

Public Art Commissions



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I PLAY, THEREFORE I AM

is the motto of a group of artists from all over the world, creative, innovative, spectacular. And full secrets. In a world where all information is within one click, they know how to keep the mystery intact. In a universe where every artist wants to be seen, they claim anonymity. They are atypical, colorful, but very serious when it comes to their work. They look for change in an effort to make the world a better place. They make spectacular works of art and ask the viewer to sit in their thoughts. Public institutions, hotels and schools in the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Beijing and Peru, a 22-meter gas globe, walls on different continents, a water tower in Iceland have turned into great art.

TOYISM

In a world often plagued by chaos and discord, Toyism is a testament to the transformative power of art. Through their work, they remind us of our shared humanity, of the beauty that resides within each of us, waiting to be unearthed and celebrated.

But it is not just skill that sets Toyism apart; it is the depth of emotion infused in each piece, as if each canvas is a window into their souls. Through their art, they navigated the labyrinth of human experience, exploring the complexities of love, loss, hope and redemption with a sincerity that touched the hearts of all who beheld their work.

At its core, Toyism is more than just an art movement; It is a philosophy – a celebration of the playful spirit that resides in all of us, waiting to be awakened and embraced. Inspired by the innocence of childhood and the wonder of imagination, toyist artists embark on a journey of self-discovery, exploring the depths of their subconscious and channeling their deepest thoughts and emotions into artworks that transcend the limitations of reality.

ENJOY!

THE DOT



Commissioner:	Municipality of Emmen, Netherlands
Title of work:	The Dot - Live with Energy
Medium:	Oil
Dimensions:	22 meters high, 1250 m ² surface
Date of work:	2010
Artists:	17 toyists from 6 countries

A former industrial gas container (only two left in Europe) is transformed into an artwork. Four elements form the basis of the design, the four energy sources being solar energy, wind energy, water energy and fossil fuels. These are represented by the four classical elements of life – Earth, Water, Air and Fire – and are featured in this painting of The Dot to show the history of energy production. In addition to these four fundamental themes, there is a single, central figure: the tree. The tree is a metaphor for life, energy, growth, development, and change. There are four sub-designs used. Each sub-design presents the combination or contrast of old and new forms of energy production and their applications (the sciences).



E-PHANT



Commissioner: Elephant Parade - Thailand
Title of work: E-Phant - Live with Energy
Medium: Oil on Polyester
Dimensions: 150 cm high
Date of work: 2010
Artists: 10 toyists from 4 countries

The E-Phant is an electronic and energy efficient charging point created with green energy and sustainability in mind. Its ears are solar energy collectors that store energy and then send it off again via the socket. This sits a top the head of the elephant in the shape of a face, and smaller versions can be seen on the feet of the elephant. Just plug in and drive away. In addition, two highways run over the entirety of the elephant: a green highway that stands for environmental friendly living and a red highway with red polluting cars driving on it. The red cars are chased off the road by the green cars and swallowed up like Pac Men.

The roundabouts are marked with the letter E for Energy Phant. More info in our book Toyism Behind the Mask.



DREAMS FOR BREAKFAST



Commissioner: Hotel ten Cate, Netherlands
Title of work: Dreams for Breakfast
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 110 x 10 meters
Date of work: 2012
Artists: 13 toyists from 6 countries

The project "Dreams for Breakfast" talks about sleeping and eating, but also about the imminent new Zoo Emmen (Wildlands Adventure Zoo) and the old village. So there are multiple themes incorporated in the building.



DANCE OF LOVE
Bride Suite (1 out of 7 hotel rooms)



Commissioner: Hotel ten Cate, Netherlands
Title of work: Dance of Love
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 5 x 5 x 2,5 meters
Date of work: 2012
Artists: 8 toyists from 2 countries

The Dance of Love room is part of the Toyism Project 13. The Dance of Love room is the only room that is fully painted. It is the honeymoon suite in the hotel. No lights go out in this room.

