PRESS RELEASE
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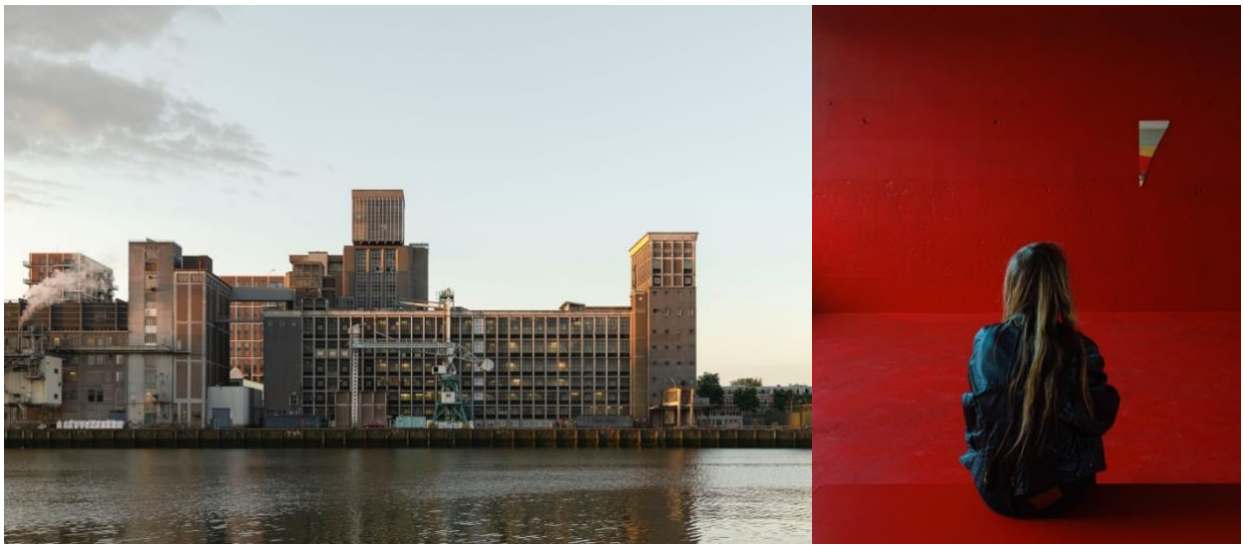
Big Art goes Rotterdam – from 11 till 13 September 2026

XL art fair takes over the Iconic Codrico Factory and opens its doors in the port city for the first time

From Friday, September 11, to Sunday, September 13, Big Art will debut in Rotterdam. Over three days, the historic Codrico factory on Rijnhaven will showcase more than hundred large-scale artworks. After over ten editions in and around Amsterdam, director Anne van der Zwaag considers this an exciting milestone: Rotterdam's vibrant creativity and energy align perfectly with Big Art, and vice versa. The striking silos and raw industrial architecture of the Codrico site create a captivating atmosphere. For one weekend, visitors can explore vast, imposing spaces that were previously inaccessible to the public.



Left: Codricoterrain, right installation art by Roos Schneijderberg

In motion

After eleven successful editions in Amsterdam, Big Art is coming to Rotterdam for the first time this year. The pop-up platform for XL artworks by established names and emerging talent will take place at the impressive Codrico site: one of the city's most mysterious and characterful locations. Hidden along the Rijnhaven quay, the monumental Codrico factory stands as an imposing remnant of the harbour industry's glory days. For decades, the factory was the beating heart of Rijnhaven, a self-contained world of production, shipping and activity.

Now, the site stands on the threshold of a new future, where its industrial character and rich history are being carefully interwoven with new urban life on the waterfront. Codrico therefore represents not only a monument to Rotterdam's harbour past, but also a rare setting where history, architecture, the future, and now art, come together. Anne van der Zwaag: *"With Big Art, we want to continue surprising audiences, and this unique location offers both participants and visitors an entirely new experience."*

Big painting of Majinggol & de Boer

Art in context

Over the years, Big Art has grown into a major art event that continually takes on a different form, shaped by its temporary nature and ever-changing locations. Big Art is not a conventional art fair; each edition adapts to a remarkable building, which enters into a dialogue with the artworks on display. The carefully curated combination of drawings, paintings, sculptures, video art, photography, light installations and textile works ensures that every space stimulates and invites a different way of seeing. Artists are given the opportunity to visit the location in advance and draw inspiration from the site itself. Participants often create new works in response to the venue's architecture and atmosphere.

