

PORTFOLIO
ELIAN SMITS
WWW.ELIANSMITS.COM

ON THE EDGES OF ART AND THEATRE

The work of Elian Smits finds itself on the edges of fine art and theatre. Her scenografic installations are monumental and are related to the play within its own autonomous capacity. Her personal work holds distinct dramatic qualities.

THEATRICAL WORKS

Elian Smits is a scenografist creating mis-en-scene and costumes for theatrical plays. She worked during her career for many years with Johan Simons and Paul Koek for the renowned HOLLANDIA THEATRE GROUP.

The group performed often at unlikely locations like abandoned factory halls and scrapyards, working with locally found materials.

She designed for theatre, music theatre, modern dance as well as a wide range of autonomous pieces and installations.

Her love for authenticity and theatrical aspects within her autonomous work is a clear red line throughout her creations without compromising one another. In 1999 she received the charlotte kohler prize.

AUTONOMOUS WORKS

It is the actual process that lies at the heart of a piece of work. This is what drives Smits. The movement of time, comparable to lines, drawn on paper. Shape through movement and shape through change is of the essence.

STAGE AND COSTUME

The designs for mis en scene and costume have a physical impact because of the unconventional choice in materials. Physical impact and impulsiveness are at the base of the process.

This is of great influence to how the material is being shaped during this process.

The sequence of events within the act as well as the treatment in a chronological order is a matter of trial and error. It is not always very clear where an image originates from.

'I react to particular spaces and superimpose certain elements. I tend to add and remove aspects. At last I prefer to minimize as much as possible, which leaves room for the essence of meaningfulness and content'.

Currently Elian Smits works with "Stella- Den Haag" (youth-theatre) and " Afslag Eindhoven" for which she has produced the mis en scene and costumes for the play " Helaasheid der dingen" which was received very well by dutch press and audiences.

Elian Smits teaches scenography at the AHK- theatre-college in Amsterdam

<http://eliansmits.com/>

<http://www.ahk.nl/theaterschool/opleidingen-theater/scenografie/>

ELIAN SMITS 1966
AMSTERDAM NETHERLANDS

<http://www.eliansmits.com>

costume design
stage design
Stage and costume design
design of a theatre installation/

~~Om ons de broosheid
van ons bestaan te tonen~~

~~ons de broosheid van
cultuur en geslaving
toont~~

2011

PAARD VOOR DE DRAAK 2011
installation

2+ productions: theatre for children up to the age of 6

theatrical Installation
(Horse and Dragon)
at theatre festifal TWEE TURVEN HOOG Almere



