

STEDELIJK MUSEUM

ESSENTIALS

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AMSTERDAM

# WELCOME!

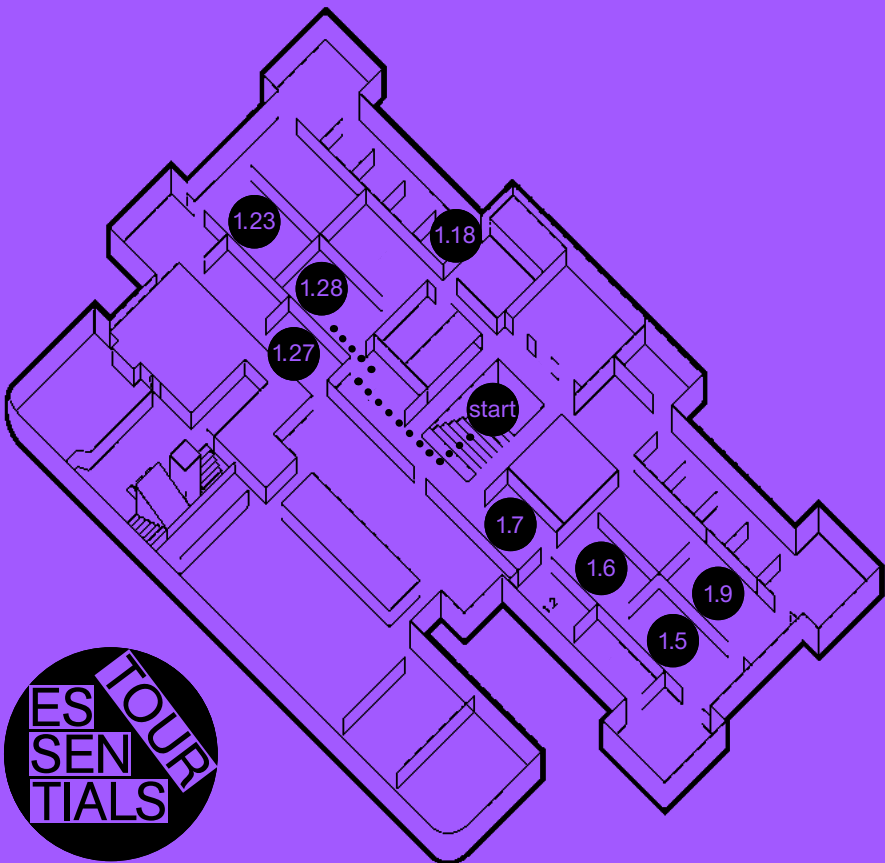
Hey you, welcome to the Stedelijk!

Here you will find world-famous artworks, but you can also discover new treasures.

With this tour, you will visit must-see highlights from the collection, learn about art and design in an easygoing way and make your new most-liked pic!

# ROUTE 1ST FLOOR

Once you have hung up your coat in the entrance hall, walk past the ticket scan under the arches straight ahead. The *Essentials Tour* starts at the old staircase. Then follow the little dots on the map up and turn right. Clicking on the big dots will take you to the right text/question about the artwork. You can also recognize each work from the tour in the museum by an Essentials Tour sticker on the wall.



# STAIRS



Ad Petersen, Gilbert & George: *Living Sculpture*, 1969



Monumental staircase. Photo: John Lewis Marshall

The staircase has become an iconic spot in the museum. Rumour has it that this is the best spot in the museum to pose for photos. Artist duo Gilbert & George were ahead of this in 1969 by posing as a 'living statue' for five hours. They painted their faces and hands bronze and didn't move at all!

● *Strike a pose!*

# MARTIAL RAYSSE

## Peinture à haute tension



Martial Raysse, *Peinture à haute tension*, 1965.  
Photo: Nina Schollaart

(Gallery 1.28)

Hey! Did you notice anything? Yes, you just walked past a work that looked exactly like this one. In fact, Martial Raysse's work, which you are standing in front of right now, was reproduced by Elaine Sturtevant. And completely from memory! At the same time, Raysse's work is based on an existing photograph – so it's a double duplication.

Sturtevant recreated iconic works by famous artists to explore their fame, authenticity and creative process. Andy Warhol liked that idea; he even lent her a work for reproduction once.

- Do you think an artist should be allowed to use other people's work?

Before moving on to the next work, look to the left for a real Warhol!