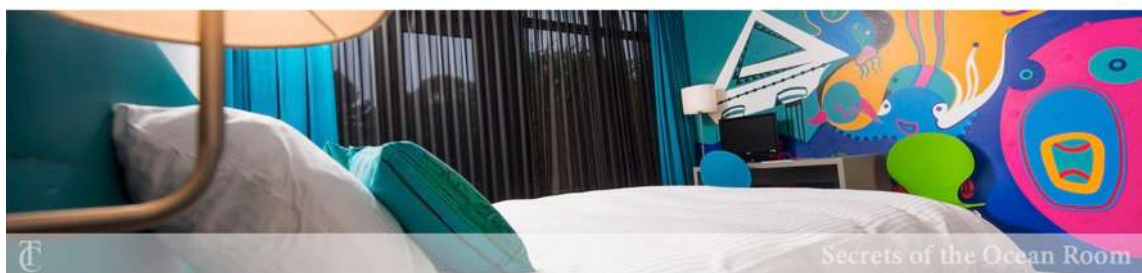
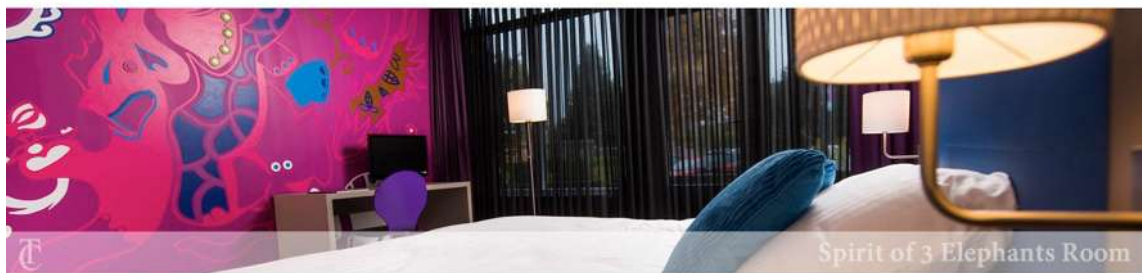


Six hotel rooms

Commissioner: Hotel ten Cate, Netherlands

Titles: Art Forever, Spirit of three Elephants, Secrets of the Ocean, Night in the Jungle, Chaplin, Ball Masque

Artists: 6 toyists from 2 countries



UPPSPRETTA



Commissioner: Municipality of Keflavik, Iceland
Title of work: Uppspretta
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 9 meters high, 36 meters in circumference
Date of work: 2013
Artists: 11 toyists from 5 countries

A former water tower transformed into an artwork. The tower features the legend of Uppspretta and tells the story of a young puffin and his journey into adulthood. More info about this project in our book UPPSPRETTA.





FLOWERFROGS AND LADYBUGS



Commissioner: Hospital Mural Dialyses Center, Netherlands
Title of work: Flower Frogs and Ladybugs
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 7 x 2,5 meters
Date of work: 2014
Artists: 5 toyists from 3 countries

This painted mural is the waiting room of the Dialysis Center in a Dutch Hospital. In the green factory of life ladybugs doctors and ladybugs nurses are taking care of patients flower-frogs. Blue and violet ladybugs are flying above ground with large stethoscopes. A large Kolff machine is busy trying to exchange a liquid dissolved in water. The machine is a bit sleepy; he has much work to do because of the large number of flower frogs. Fortunately, a large whale and dolphin assist him distribute the water.



THE MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR



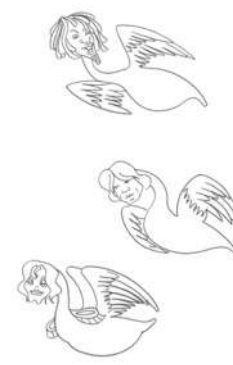
Title of work: The Magical History Tour
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 200 x 450 cm
Date of work: 2014
Artists: 2 toyists from 2 countries

The image shows a big black swan and is based on the dance solo 'The Dying Swan' by the famous prima ballerina Anna Pavlova. With enthusiasm she expresses her performance and she spares a sigh; from underneath her wings thirteen great musical heroes appear, shaped like black swans, and every single one of them has deserved credit in its own musical area as part of our rich musical history. They will perform again, together in this historical arrangement. An elected audience has been invited and gathered for this very special concert. The people are dancing in and around the famous Swan Lake of Tchaikovsky, who grows out of the piano keys being part of the wings of the big swan. Everyone in the audience wears headphones, because they are solely chosen to hear this magical concert. We, the spectators, are only invited to look and experience this as The Sound Of Silence (Simon & Garfunkel). The title of the painting is also a reference to The Magical Mystery Tour of the Beatles.