drawing Faas Musbach age of 6



photo Elian Smits



Photo Giscke de Bruyne



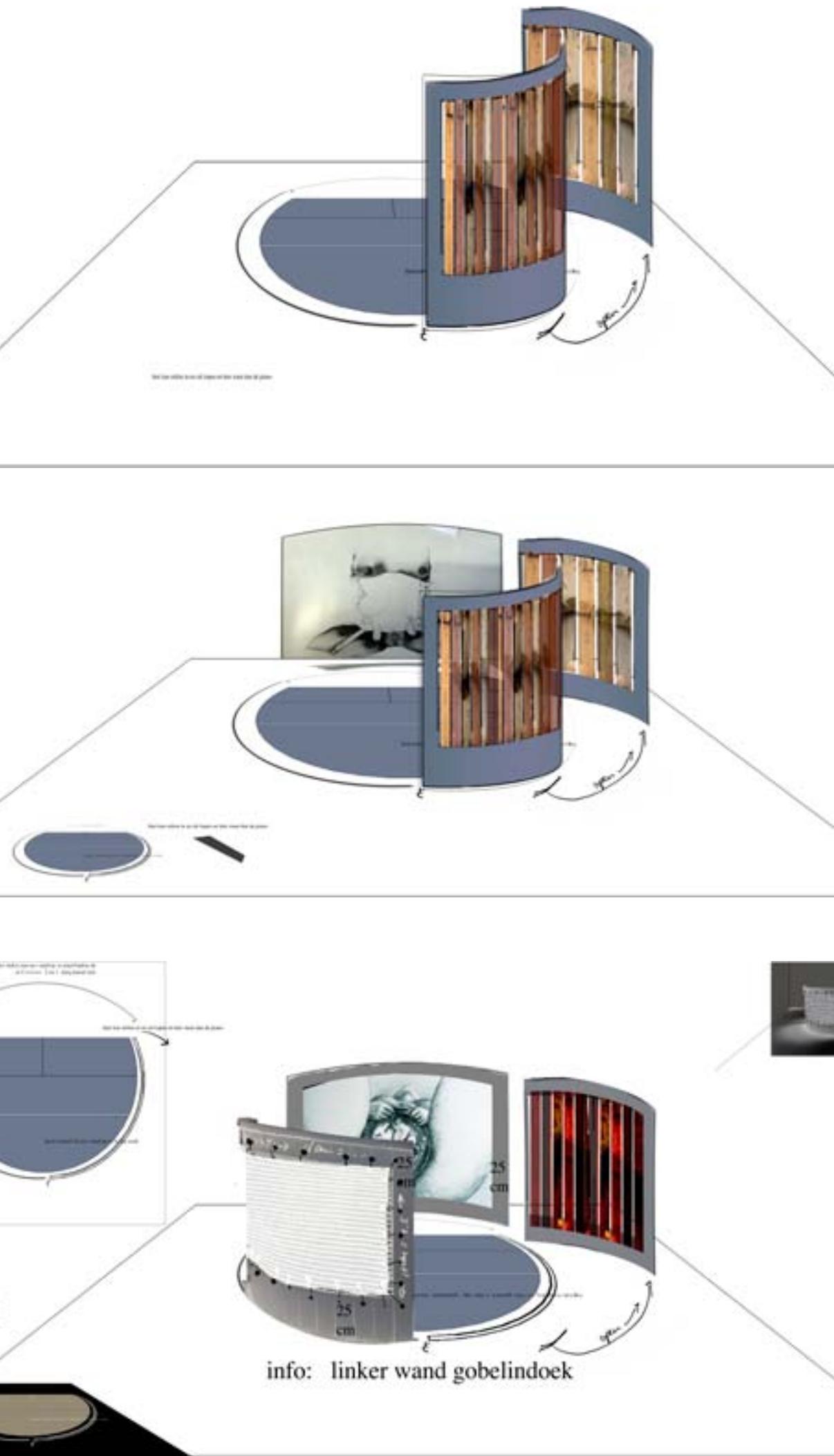
2011

HORMONOLOGEN 2011 stage design

theatre production by Winter Spelen Amsterdam

concept en text Yvonne van den Hurk
Director **Mechtild Prins**

photo Erian Smits



2004

De Skule 2004
art- installation

old mans house in Metslawier (nl)