# BARNETT NEWMAN

## Cathedra



Barnett Newman, *Cathedra*, 1951. Photo: Nina Schollaardt

(Gallery 1.27)

The enormous painting *Cathedra* contains 50 liters of paint. The artist painted as many as 7 separate layers to make the work this blue. You might be tempted to look at the work from a distance but that is actually not quite the way it was intended. According to the artist, you'll feel completely immersed in the blue when you look at it up close.

- Try looking closely at the painting for a whole minute. Feeling blue?

# PROTEST AND REVOLUTION



Protest and revolution wall. Photo: Nina Schollaardt

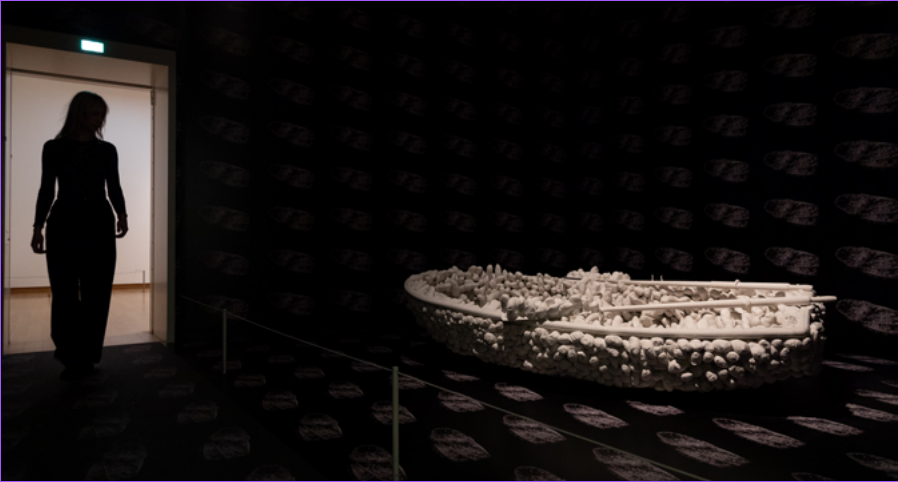
(Gallery 1.23)

Here you can see the changes in society after World War II through colorful posters. Because of the cheap and easy printing techniques, posters quickly became the medium to spread messages of the 'protest generation' at the time. Nowadays, you see critical voices increasingly appearing on social media, which shows that protest and imagery still go hand in hand.

- Is there a poster among them with a message that you find relevant today and that appeals to you?

# YAYOI KUSAMA

## Aggregation: One Thousand Boats Show



Yayoi Kusama, *Aggregation: One Thousand Boats Show*, 1963.  
Photo: Nina Schollaardt

(Gallery 1.18)

You probably know Kusama best from her world-famous works with polka-dots, her recent collaboration with Louis Vuitton or from her impressive infinity rooms. This 1963 work was her first room installation. She found the boat on the streets of New York and then covered it with shapes reminiscent of penises. For a female artist to create a work so explicitly dealing with sexuality in the 1960s was very radical.

- If you look carefully (but please stay behind the line), you can see that there is something else in the boat. Can you spot it?



# BREAK



Stairwell. Photo: Nina Schollaardt

(Stairwell)

Time for a break! Walk around the stairs and the hall and look up. See those colored stripes in the arches? Artist Daniel Buren created this work for the Stedelijk. The stripes above the arches make your eyes wander - like looking through a kaleidoscope!

When you're ready for more essentials walk under the yellow/green arch on the left side of the stairs to the next work.

# JEFF KOONS

## Ushering in Banality



Zaaloophname Tomorrow is a Different Day. Collectie 1980–Nu.  
Foto: Ger-Jan van Rooij

(Gallery 1.7)

In this room, the piggy by Jeff Koons is surrounded by feminist criticism. With the naked little men portrayed in her work, Marlene Dumas criticizes the fact that it's usually women who are depicted naked in art. The big picture of Koons' piglet on the wall was also taken by a female artist. Koons is a big name within the art world, so in this way, the room humorously comments on the balance of power in the art world.

- Do you know any musical artist who also comments on inequality? Who?

# MARTINE SYMS GIRRRRLGIRLLLGIIRL- GIIIRL



Martine Syms, *GIRRRRLGIRLLLGIIRL-GIIIRL*, 2017. Photo: Nina Schollaardt

(Gallery 1.6)

In this work, Martine Syms explores feminist thinking and the identity of people of color by looking at everyday language. By writing out the word ‘girl’ in different ways, Syms tries to capture the verbal dimensions of language.

