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## PRESS RELEASE

# SWEET HARMONY

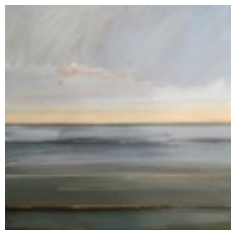
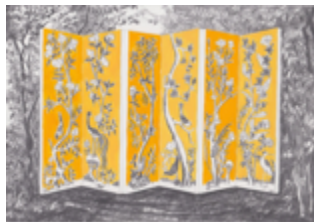
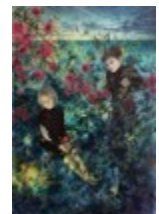
## Six contemporary artists in harmony with nature

Jackie Bongers Ineke de Brouwer Johan Elenbaas Rose de Groot Charlotte Houwing Michiel Paalvast  
March 19 until incl. June 25, 2023

### A fascinating Walk down Memory Lane

What these six artists have in common is that they are all looking for a balance of themselves in relation to nature. The way they try to achieve that harmony differs. For some of them the emphasis is on the materials used, the image resources, for others on the image, the result on canvas or paper. But for all of them, it is also a journey through their own inner self. A result of this can be seen in the Museum Domburg in six fascinating *Walks down Memory Lane*, which at the same time form a harmony in their entirety.

For example, **Ineke de Brouwer** has what could be called a dynamic Arts & Crafts approach, **Jackie Bongers** tries to grasp nature and translate it into her own constructions, and **Rose de Groot** looks for the right form to represent the *panta rhei* in grand sea images. His love for the Zeeland countryside and its products expresses **Johan Elenbaas** in atmospheric realistic paintings that seem almost tangible, seem to come very close. **Charlotte Houwing** seems to be seeking the intended harmony in an ideal world, starting from a reality that focuses on the representation of light as a primal source. Finally, **Michiel Paalvast** is the master of layering in his works shown here. Behind the interpretation of reality shown there may be another one.



## THE ARTISTS' COLONY DOMBURG

At the end of the nineteenth century, Domburg made name as a simple international Spa town, with the major attraction of the doctor and physiotherapist Johan Georg Mezger (1838-1909). After Mezger's death and the First World War (1914-1918), the town slowly changed into a family seaside resort for the middle class. For a long time its history remained hidden, but from the 1980s onwards Domburg is chronicled as an old style artist colony.

Of old, artists have roamed Walcheren, attracted as they were by the unspoiled beauty of the surroundings, the special light along the coast and its reflection on the country embraced by water. With a couple of Belgian painters such as Emile Claus, Euphrosine Beernaert and Camille Van Camp as forerunners round about 1870, the Artists' Colony Domburg came into a first bloom about 1900, experienced its hey-day during the period of the well-known Domburgsche Tentoonstellingen (1911-1921) and lasted until the end of the 1920s. The Artists' Colony Domburg came to a symbolic end when the 'Kunstzaal' collapsed as a result of violent storms in the winter of 1921–1922.

## THE MTVP MUSEUM

Since 1994, the Marie Tak van Poortvliet Museum Domburg ([marietakmuseum.nl](http://marietakmuseum.nl)) organises successful exhibitions on the participants in the old exhibitions, on contemporary artists who have ties with Zeeland and in addition, in the context of the mutual contacts between European Artists' Colonies, on other notable Colonies from the end of the 19th and the early 20th century. In the past years, the Museum co-operated with the ICEAC ([iceac.eu](http://iceac.eu)). The plans to expand the Museum and to connect it to the ICEAC are being elaborated, with the latter representing the scientific side of euroart ([euroart.eu](http://euroart.eu)). One endeavours to let the inauguration of the Research- and Documentation Centre coincide with the opening of the new Museum in 2024 or 2025.

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