art installation in the main hal

photo Elian Smits



photo Elian Smits

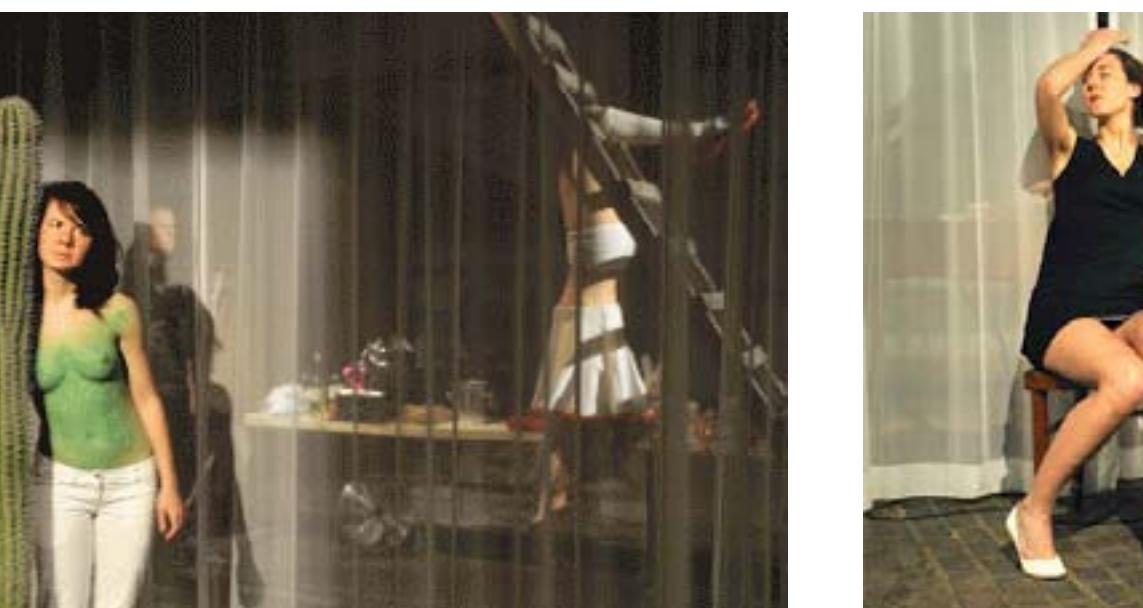


2010

The City 2010
costume design

Music theatre production from De Veenfabriek
Leiden (netherlands)

Director **Paul Koek**
text Martin Crimp
composition Ton vd Meer



2010

SHAFFY VOOR KINDEREN 2010
costume design

Youth music-theatre production of Stella den Haag

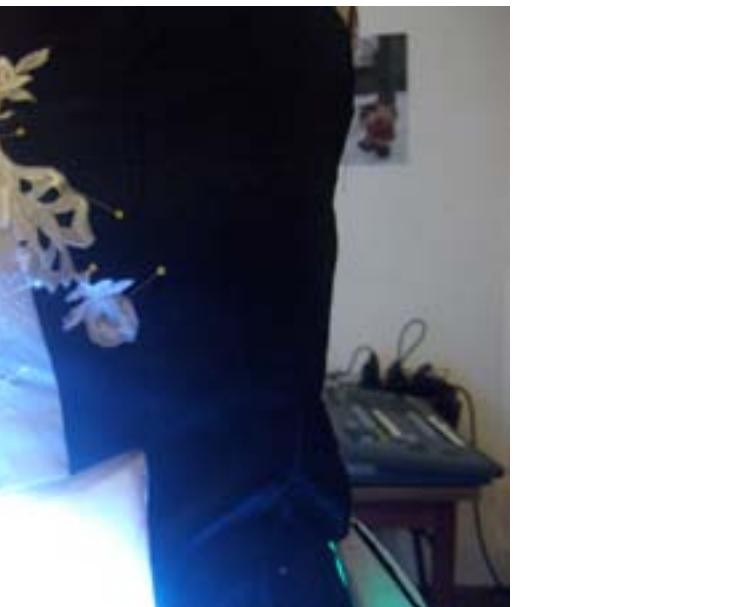
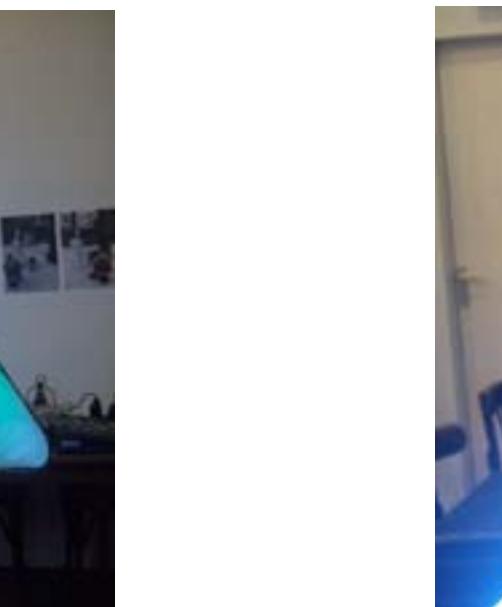
Director **Hans van den Boom**
Text **Hans van den Boom**