Feminist literature is an important reference point for Syms; the color purple in the mural is a nod to Alice Walker’s book *The Color Purple* (1982). She was the first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize.

● Do you and your friends use a word specifically very often?

# DRIFT

## Volkswagen Beetle 1980



DRIFT: Volkswagen Beetle 1980, 2018. Photo: Ronald Smits

(Gallery 1.3)

This work is part of a series called Materialism, in which DRIFT calls attention to the human impact on the environment. In fact, the size of each block indicates the amount of material used of a particular object. The blocks you see in front of you are actually a disassembled car: the 1980 Volkswagen Beetle.

● Which object do you think consists of more material: the LED bulb or the light bulb? Walk to the wall behind this work and find out!

# STEVE MCQUEEN

## Broken Column



Steve McQueen, *Broken Column*, 2014. Photo: Gert-Jan van Rooij

(Gallery 1.5)

This imposing pillar created by Steve McQueen is carved from black Zimbabwean granite. The shape echoes Victorian funeral memorials, referencing the tradition of obliquely truncating a tree in tribute to a young man's untimely death. McQueen considers the work to be a monument to premature and avoidable deaths in Black communities worldwide.

● Fun fact: Steve McQueen is also a screenwriter and film director. One of his films, *12 Years a Slave* (2013), even received an Oscar.

# REMY JUNGGERMAN

## Promise IV



Remy Jungerman, *PROMISE IV*, 2018-2019. Photo: Nina Schollaardt

(Gallery 1.9)

This work by Jungerman is composed of a variety of materials that all refer to something. For instance, the textiles with geometric patterns come from the Surinamese maroon culture and the white clay is a reference to the Winti culture. They use this clay as a purifying agent on objects, statues and bodies to make contact with ancestors.

- Jungerman's work sometimes refers to a famous art movement as well. Can you find out which one? Tip: look at the colors and straight lines!

Psst! The answer will be revealed later!

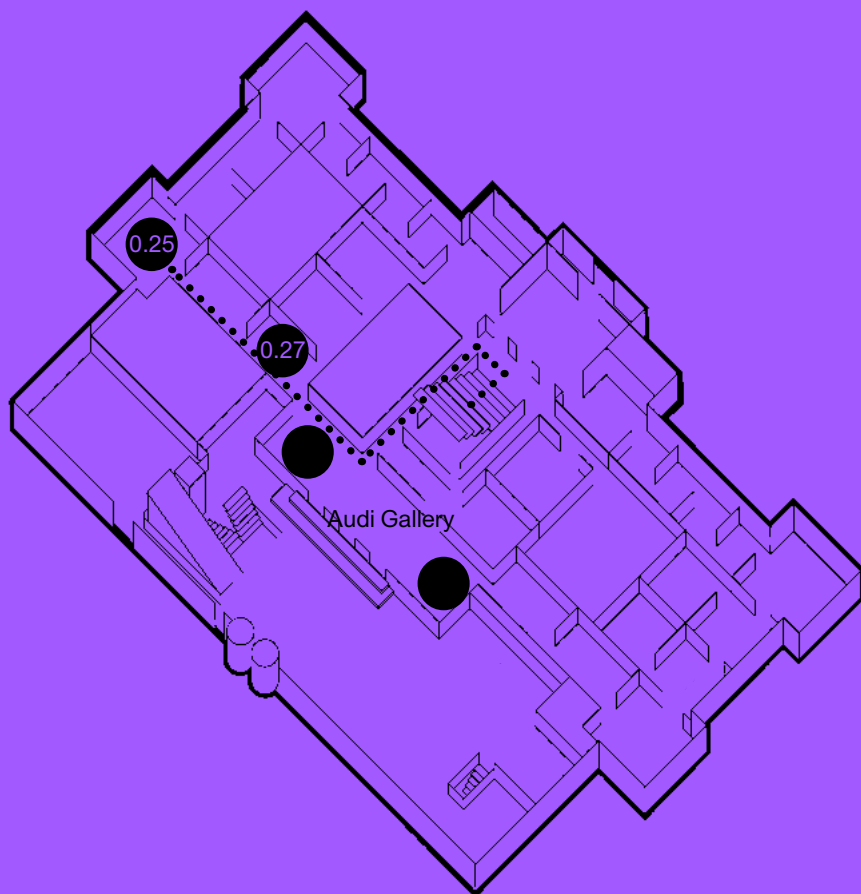
# BREAK

Walk back to the hall and re-energize in the Zadelhoff café with a matcha or a muffin. You can also decide to skip the tour for now and come back some other time for more.