The musical heroes featured in the painting are: James Brown, John Lennon, Janis Joplin, Jimmy Hendrix, Bob Marley, Mozart, Elvis Presley, Kurt Cobain, Jim Morrison, Amy Winehouse, Miles David, Freddy Mercury, Michael Jackson.



Drents Museum, Assen, Netherlands



HORSEPOWER MANIA (PAINTING)



Commissioner: Tour de TT (Moto GP Assen)
Title of work: Horsepower Mania
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 200 x 350 cm
Date of work: 2015
Artists: 1 toyst from 1 country

A commission work for the province of Drenthe in the Netherlands where the Moto GP of TT Assen is held. The painting features several old and new heroes of the TT Assen. Valentino Rossi and Marc Marquez are prominently placed in the foreground. The painting is part of a larger project.



HORSEPOWER MANIA (SCULPTURES)



Horsepower Mania (6 sculptures)

Title of work: See images each sculpture

Medium: Acrylic on Polyester

Dimensions: 200 x 300 x 50 cm

Date of work: 2015

Artists: 6 toyists from 1 country

Included in the project are also 6 sculptures that will be placed along the historical circuit of the TT Assen. Each sculpture has an element (one of the heroes) from the painting and has its own stories regarding the TT Assen.



THE TOWERSNAIL



Commissioner: Domesta – Mytyl School Netherlands
Title: The Tower snail
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 200 x 100 cm
Date of work: 2015
Artists: 6 toyists from 4 countries

The Toyists and the children of the Prins Johan Fryso Mytylschool made a present from housing association Domesta to the users of "De Springplank" in Emmen. The snail carries its shell or house, which symbolises the move to the building. 'Tower' is a direct link to the floors of the building. The Tower snail consists of friskily and colourful elements referring to playing and learning. No less than 40 children have been painting 120 three-dimensional dots that are placed at the edge of the tower and therefore form a colourful pattern.

The move is led by the big octopus sitting on top of the snail playing tic-tac-toe with her tentacles. We also see big trucks depicted by moving boxes. What can be found in those boxes? A real racetrack, crayons, small inky fishes and sweet licorice. The Facebook thumb is up, everything goes as planned. And the Twitter-bird cheeps a colourful song.



THE FLYING DUTCHMAN



Commissioner:	Province of Drenthe
Title:	The Flying Dutchman
Medium:	Polyester and Acrylic
Dimensions:	550 x 500 cm
Date of work:	2017
Artists:	5 toyists from 2 countries

In 2017 on September 5th, it was exactly 25 years ago since toyism was founded. The former Rijksluchtvaartschool (RLS1957) was a beautiful location for the anniversary party and a retrospective exhibition. The RLS1957 was designed by architect Pierre Cuyppers Jr. in cooperation with F.P. Glastra van Loon and Bart van der Leck. Van der Leck was a member of the Dutch art movement De Stijl. The sculpture, in the shape of an airplane, has two very different sides: Toyism/De Stijl

De Stijl

De Stijl side only has the characteristic colours of the movement, red, blue, yellow and black and white. In the middle of the aircraft a tree can be seen, it is a reference to the trees of Mondriaan. On the keel, at the back of the plane, is a pipe smoking figure. A reference to Theo van Doesburg, Bart van der Leck and Piet Mondriaan, all members of De Stijl, who all smoked pipe.

Toyism

On the toyism side, there are no restrictions in the use of colour. Different swans fly along with the airplane or go along as a passenger. The swan is a reference to a famous KLM advertising commercial and in this case also the building itself (lots of KLM pilots have had their training here). And who can spot the KLM logo? Furthermore, the stripes on the front stand for the different ranks of a pilot.