photo Robert Benschop



work in progress Elian Smits



work in progress Elian Smits



photo Robert Benschop

2009

DE HELAASHEID DER DINGEN 2009
Stage and costume design

co-production Theatre Group Afslag Eindhoven and
Production House Brabant

Direction **Yvonne van Beukering**

text editing by P.J Dussee based on the novel by
Dimitri Verhulst

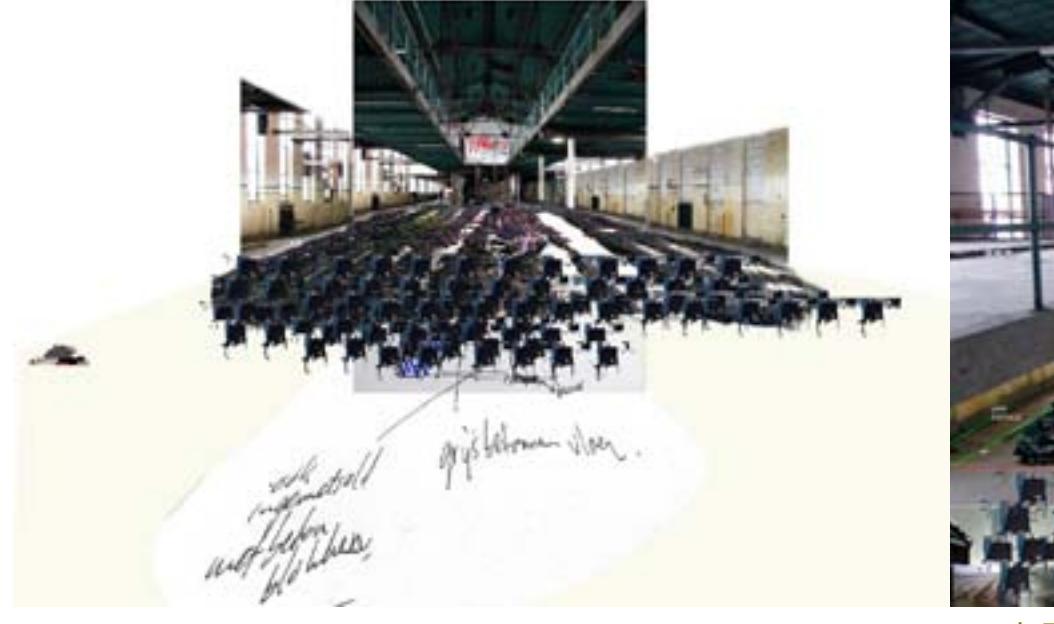


photo Elian Smits



photo Paul Bekhuis



scetch Elian Smits

2010

MARCH 2010
stage design

co-production
Kostic foundation, Production House Brabant and
Theatre Festival Boulevard in s'Hertogenbosch (nl)
concept & choreography **Jelena Kostic**

