



The Botanical Revolution

About the necessity of art and gardening.

The garden has appealed to the imagination for centuries. It is a place associated with harmonic idyll, a place where the cycle of life is expressed, a place for contemplation, tranquility from daily hectic and worries.

The botanical revolution tells the story of the garden as a fertile source of inspiration for artists. Over the centuries, artists, writers, poets and thinkers have described, depicted and designed the garden in different ways. Gerrit Komrij – from whose 1990 Huizinga lecture the title is taken – describes how the image of the garden

has long been closely intertwined with mentality developments and controversies between worlds of ideas.

The garden is also a rich source of inspiration in contemporary art. It is not a romantic desire that is central, but the call for a new awareness of our relationship with the earth. What contemporary reflections do artists offer on paradise, the allotment garden, climate change? Surprising classical and modern examples show the deep roots of the exhibition's themes.

Artists

Derk Alberts, Maria Thereza Alves, Yael Bartana, Jurgen Bey, Juliette Blightman, Abraham Bloemaert, Johannes Bosschaert, Ambrosius Bosschaert de Jonge, Andrea Büttner, Persijn Broersen & Margit Lukács, Sara Sejin Chang (Sara van der Heide), CPR (Charlotte Rooijackers), Meester van Delft, Jeremy Deller, Elspeth Diederix, Stan Douglas, Albrecht Dürer, Cecile Espinasse, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Vincent van Gogh, Lungiswa Gqunta, Hendrick Goltzius, Rumiko Hagiwara, Saskia Noor van Imhoff, Patricia Kaersenhout, Tetsumi Kudo, Herman Justus Kruyder, Jort van der Laan, Hans van Lunteren & Ienke Kastelein, Kerry James Marshall, master of Paul and Barnabas, Maria Sibylla Merian, Otobong Nkanga, Maria Pask, Otto van Rees, Willem de Rooij, Roelant Saverij, Jennifer Tee, Henk Wildschut.

podcast

In this podcast, curator Laurie Cluitmans talks to various guests about the contemporary significance of the garden. Each episode zooms in on one of the exhibition's themes. Listen to the first episode here. This [link](#) will take you to the corresponding transcripts per episode.

Publication

On the Necessity of Gardening; An ABC on Art, Botany and Cultivation is a richly illustrated publication published in collaboration with the Valiz publishing house. In this abecedarium, the cultural-historical tradition of gardens, artists' gardens, but also concepts such as the Anthropocene are discussed. The publication is the winner of the Golden Letter 2021 - Schönste Bücher aus aller Welt.

With contributions from: Maria Barnas, Jonny Bruce, Laurie Cluitmans, Liesbeth M. Helmus, Erik de Jong, René de Kam, Alhena Katsof, Jamaica Kincaid, Bart Rutten, Catriona Sandilands, Patricia de Vries. The publication was designed by Bart de Baets.

ON THE NECESSITY
OF GARDENING

AN



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OF
ART,

Laurie Cluitmans (ed.)

BOTANY AND
CULTIVATION

