

# Liedeke Kruk to receive Berry Koedam Award 2024

Press release – Wednesday 23 October 2024



The Berry Koedam Award honors creators who visually document artworks and exhibitions, as well as art events and artistic communities in the Netherlands. This is one of the awards that Kunstinstituut Melly launched in 2020. This awards program was designed to celebrate the institution's thirtieth anniversary. This year, the Berry Koedam Award is made possible by the Mondriaan Fund.

We are proud to announce that photographer Liedeke Kruk has been selected as the recipient of this year's edition of the Berry Koedam Award. Together with Marlies Crooijmans, the winner of the Maker Behind the maker Award, Liedeke Kruk will be celebrated during an awards ceremony at Kunstinstituut Melly on Thursday November 28, 2024. Both winners will receive a cash prize of €10,000 this year, twice the amount of previous years.

## About Liedeke Kruk

Liedeke Kruk is an artist and image-maker based in Tilburg. Much of her work focuses on capturing portraits of artists behind the scenes, during exhibition preparations, or at opening events and dinner receptions. Her photography stands out for its authenticity, which is central to Kruk's practice. The power of her portraits lies in the palpable relationship between photographer and subject, offering a raw, unstaged glimpse into the world behind the artworks. She studied drawing and textile art in Tilburg. Her work has been published in various books and magazines and has been exhibited widely in the Netherlands and abroad, including in De Pont, Tilburg; and SMAK, Ghent.

## About the jury

The jury members for the Berry Koedam Award 2024 were Matthew Antezzo, artist, producer and former head of Art & Culture at Polaroid; Marieke Wiegel, cultural advisor and director of Foundation Grote Kerk Breda; and Stacii Samidin, photographer and visual anthropologist. The jury was chaired by Gabi Ngcobo, director of Kunstinstituut Melly.

The jury has chosen Liedeke Kruk for the 2024 Berry Koedam Award in recognition of her ongoing series of the art scene, portraits of artists, curators, gallery owners and other figures of the art world. Kruk's understated project has spanned several decades. The jury recognizes her photographs for their immediacy and intimacy. As part of the community around the De Pont Museum in Tilburg, Liedeke Kruk was able to find herself with many international figures from the art world. From this body of work the book 'Portraits' was published in 2010. Her photographs and polaroids are unstaged and with the harsh contrasts between light and shadow, the overexposure and the sometimes greenish background reinforce the vulnerable and volatile character of the captured moment. While photographing, Kruk is always close to her subjects. Her pictures are authentic, intimate and offer a glimpse that has the effect of historicising a recent period from a unique point of view.

These qualities in her photographs, as well as her under-recognized continuing work, and after having been a finalist in 2 prior iterations of the juried award, led this jury to decide to grant the award to Liedeke Kruk.

Kruk was selected as the winner through a process overseen by Kunstinstituut Melly, in which museum professionals, visual artists, and independent curators nominated image-makers who creatively document the contemporary art scene in the Netherlands.

## About the Berry Koedam Award

The Berry Koedam Award recognizes image-makers whose outstanding documentation in the art field has helped bring visibility to the work of other artists and art institutions. Previous winners of the award are Dustin Thierry (2021), Jannes Linders (2022), and Sander van Wettum (2023).

The 2024 edition will mark the fourth and final edition of the Berry Koedam Award series. However, we plan to continue celebrating and highlighting the work of image-makers through a new award series—more information will be shared soon.

## About Berry Koedam

Berry Koedam is known for her broad commitment as a gallery owner and many collaborations in the (Rotterdam) art world. Born into an artistic family and trained as a visual artist, Koedam was given a broad foundation, after which she started the RAM gallery in 1986, then still a living room gallery on the 's Gravendijkwal in Rotterdam. With the founding of the gallery, she stopped her own practice as an artist. The following year, she also started working as a curator at STEK, an artists' initiative she co-founded. In the 1990s, the gallery moved to another location where larger sculptures and installations could be shown. In 1994, the ramfoundation was founded, which allowed Koedam to break open the restrictive idea of a gallery and create more engagement with supporters through lectures and support programmes.

## About the Mondriaan Fund

The Mondriaan Fund is the public fund for visual art and heritage in the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. It contributes to the development of artists, curators, and critics as well as to the realization of projects and activities of museums, heritage institutions, art venues, galleries and commissioners at home and abroad. In addition, the fund is responsible for the Dutch entry to the Venice Biennale, organizes the Prix de Rome and funds prizes that promote talent in, among others, traditional crafts, such as the Maker Behind The Maker Award and the Berry Koedam Award.



## Press Contact

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Kunstinstituut Melly's mission is to organize activities on the latest developments in contemporary art and theory. It creates exhibitions, publications, and educational programs of artistic merit and cultural significance. It also commissions new art, supports innovative research, and advocates for cultural partnerships. Kunstinstituut Melly welcomes audiences year-round in its +3,500m<sup>2</sup> nineteenth-century building, located at 50 Witte de Withstraat in the Cool District of Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

# Kunstinstituut Melly

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Open: Wed-Sun, 11am-6pm  
Fri, 6-9pm, Kunstavond,  
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