

**[!] Landscape Triennial 2021**  
**High green, innovating**  
**the landscape**



**[\*] It is common knowledge; current challenges such as climate change, energy transition, urbanisation, new forms of agriculture and the growth of tourism will drastically change our landscapes. But we are a long way from reaching consensus about how to steer that change in the right direction; how to create pleasant landscapes that are fit to live in, despite the impact of these trends. The 2021 Landschapstriënnale (Landscape Triennial) searches for answers. In April 2021 the landscape of North Brabant will be transformed into a large laboratory where solutions are explored, challenges combined and ideas developed for the design of sustainable landscapes. As a free space, this fifth Landscape Triennial is the place to work together to discover how we can best deal with these future transitions and the impact they will have on the landscape we cherish.**

**[...] Valuable landscapes**

Curator Marco Vermeulen starts from a positive vantage point: according to him, these challenges do not have to be a threat. Instead they can be viewed as a lever, triggering the creation of landscapes that are both aesthetically and economically valuable. This is not a surprising point of view; after all, the Arcadian landscape we now enjoy is the result of economic activities from the past. Think of the willows in the Biesbosch that were planted for their reeds, used for making baskets or dyke mats; or the many poplars between Den Bosch and Eindhoven that were originally planted for their wood, used in the clog industry; and what about all the other small-scale elements in the landscape? All of them were the remnants of agricultural activities.

**[...] Landscape laboratories**

During the triennial's 10 landscape laboratories we will discover how modern utility functions such as logistics centres, windmills, residential areas and alternative forms of agriculture can result in landscapes that are economically valuable, but also pleasant and aesthetically pleasing landscapes, like they did in the past.

## [...] Coalitions

The question of course is who is responsible for making decisions and carrying them out. Now that the government is no longer 'the boss', the rest of us are obliged to rise to the cause. That's why the triennial's 10 different laboratories are run by surprising coalitions of government, market players and societal organisations. During the triennial they will each have one day to share their discoveries and results with the public in a variety of ways, from sharing the pure content (mainly for professionals), to excursions and a cultural offering of music, theatre and art.

## [...] The Landscape's 'Speech from the Throne'

The Landscape Triennial 2021 will retain the triennial's traditional elements, such as an international conference, and the *Troonrede van het Landschap* (the Landscape's Speech from the Throne). The so-called '*Sterrenregen*' (Falling Stars), offers local initiatives the opportunity to take part too. This year's opening will be on the Oud-Herlaar estate.



Van Gogh National Park impression by West 8

## Van Gogh National Park

The Van Gogh National Park in North Brabant will host the event. A park that will cover some 120,000 hectares – around one quarter of the province of North Brabant, with its unique landscape of interweaving streams.

The Van Gogh National Park has an unusual concept; different partners are collaborating to create the landscape of the future – including cities, with the value added of nature, the regional economy and the people who live in the area. These new-style National Parks are a calling card for the

Netherlands, they are leading areas of natural beauty that are also attractive for agriculture. The Van Gogh National Park, which combines a top economy with 1.5 million people with the tangible heritage of Van Gogh is a unique development in this context.

# [ \* ] The 10 Landscape Laboratories of the Landscape Triennial 2021

## [...] **High Tech – High Green**

High Tech High Green is about landscape as a factor in decisions concerning location. A top-class economy cannot exist without a top-class landscape – talented professionals and creative thinkers value an attractive working and living environment. In the area along and around the 'Green Corridor' between Strijp S and Oirschot, the municipalities of Eindhoven and Oirschot, together with the Brabants Landschap – supported by the Vereniging Deltametropool and experts from the College van Rijksadviseurs – are

focussing on the question how landscape can support the knowledge industry and how industry can contribute to the development of a landscape. The green environment around

the Brainportregio is important for the high-tech industry, so why not share the responsibility for the landscape between the different players?

## [...] **Brabant Streams**

The area known as the 'Brabantse Beken', or streams of Brabant, is breathtakingly beautiful and many people feel a connection to it. Climate change is forcing us to learn to live with aridity, heat and flooding. Can we afford to give space to water? The water boards of Brabant, together with the municipality of Meierijstad, explore what this landscape can tell us about climate change by listening to people's stories, looking at possible new production and consumption cycles, and by translating the significance of this unique landscape into contemporary solutions.