WHAT'S FOR DINNER – 751 D- Park Beijing



Commissioner: Contestthink
Title: What's For Dinner
Medium: Mural and Graphic Print
Dimensions: 10 x 5 meter
Date of work: 2018
Artists: 2 toyists from 1 country

FIRST PLACE FOR TOYISM (contest Beautiful Beijing)

Winner of a competition Contestthink organized for Dutch artists with the theme food for a mural in Beijing. This work is called: "What's for dinner?". The project "Great Walls / Beautiful Beijing - the mural What's for Dinner" became the backdrop to the opening of the 751D-park design festival. Present were officials from embassies including the cultural officer of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



NOACH'S ARK – Hong Kong - 2018



Commissioner: Kei Faat Primary School Hongkong
Title: Noah's Ark – The Philosophy of Faith
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 6 murals: each 450 x 150 cm
Date of work: 2018
Artists: 5 toyists from 3 countries

Ark 1: Puppets - The Chameleon Ark

Here the Toyism puppets are used as a metaphor for artists in general. Art is important and art works should be saved, after the flood. The chameleon ark takes good care of this. Check it out and find the Toyism art works in this mural.

Ark 2: Religion vs. Paganism - The Lionfish Ark

Symbols of the religions and paganism falling in the Lionfish Ark are to be kept for the future. We all should live in peace and harmony, no matter what kind of belief or nonbelief you preach or have. Can it be real, or is it just wishful thinking? See the angels pulling the ark on the left side while the devil resists.

Ark 3: Food - The Bee Ark

This special and healthy bee rolls on the fruits. In the modern world, we eat a lot of unhealthy food. The choice of food and the way we consume it has great effects on our body. This bee shows both healthy and unhealthy food. Find them and choose which fits the best for you.

Ark 4: Black – White - The Panda Ark

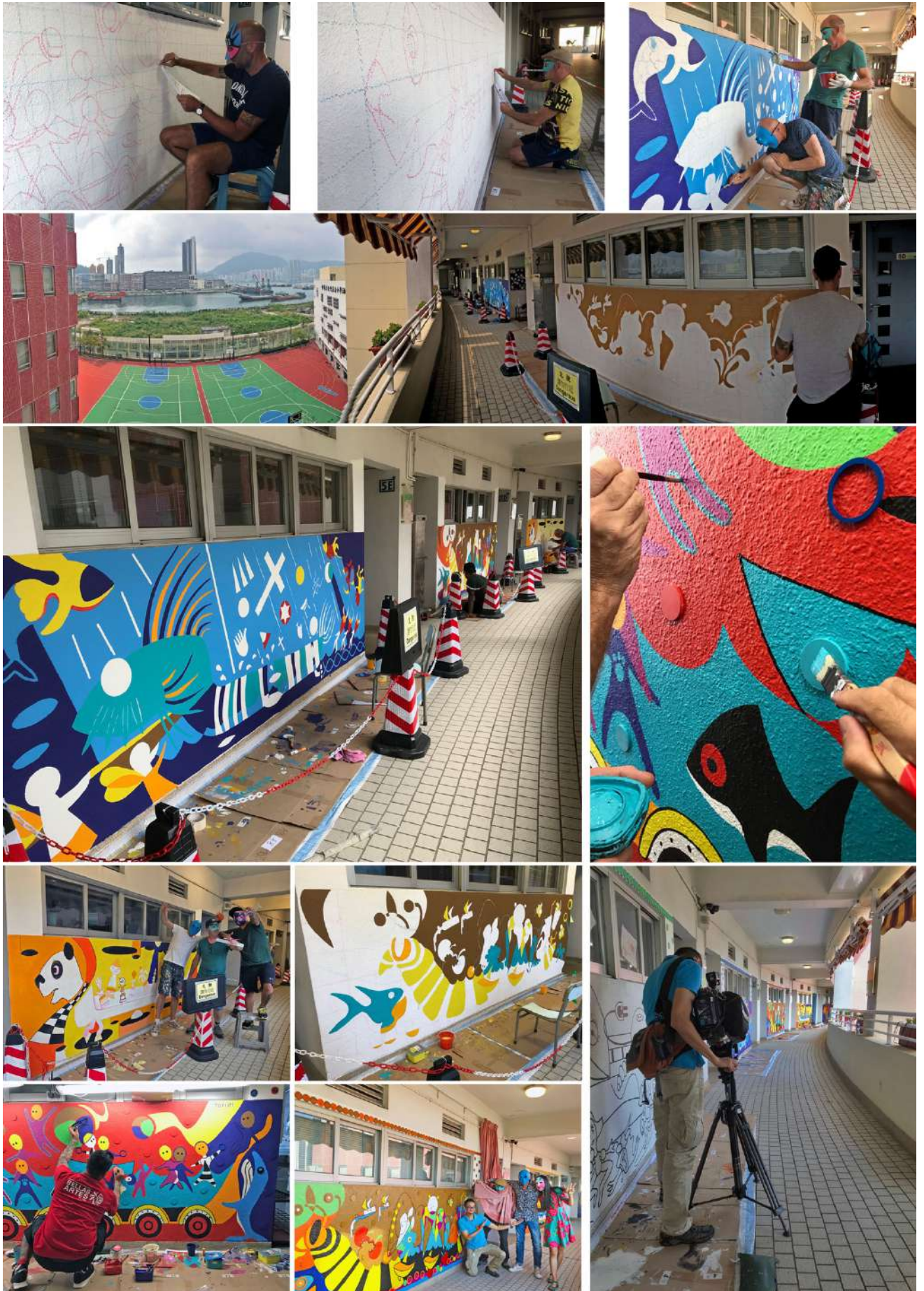
Here the panda is not illustrated in black and white as we know it to be, but he has coloured parts on the body. Propelled by legs of the zebra, he takes all sorts of different origins. Whether you are white, black, yellow, red or brown, the panda ark unfailingly takes you with him. Discrimination no longer exists here.