A dance performance on location
composition Strijbos & van Rijswijk

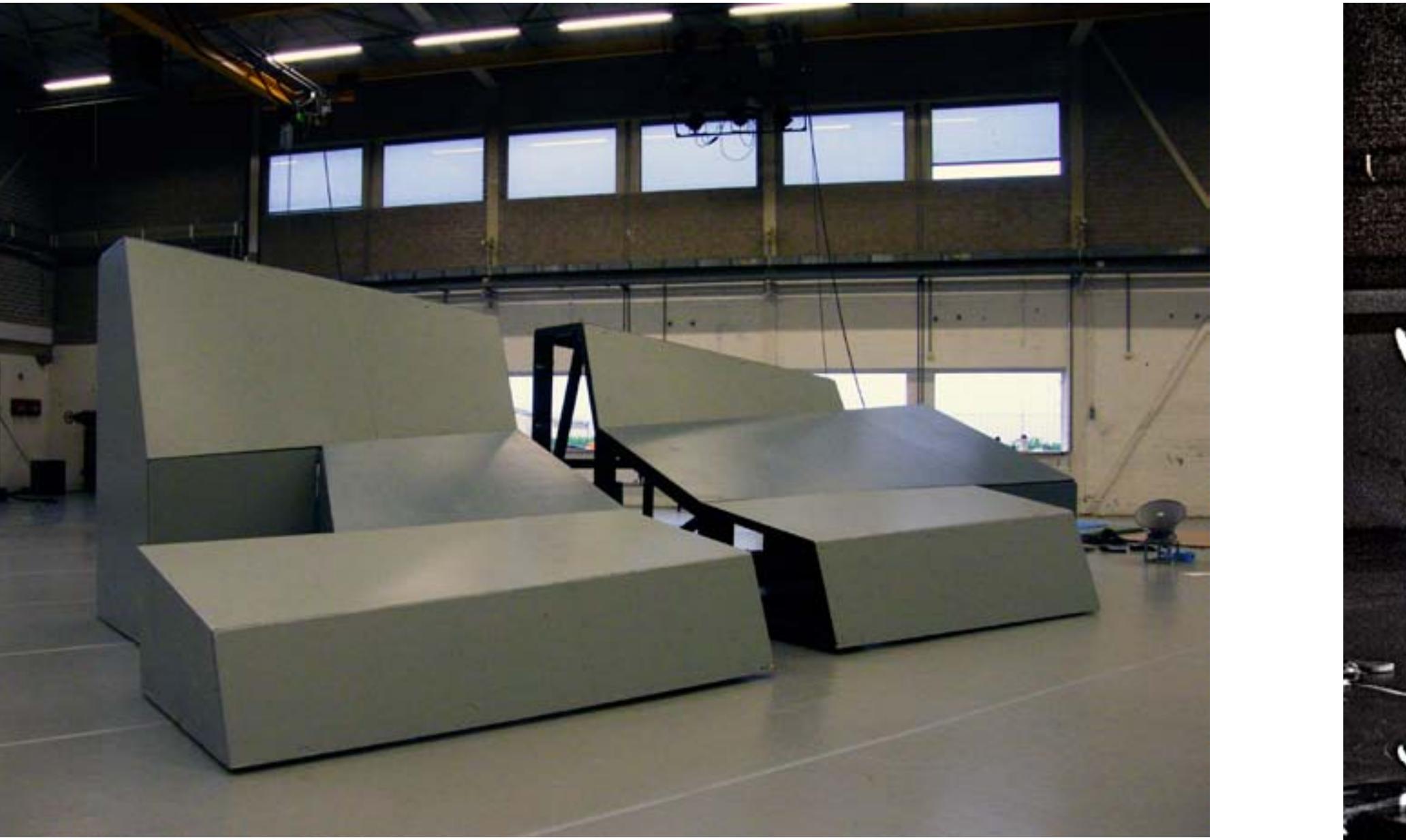


photo Elian Smits



photos Kostic

2008

Carmen 2008
costume design

co-production Nationale Toneel (nl), Youth Theatre Stella den Haag, New Opera School and the conservatory at The Hague

Director Hans van den Boom
Libretto Hans van den Boom



photo Leo van Velsen



photo Leo van Velsen



photo Leo van Velsen



photo Leo van Velsen



photo Erian Smits

2008

Carmen 2008
costume design

co-production Nationale Toneel (nl), Youth Theatre Stella den Haag, New Opera School and the conservatory at The Hague

Director Hans van den Boom
Libretto Hans van den Boom



photo Leo van Velsen



photo Erian Smits



photo Erian Smits



CARMEN



2007

IN DE NESTEN 2007
costume design

co-production Stella den Haag Youth Theatre and
Residentie Orkest (The Residential Orchestra)