## [...] **Rich Soil**

Rich Soil (Vitale Bodem) investigates the future of agriculture as the most important guardian of the landscape. How can new forms of agriculture

strengthen the landscape? Think of the relationship of agriculture with nature, but also of the



potential offered by new technology. This lab will also look at the areas where Brabant holds a leading position, such as having the largest forest in the Netherlands or the site-oriented approach taken by the Duinboeren Foundation.

## [...] **Economic Pillars**

For centuries, the Dutch landscape has been formed by its inhabitants' economic activities. Forest building, water mills, brickworks and monasteries have all contributed to the patchwork landscape of Brabant. But how about factories, industrial areas, logistics centres and wind turbines? Do they also contribute to an environment we love to live in? This lab explores the balance between economic development and the creation of an attractive landscape. The focus will lie on Landschapspark Pauwels near Tilburg. Does the creation of landscape parks offer any perspective? If so, what are the economic pillars?



## [...] **Productive Nature**

How can you optimise the earning power of a landscape, create value? Productive Nature looks especially at the trees in Brabant (poplar) for an answer to this question. The clog industry used to be the economic pillar of Brabant's poplar-rich landscape; these days, poplar can be used as a sustainable building material, with the additional advantage that it will stabilise CO2 emissions for a longer period. Bio-based building in the Netherlands could be a game changing development. Other topics that are explored here are tree cultivation, food forests and sustainable energy production.



## [...] **Our Energy, Our Landscape**

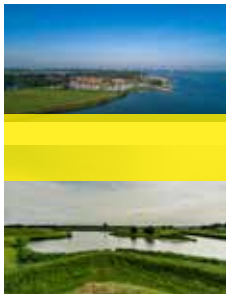
The Climate Agreement states that 50% of the energy transition will be executed with, and by, the community. Our Energy Our Landscape looks at how this participation can contribute to an attractive landscape in terms of energy



production. Can solar panels and wind parks act as a lever for landscape development? By realising 'wind forests' for example, or even by keeping valuable landscape structures using wind turbines? A coalition between Staatsbosbeheer and Ecco will investigate these questions.

**[...] Zuiderwaterlinie / Southern water line**

It is one of the largest structures in the province of Brabant: the Zuiderwaterlinie or Southern water line. A system of fortresses and small cities that was built in the 16th century by Menno van Coehoorn. The location on a border of clay and sand has created a beautiful aquatic landscape that offers many possibilities. Purpose of the Landscape Lab 'Zuiderwaterlinie' is to investigate the 'taste of the landscape' of the people that live and work in the area. This means research of the actual food that is produced in the region, but also of the design of the landscape in the past, present and future. The conversation will take place at the 'Zuiderwaterlinie table'. The table is a symbol of the eleven cities that are situated along the Southern water line.



**[...] Groenstad / Green city**

The greening of the urban area is high on the agenda of Brabantstad. One of the challenges for the future is to create living areas that generate value for the landscape. It is a



search for a green and living city with room for urban challenges such as accessibility, climate adaptation, health, recreation and an attractive business climate. The brooks and rivers in the area, and especially the river 'Mark', play an important in reaching this goal.

**[...] Datascapes**

The Climate Agreement states that 50% of the energy transition will be executed with, and by, the community. Our Energy Our Landscape looks at how this participation can contribute to an attractive landscape in terms of energy production. Can solar panels and wind parks act as a lever for landscape development? By realising 'wind forests' for example, or even by keeping valuable landscape structures using wind turbines? A coalition between Staatsbosbeheer and Ecco will investigate these questions.



**[...] Healing Landscape**

The mission of Healing Landscape is to increase support in communities for landscape as a healing power that contributes to the health of both people and nature. This lab looks particularly at the Van Gogh National Park, an area with great potential for linking landscape and healthcare. The ultimate aim is to create a grassroots movement that gives voice to the importance of health, in both people and nature.



**Regional partners**

Provincie Noord-Brabant | Rabobank | ZLTO | BrabantStad | Brabantse Delta | Waterschap De Dommel | Waterschap Aa en Maas | Brabant Water

**National partners**

NL Ingenieurs | BNSP | NVTL | Ministerie van BZK | Staatsbosbeheer | Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed | NVTL | CRa

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