Ark 5: Children - The Leopard Ark

The leopard ark is the fastest of the ark family. He is equipped with wheels and his rapid locomotion leaving the big flood behind him. Per two (regardless of their sexual orientation, boy and girl, boy and boy, girl and girl) children ride along with him, on their way to a new future.

Ark 6: Mask - The Peacock Ark

This colourful bird flies high in the sky, saving masks. Masks have been used for both ceremonial and practical purposes. Normally worn on the face, they are typically worn for protection, disguise, performance or entertainment. In Toyism, the mask is rather important - every Toyist is equal, purposely not showing the face. People recognise a Toyist by his/her mask. Do you also?





THE V.I.P. BOAT (Very Important Painters)



Commissioner: Maria Parado de Bellido Lima, Peru
Title: The Very Important Painters Boat
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 250 x 250 cm
Date of work: 2018
Artists: 3 toyists from 2 countries



DIAMOND BIRD



Commissioner: KLM Flight Academy Netherlands
Title: Diamond Bird
Medium: Acrylic and digital Graphic Print – limited edition of 42
Dimensions: 42 x 29 cm
Date of work: 2018
Artists: 4 toyists from 2 countries

The lesson is almost over! A successful landing and this Diamond Bird is safely back on the ground. Along the illuminated runway the Diamond Bird is already awaited by his ilk. Surrounded by enthusiastic instructors of the KLM Flight Academy, the young swans are trained here as future pilots of modern aviation. In the last phase of the training the freshly trained pilots go up in the air with the new DA 42 (Diamond Aircraft 42). With the arrival of the latest technology and the state-of-the-art cockpit system, every pilot will automatically gleam in this beautiful Diamond Bird.

SHEEP YOGA



Commissioner: Brink Hotel
Title: Sheep Yoga
Medium: Acrylic – Mural
Dimensions: 9 meters long – 2,7 meters high
Date of work: 2022
Artists: 3 toyists from 2 countries





Working on the mural of the hotel

For centuries sheep have grazed on the greens in the village of Zuidlaren. There they kept the grass neatly trimmed on one of the seven village greens for the horse fair, which was held once a year. People from all over Europe gathered there to trade in horses. Nowadays you rarely see a sheep in the village. The sheep have been given another task. Now they protect the heath in the nature reserves so that many people can still enjoy them every year. But some of them are looking for a different and healthier life and have escaped the grazing herd. To give their lives more value, they have found a way to be happy, to stay in balance and to shut out the daily noise. It is about more unity of mind and body. Animals appear from every nook and cranny, curious and above all surprised at what kind of spectacle they are now seeing. If you are really lucky, you might be able to see this special spectacle: these sheep practice yoga!