Director **Hans van den Boom**
composer Modest Moessorgski
conductor Jurjen Hempel



photos Michel Wielick



photos Michel Wielick



2007

JEUK 2007
Stage and costume design

Production House Brabant

Director **Yvonne van Beukering**

text Marcel lensen



photo Joep lennarts



photo Joep lennarts



2005

AIRPLANE THEATRE 2005
airplane shaped theatre for up to 35 children
design / installation
accommodation for small theatre productions

Stella +
Zinder Festival
Stella den Haag Youth Theatre



2004

DOL ONKRUID 2004
Stage and costume design

Theatre on location Oerolfestival
Landerum, Terschelling
and Zoeterwoude (netherlands)

Bonte Koe productions

directional advice
**Betty Schuurman and
Robijn Wendelaar**

text Bert Schierbeek, Freek Musbach,
Christine van Stralen



photo Erian Smits



photo Erian Smits



2003

DARK 2003
Stage and costume design

Music theatre play after the life of *Joan of Arc*

co-production ZT-Hollandia, Rosa Ensemble and
The City Theatre of Haarlem
On location in Haarlem (netherlands)

Director **Paul Koek**
Composer Caliope Tsoupaki
Libretto Edzard Mik
Lighting designer Uri Rappaport
Sound designer Wil-jan Pielage



photo Erian Smits



photo Erian Smits



2003

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Libretto Edzard Mik
Lighting designer Uri Rappaport
Sound designer Wil-jan Pielage



photo Ben van Duin



photo Ben van Duin

1997

'Ach Deken, Deken ach, mijn waarde Wolff ! 1997
Stage and costume design

Theatre Group Hollandia
On location in the church of Ruigoord (north-netherlands)

Director Jeroen Willems

Text Elisabeth Wolff & Agatha Deken text editing by Jeroen Willems



photo Elian Smits



sketch Elian Smits



photo Elian Smits

CURRICULUM VITAE

ELIAN SMITS

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Born in Uithoorn 1966
Lives and works in Amsterdam Netherlands
Education
School of Art Utrecht Netherlands

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<http://www.ahk.nl/theaterschool/opleidingen-theater/scenografie/>

CURRICULUM VITAE

THEATRE

2005-2006 Works with Johan Simons : NT GENT Belgium
2000-2005 Works as designer (set and costume) at Zuidelijk Toneel Hollandia Johan Simons and Paul Koek (ZT-HOLLANDIA) Eindhoven
1993-2000 Works as designer (set and costume) at Theatergroep Hollandia, Johan Simons and Paul Koek, north netherlands
1993-recent Works with different theatre directores and groups as;
Produktiehuis Brabant, s'Hertogenbosch/ Produktiehuis,Rotterdam/ Het Nationale Toneel, Den Haag/
Jeugdtheatergezelschap Stella-Den Haag/ De Veenfabriek,Leiden/ Theatergroep Afslag Eindhoven,
Eindhoven/ Stichting Kostic/ dans, Tilburg/ Stichting Ynx-Duo, Delft/ Growing up in Public, Utrecht/ Het
Veemtheater, Amsterdam/ Theaterproletariaat/ De Parade, Amsterdam/ Bontekoespelen,
Leiden/ Huis ad Werf and Festival ad Werf, Utrecht/ Stichting Winterspelen, Amsterdam

2011 **I NEVER SAW ANOTHER BUTTERFLY**, music-theatre production (set and costume)
YNX-Duo Amsterdam

2010 **BOKKENVET**, theatre production (set and costume) Afslag Eindhoven
HORMONOLOGEN, theatre production (stage design) WinterSpelen Amsterdam
MARCH, dance production (stage design) concept Kostic foundation
THE CITY, theatre production (costume design) Veenfabriek, Leiden
Shaffy voor Kinderen, youth-theatre production (costume design) Stella den Haag

2009 **De helaasheid der dingen**, theatre production (set and costume) Afslag Eindhoven
Liebkrank, music-theatre production (set and costume) YNX-Duo voor new music
Hotel Al Awali, theatre production (set and costume) Production House Brabant

