min.



Flood, 2024
Sand on spot and smootly polished, Diameter 6 meter.



Shadow, 2024
5.24 min.