Sketch Sheep Yoga

CHINESE CULTURE & EDUCATION – Hong Kong - 2023



Commissioner: Kei Faat Primary School Hongkong
Title: Chinese Culture & Education
Medium: Acrylic
Dimensions: 6 murals: each 450 x 150 cm
Date of work: 2023
Artists: 4 toyists from 4 countries





Mural 1: Yellow Mountain Landscape

Yellow mountain is one of the top ten scenic spots in China. It is included in the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. Strange peaks and rocks are the characteristics of Yellow Mountain. Various small animals live among these strange rocks, including monkeys, squirrels, sika deer, and maybe other animals waiting for your discovery. There are two beautiful long-tailed pheasants flying in the sea of clouds. The strange pines and cypresses on the top of the mountain or in the mountains make Huangshan more beautiful. Those ancient temples and ancient plank roads in the mountains are telling people the history of Huangshan. The moon at night gives Yellow Mountain a layer of romantic color.

Mural 2: Chinese Opera

Chinese Opera or Beijing Opera is presented in various ways. It has a musical theater concept. There are various characters in the performance, as well as unique costumes, acting and the accompaniment of traditional musical instruments, and singing is the priority in this performance. In both corners of the artwork, we see two large faces look at us. We hear beautiful sounds from the lute and the traditional Chinese Guzheng. Can you hear them too? The lute player looks expectantly at the big mask, who is hiding behind it? Is it the Chinese man with a brown and a blue eye, or is he part of the opera and wears colored lenses instead of a mask?

Mural 3: The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is a world cultural heritage. Almost all the Great Wall is built in the mountains, it looks like two dragons flying up and down. Are they protecting the pedestrians? The Chinese call themselves the descendants of the dragon, and the Chinese began to build the Great Wall thousands of years ago. Its total length is more than 20,000 kilometers, and many people sacrificed their lives for it. It is also a spiritual symbol of the hard work and perseverance of the Chinese people.

Mural 4: Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival is the most important of the Chinese holidays. Chinese New Year is traditionally celebrated with dragon dances and lion dances. But what happened, we see celebrating pandas? Pandas are unique animals in China. When the Chinese New Year comes, amidst the sound of fireworks and firecrackers, these curious and playful pandas also join in the New Year's activities. One panda participated in the lion dance, and the other curious panda rushed to watch with a lantern. And the other panda prefers to eat. She is eating candied haws from old Beijing. The cute pandas add more festive atmosphere to the Chinese New Year

Mural 5: The Forbidden City

In the center of the painting, we see a beautiful palace, the entrance to The forbidden City, located in Beijing. Built during the reign of Emperor Ming Yongle. It was home to 24 Emperors for 491 years from 1420 until 1911, first used during the Ming Dynasty until the end of the Qing Dynasty. On the right side of the painting, we see two emperors represented differ dynasties portrayed in a large way. The people looked up to those in power. On the left side we see the Fenghuang, the Chinese phoenix, a mythical animal in which the male (feng) and the female (huang) are united as yin and yang. The animal is said to have been born of the sun, is emperor of the 360 bird classes and is considered one of the four celestial animals. The phoenix symbolizes an immortal bird whose rare appearance is said to be an omen foretelling harmony at the ascent to the throne of a new emperor.

Mural 6: Terracotta Army

The Terracotta Army is the name for the archaeological find of about 8000 terracotta figures that were given as burial gifts to the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huangdi. The "army" is located between Mount Li and modern-day Xi'an. The terracotta army is besieged by modern clay tools. They want to copy it, distort it and add their own ideas. The army flees with Qin Shi Huang, the dragon's son, emperor of China, is angry and besieges the clay tools along with the dragon. The terracotta warriors come back to life. But this special phenomenon is not obvious to everyone; the rider on horseback prefers to look at his phone, unaware of what is happening in front of him. History is being written here, and the selfie tourist captures his moment and makes history.



Yellow Landscape



Chinese Opera



The Great Wall



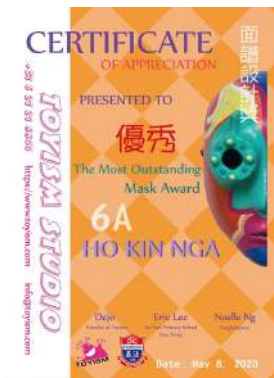
Chinese New Year



The Forbidden City



Terracotta Army





500 Students, their teachers and the school staff all become Toyists for the opening day – reveal of all the artworks – May 10 2023



The school directors and the councilor or culture department of Hong Kong ^

TREE OF WORLD CULTURES – APRIL 2024



Commissioner:	798 ART DISTRICT BEIJING
Title:	Tree of World Cultures
Medium:	Art Print
Dimensions:	5 x 16 meter
Date of work:	2024
Artists:	8 toyists from 6 countries

The combination of Toyism with the concept of the "Tree of World Cultures" results in a unique and colorful work of art that uses the distinctive Toyism style to represent the diverse cultural elements designed by artists around the world.