Haven't had enough of art yet? Then walk down and discover a real Mondrian and Picasso!

# ROUTE GROUND FLOOR

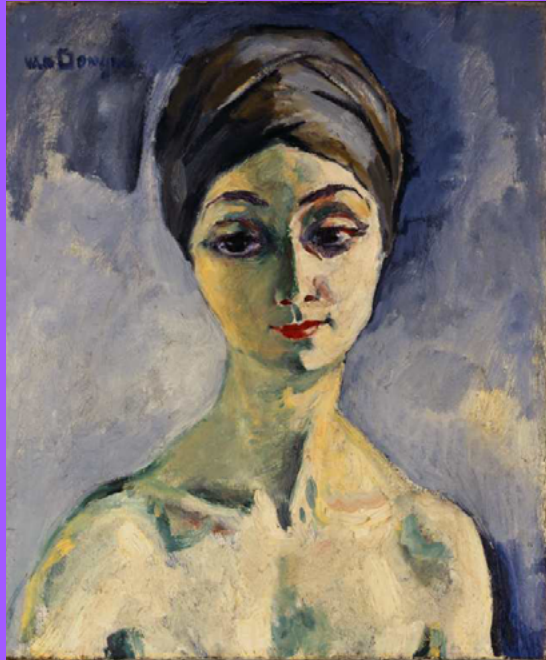
The *Essentials Tour* continues downstairs. Walk down the stairs again and return to the room you entered after scanning your ticket. Then take an immediate right and follow the dots to the next work.





# KEES VAN DONGEN

## Maria Lani



Kees van Dongen, *Maria Lani*, 1928.

(Zaal 0.27)

There has been a legend about Maria Lani, the woman portrayed here, for decades. According to this story, in the 1920s she pretended to be an actress, convincing over 50 famous artists to portray her, including Matisse, Chagall and Van Dongen. She then allegedly ran off with all the works and disappeared forever.. Later this turned out to be untrue and just an exciting story!

● Play a game of 'Guess who?' with each other. Look around the room and take one portrait in your mind. Let the other person guess with yes and no questions.

# PIET MONDRIAAN

## Ruitvormige compositie met twee lijnen



Piet Mondriaan, *Ruitvormige compositie met twee lijnen*, 1931.  
Photo: Nina Schollaardt

(Gallery 0.25)

In his art, Mondrian wanted to capture the essence behind the visible world. To portray this, he said, you need the most essential elements of visual language: primary colors (red, blue, and yellow) and horizontal and vertical lines.

Because Mondrian did not use green, a rumor started that he did not like nature. He found this funny himself and fueled it on purpose by sitting with his back to the window while visiting a friend. He supposedly did this to not have to look at the green trees!

- Fun fact: Mondrian never used a ruler for his straight lines.

Did you guess it right? Jungerman refers to De Stijl – a modernistic art movement that Mondrian was a part of.

# PABLO PICASSO

## Femme nue devant le Jardin



Pablo Picasso, *Femme nue devant le Jardin*, 1956. Photo: Nina Schollaardt

(Audi Gallery)

This work by Picasso is a tribute to another artist: Matisse. He was a friend of Picasso and also made many works with women lying down. When Matisse died, Picasso felt it was his duty to do something with it.

- To whom would you pay a homage if you were to create a work of art?

# KAREL APPEL

## Wandschildering



Karel Appel, Wandschildering, 1956, © Karel Appel Foundation

(Audi Gallery)

In the 1950s, the area where you are standing now was the museum's restaurant. The three figures dancing on the wall represent a crested bird, a human and a flower.

Artist Karel Appel noticed while painting that the flower did not fit onto the wall in its entirety, so he decided to continue his work on the wall to the right. The pistil and petals are made of glass, so it's actually a kind of window with light shining through.

● Before you exit the museum, walk around the corner and see the mural from a different perspective!

Thanks for coming! We are really curious about your thoughts on the tour. Would you mind answering four questions so we can improve your experience? Please enter our survey [here](#).

Keep an eye on your email when you have ordered your ticket online. You will receive an e-mail with information about obtaining a 20% discount on your next visit shortly.

Hope to see you again!