2008 **CARMEN**, Opera production (set and costume) co-produktie Nationale Toneel en jeugdtheatergezelschap Stella den Haag,
Nieuwe opera opleiding en conservatorium Den Haag
Gitanes, Youth-theatre production (costume design) Stella den Haag

2007 **Charlie Charlie**, a documentary in music, music-theatre production (costume design)
(rvsmile) Renske Vrolijk

IN DE NESTEN, music-theatre production (costume design) Stella den Haag and Het Residentie Orkest.
Jeuk, theatre production (set and costume) Production House Brabant

2005-2006 **SIMON BOCCANEGRÀ**, opera van verdi
design mise en scene workbook for Johan Simons: image research/-dramaturgy for director Johan Simons

2005 **Het ontzet van leiden**, music-theatre production (set and costume) De Veenfabriek Leiden
Everest -96, theatre production (costume design) Production House Rotterdam
Joke en haar moeder , theatre production (set and costume) Foundation parels voor de zwijnen
Cashville, theatre production (set and costume) Veemtheater Amsterdam

2004 **Dol Onkruid**, theatre production (set and costume) foundation Bonte Koe Spelen Leiden
2003 **Inanna**, music-theatre production (set and costume) ZTHollandia on location Amsterdam/ Berlijn
Dark, music-theatre production (set and costume) ZTHollandia on location Haarlem

2002 **Office 2002**, theatre production (costume design) Stella den Haag
Bonobobar, theatre production (costume design) Dick vd Toorn /Parade
Eldorado, theatre production (set and costume) co Production ZTHollandia and Production House Brabant

2001 **Lange Lies Lange Jan**, theatre production (set and costume) ZTHollandia /Schouwburg Heerlen
Werkstad/Werkstatt , Rotterdamse Schouwburg dutch and deutsche writers exchange
Circus Shakespeare, music-theatre production (set and costume) Zuidelijk Toneel Hollandia Eindhoven/ co Production
with the theatre hall Utrecht. (christmas-circus)

Wij, Christina, theatre production (set and costume) Huis a/d Werf, Utrecht
Beeldcollage Corus / IMAGE of 15 years Hollandia Theatre Group
Menu toen en later, theatre production (set and costume) Festival ad Werf, Utrecht
Lena & Willem, theatre production (set and costume) co-produktie Theatre group Hollandia/ Theatre Bis, Den Bosch
Een Vrijand van nijs, theatre production (stage design) Youth theatre Huis ad Amstel, Amsterdam,

1999 **Oud Vel**, theatre production (set and costume) Festival ad Werf, Utrecht
Vroeger, theatre production (set and costume)Theatregroup Hollandia

1998 **Muf**, study', Growing up in Public, Utrecht (pre-theatre production (stage design))
Mijlpaal er trilt iets, , music-theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia and Maarten Altena ensemble
De Tunnelbouwers, theatrical reading (stage design) Growing up in Public, Utrecht
Fantastic Rhythm, music-theatre production (set and costume) Dutch Jazz Orchestra and Theatregroup Hollandia
'SMO' (stage design) for a meeting at the Atrium Den Haag / the political and buziness heart of the netherlands. Organized
by the foundation of society and business together with Theatregroup Hollandia

Vliegtuig, education project, Theatregroup Hollandia and high school in Hoofddorp
Schijn bedriegd, theatre production (set and costume) Growing up in Public, Utrecht

1997 **Ach Deken, Deken ach, mijn waarde Wolff!** , theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia
Menuet, theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia
Machine Agrecole, theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia
De Huwelijksfuik, theatre production (set and costume) Festival ad Werf, Utrecht
De Verminkten, theatre production (set and costume) Growing up in Public, Utrecht

1996 **Su-Pa**, music-theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia on location Amsterdam
co production with Slagwerkgroep Den Haag, Amsterdam

Vrouw Alleen, theatre production (set and costume) Het Veemtheater, Amsterdam
Fenicische Vrouwen, music-theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia on location in West-Zaan
Zomertrilogie, theatre production (set and costume) Growing up in Public, Utrecht
Cadavercantate, theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia

1995 **Oresteia**, music-theatre production (stage costume) co production Theatregroup Hollandia and

1994 **De Zee van Twijfel**, theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia
Varkensgras, theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia
Op hoop van zegen, theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia
Ouderdomsvlekken, theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia

Publications

1994 **Boeren Stukken**, theatre production (stage design) Theatregroup Hollandia
Der Stiefel und seinen Socken (De laars en zijn sok) tekst; Herbert Achternbusch
Amniwiesen (Yankeeewieland) tekst; Kerstin Specht
on location West-Knollendam (north of Holland)

1993 **M is Muziek, Monoloog en Moord**, music-theatre production (set and costume) Theatregroup Hollandia on location,
co-production with De Volharding/ new music

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ART

Exhibition

2011 **Paard voor de draak**, (horse and dracon) theatrical Installation 2+ productions, Almere
2009 **Urban Wijland**, lokation project Amerstfoort Amersfoort (group)
2008 **Museumnacht Rotterdam**, presentation 'Slapend materiaal'
2004 **Mag ik even....borduren**, gallery De Schone Kunsten, Haarlem
2002 'Oh no not again', group exhibition in 'Tent' (a department of the Art Centre Witte de With) Rotterdam
Erasmushuis, Zaandam, 'Wolff en Deken'
2001 **Waarschijnlijk, moments wich I intend to remember**, group exhibition Stadsgallery Heerlen.
2000 **Hirae**, gallery 'De Praktijk', Amsterdam
1999 **Abraham**, gallery 'De Praktijk', Amsterdam
1998 **Into your face**, gallery 'De Praktijk', Amsterdam
Vormen van betekenis, Art Centre Delft
Eat->Me<-Feed, Veemtheater, Amsterdam
Flesh and Fell, group exhibition in Art-Kiosk, Brussel
Red Light District-Images of Desire
group exhibition Gallery Y-Burg, Vrieshuis Amerika
1996 **Wash Innosense**, Triple X festival, Amsterdam
Uitgelicht exibition of the artists of The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture
1994 **Corridor**, Triple X -Festival Amsterdam
1993 **Scenografie and Art**, Museumpaleis Lange Voorhout, The Hague

Assignments

2005 Exhibition design of **REMBRANDT-400**, an exibition about 400 years of Rembrandt
Design of the entrance hal, the shop and the information centre on location at
The Scheltema complex in Leiden
AIRPLANE THEATRE 2005, airplane shaped theatre/ installation/ accommodation for up to 35 children
Youth theatre Stella den Haag
2004 **De Skule**, old mans house in Metslawier,
definitieve opdracht, (oplevering en opening 18 jun '04)
2002 **De Skule**, old mans house in Metslawier,
schetsopdracht voor een beeld in de centrale hal van het nieuwbouwcomplex De Skule.
Corus 36 m2, art scetch by Corus, Velzen-noord. (schetsopdracht)
2000 **Beeldcollage Corus / IMAGE** of 15 years Hollandia Theatre Group
1998 **SMO**, an art piece at the Atrium cityhall, Den Haag,
Bach Salon, Kloveniersdoelen, Middelburg

Awards

1999 **Charlotte Köhler prijs 1999**,
For scenografy of The Prins Bernhard Foundation Amsterdam

2001 **Waarschijnlijk**, moments wich I intend to remember, Catalogue stadsgalerij Heerlen
2000 **Motion, Word, Image, Sound' / 'Beeld, Geluid, Woord, Beweging**, Theatre group Hollandia 15 Years
1998 **Flesh and Fell**, Catalogue Gallery Art-Kiosk, Brussel
1994-1995 **Uitgelicht**, Catalogue, The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture

Stipends

2003-2007 **Basic stipend**, The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture
1999-2001 **Basic stipend**, The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture
1994-1996 **Starter stipend**, The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture

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