Center of the composition:

Central to the composition is a large tree (metaphor for growth, development and connection), depicted in a playful, Toyistic way. This tree acts as the central hub that connects all cultural elements. From the bottom, colorful, winding branches emerge that extend outward, each representing a different aspect of world culture. The winding branches connect and intertwine, creating a vibrant and interconnected world.

China's position at the center of this global cultural exchange powerfully illustrates its important role in connecting the world.

Cultural monuments:

The iconic elements of Chinese culture such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven, the 798 Art District famous for its art galleries, studios and cultural events recognizable by the many factory buildings in the style of the German Bauhaus with its Modernist and minimalist design, alongside the ultra-modern architecture of leading architects in Beijing and Shanghai, come together in the cultural wealth of China and are creatively integrated into the heart of the artwork.

The entire composition is filled with astute details, patterns and a sense of joyful chaos with bright, contrasting colors and playful, imaginative shapes and metaphors that reflect the essence of Toyism.

The end result is a visually captivating and imaginative representation of the world's diverse cultures, all linked by the central theme and the playful, surreal and colorful style of toyism.

Mozart's musical web:

At the end of a branch, we see Mozart wearing headphones as a special spider that weaves a colorful musical web. This web extends to different parts of the world, symbolizing the universal appeal and reach of classical music. The mythical creature dances to the sounds coming from the musical web and is depicted as a wise Centaur, referring to the stories of Harry Potter.

It symbolizes harmony and connection between music and human nature.

Culinary elements:

Directly below the musical web we see a French baguette inspired by Mozart's music playing an accordion on a piece of aged French cheese. This represents French culture and gastronomy, which is known worldwide for quality. In addition to the red grapes on the piece of old cheese, we see the 5 Olympic rings that symbolize global unity and the connection of the 5 continents. The colors also represent passion, confidence, victory, ethics and sportsmanship. *Beijing was the first city to organize both the summer (2008) and winter editions (2022).*

To the left of the rings, we see Amsterdam canal houses closely intertwined with Dutch tulips and the well-known ritual of a raw herring sliding into a mouth. A historic, sailing cargo ship, the traditional Tjalk sails at the edge of the world, on route to China known as a seafaring nation. These elements represent Dutch culture and traditions, including maritime history.

In addition, two best friends from different continents, one eats a dumpling with a chopstick, the other drops a raw herring into her mouth.

They symbolize the diversity of global culinary traditions and the culinary connection between different cultures.

In the culinary kitchen, the traditional waiter makes way for the robot.

This reflects the increasing automation and technological progress in the catering industry.

Another branch, at the top right of the artwork, ends with a playful pair of oversized chopsticks gripping one of Kuala Lumpur's Twin Towers, surrounded by Chinese noodles, showcasing the culinary diversity and universal appeal of food.

This points to cultural and culinary connections between Asia and the rest of the world.

On the far right, the Milk Mills in the Netherlands are set in motion by Cabbage Cows and fed with milk from the udders of ordinary cows. The mills produce cheese cubes that turn into the bodies of Sweet Cheese Sheep. In Switzerland - in the city of Basel - obese construction workers are building the third building ("Bau 3") of the Roche T rme (Towers). These buildings produce sugar cubes that turn into Sweet Cheese Sheep heads.

The Sweet Cheese Sheep and Cabbage Cows are mixed in the meat grinder. The meat grinder feeds the Dutch meadows - which produce grass for the cows - and provides nutritious food for the construction workers.

This is an allegorical representation of food production, combining different elements.

This includes Sergei Rachmaninoff, considered by many to be the greatest pianist of all time, who this time does not play the piano but a harp and is now accompanied on the piano by four musical birds, a metaphor for one of the greatest bands in pop history, the Beatles.

This refers to the diversity of musical genres and artists, with both classical music and popular music represented.







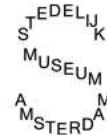
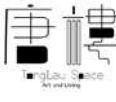
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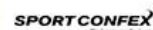
Kingdom of the Netherlands



Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland



DRENTS ARCHIEF



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