Space filling work of Ran Kunst

The buildings, corridors and spaces of the Codrico factory bear the marks of time and possess a distinctive character. This makes them exceptionally suited to the creation of site-specific installations. Dozens of artists have already registered for the upcoming edition, including Ritsert Mans, Liselore Frowijn, Angeline Dekker, Izaak Swartjes, Julia Kiiryanova and Sara Vrugt.

New destination

Now that Codrico's factory operations have ceased, the site will be transformed over the coming years by RED Company into a vibrant new district on Katendrecht. Architect and developer Nanne de Ru: "Codrico is an industrial enclave that will soon be redeveloped into a wonderful place to live and work. We are very pleased that Big Art is already demonstrating the potential of this location." In addition to residential housing, the development will include space for offices, shops, a hotel, hospitality venues and cultural activities. While preserving the monumental character of the factory, the area will evolve into a lively urban district situated between FENIX and the Nederlands Fotomuseum.

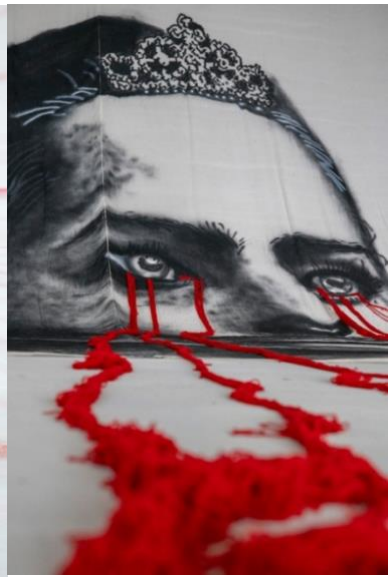
Videoinstallation of Viktoria Kova | VK Gallery

About Big Art

Big Art is a pop-up platform for XL artworks by established names and emerging talent, created by cultural entrepreneur Anne van der Zwaag, who is also the director of the design fair OBJECT in Rotterdam. Over the past eleven editions, Big Art has taken place in remarkable buildings in and around Amsterdam, where galleries and artists fill the spaces with a unique mix of monumental paintings and drawings, large-scale sculptures and photographs, enchanting light artworks and impressive interactive installations. On show and for sale.

Big Art is an independent platform, organised without commercial sponsors or cultural funds. Galleries and artists are welcome, and all sales revenue goes directly to the participants. Rotterdam is familiar territory for Anne van der Zwaag: since 2012, she has successfully organised the design fair OBJECT in the city.

Left: spatial work by Robbert de Goede, right: photographic installation by Leoke



More information about Big Art Rotterdam

Location: Codrico Factory | Veerlaan | Rotterdam
Dates: Friday 11 September through Sunday 13 September 2026
Opening hours: Daily from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
Admission: Tickets are available online and at the door and cost €16.50; children under 16 enter free of charge
Accessibility: The Codrico site is located on Katendrecht, between the FENIX Museum and the Nederlands Fotomuseum. The venue is easily accessible from Central Station, with Rijnhaven metro station just a few minutes' walk away. Parking is available at the Rijnhaven parking garage adjacent to the site, and bicycles can be parked around the venue.

Website: www.bigart.nu
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bigart.nu/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bigartnl

Textile sculpture of Geertje Tjalma

Left: figurative art of Hanne Arends, right: sculpture of Marena Seeling

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Press information (not for publication)

For more information about Big Art, please contact Syrta at ArtPublicity via syrta@artpublicity.nl or call +31 6 1081 8505. High-resolution images can be downloaded from the dedicated press room created for this client on our website. https://pressroom.misspublicity.nl/big-art/