

Biography

Early work and monumental commissions

During my academy years at the Moller Institute in Tilburg and the Gerrit Rietveldacademy in Amsterdam, I focused on spatial work with textiles. Already as a young artist the participation in material-related international events such as in Łódź, Kyoto and Beijing made me well-known in many countries.

In the Netherlands, I have carried out monumental commissions as large as 250 m² such as the ornamental cloth for theatre De Spiegel in Zwolle, Magic Wall and reception area head office of Royal TenCate and Cascade curtains for the City Hall in Almelo, which continue the exploration of new materials within my textile works.

[Compilations of Artwork curtains and dividers](#)

[Catalogue Look! Sibyl Heijnen](#). National Museum of Modern Art Kyoto. Overview 1983-2007. With texts of Shinji Kohmoto, Peggie Breitbarth, Wim van der Beek, Jun-ichi Arai, Ruiki Kato and quotes from other articles.

Selection International commissions:

2000 Wave, Government Tokyo JP

2013 JingAn Shangri-La hotel, Shanghai, China, 10 works.

2012-14 Project proposal 'Times Square Park, Shifting Flows' as a 10-day project on Times Square, NY., based on request 'What could YOU do with Times Square' by Public Art Department (Times Square Alliance), NY, USA.

Selection exhibitions (group and solo)

At the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto (MoMAK) in 2007, I was given free rein to exhibit solo in a large museum hall. A white artificial grass carpet proved to invite visitors to stay long and relaxed, danced and pay more concentrated attention to the sculptures of rubber, lacquer, gold leaf and cowhides in the room. Such reactions from the audience had not been seen there before.

[Essay "Waving Space"](#), Ken'ichi Iwaki, Philosophy Professor and director MoMAK. (EN, JP).

[Visitors Look! Sibyl Heijnen](#).

[Impression exhibition](#)

1992 3rd International Textile Competition, The Museum of Art, Kyoto Excellence Award

1993 Museum of Modern Art Arnhem, Arnhem NL Solo

1993 In Our Hands 2, international competition Nagoya JP / Gallery Maronie, Kyoto JP

1996 Four Dutch artists, Gallery Gallery, Kyoto JP

1996 Beyond textile, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto and Municipal Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo JP, Four-person show.

1998 In Our Hands 4, international competition Nagoya JP / Gallery Maronie, Kyoto JP

2001 10th International Triennial of Tapestry, Central Museum Textile, Lodz PL

2002 From Lausanne to Beijing, Biennale Beijing CN

2002 Small Works in Fiber, LongHouse Reserve in New York USA, SOFA in Chicago USA and MSD|G (Miyake Design Studio Gallery) in Tokyo JP

2002 International Young Art, ArtLink, Sotheby's in New York USA, Amsterdam NL and Tel Aviv IL. Catalogue

2004 Contemporary Textile Art International Open, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast UK

2007 Look! Sibyl Heijnen, National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto JP. [Catalogue EN/ JP Solo](#)

2008 Art Life Mitsuhashi, Kyoto JP solo

2009 Le Bain Moving, Gallery Le Bain, Tokyo JP catalogue solo

2010/11/12 Exhibition and auction, LongHouse Reserve, East Hampton USA

- 2016 From Lausanne to Beijing, 9th International Fibre Art Biennale, Shenzhen CN.
Outstanding award, Catalogue
- 2020 Expressive Silence, Espace Enny, Laag-Keppel NL [Video](#)
- 2022 First international Contemporary Material Art Biennial, Qingdao CN catalogue
- 2024 Material Thinking - 2nd International Contemporary Material Art Biennale, Xinjiang, CN, Catalogue

Selection Installations

- 2009 New Beginnings, chapel Ootmarsum NL
The first transformation of a historic space, namely a chapel, using salt, charcoal and sculptures into a meditative space, detached from any religious association. [Impression](#). Catalogue
- 2016 Room for Reflection, Museum de Fundatie, Heino NL
In 'Orangery' of castle 't Nijenhuis an installation with calf hooves, parchment and paintings with ink and cowhide. In 'Blue Room', painting 'Still life with dead swan' by Jan Weenix (1650) was surrounded by a floor painting of artificial grass, hanging parchment and again paintings with ink and cowhide. [Video](#). [Catalogue](#).
- 2017 Time Space Existence - Personal structures - Crossing Borders. Alongside Biennale of Venice, IT. [Impression](#). Catalogue.
- 2019 Sibyl Heijnen and the cows of the Hoenwaard, Voerman Museum, Hattem NL
- 2019 History Speaking Stedelijk Museum Kampen NL
First application of a sound composition, based on the fundamental tones of the spaces, in my oeuvre. Both in the historic Alderman's Hall and the former Synagogue at the Stedelijk Museum Kampen. [Video and sound Alderman's Hall](#). [Catalogue](#).
- 2021/22 Collected scenery - Water Installation, Almelo NL
A floating installation on water with discarded, colorful and sparkling drinking cans and Fly Pines. [Video](#).
- 2023 See, hear, feel: in search of the soul of the Bergkerk. Deventer, NL
In part 1: The Church listens, visitors were taken into a space with standing and hanging elements, a composition of artificial grass on the floor and an intangible sound composition by Nicholas Thayer that responded to the changing light intensity. [Video](#)
- 2024 See, hear, feel: in search of the soul of the Bergkerk. Deventer, NL
In part 2: The Church sounds, using the sensory impressions evoked by this large church. Painterly tableaux of used drinking cans lay like floating islands on the church floor and walls. The noisy, consumptive life of everyday life was silenced, what remained was the multicoloured brilliance of metal. [Video](#).
- 2024 Fundatie Collection: ReMIX, Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle NL.
Shaping a wing of the museum to own discretion by exploring, researching and supplementing the collection complement with new, challenging work of my own and sound composed from recordings in the spaces. [Video of the opening](#).

Impression of some of the projects: [Five projects from Kyoto to Venice](#).

For more information please visit www.sibylheijnen.com.

Teaching

Lecturer and workshop leader at various art academies, universities. Keynote speaker at conference. In Japan guest lectures at Seian Women College in Kyoto, Tokyo Zokei University and Tokyo University of the Arts.