

Netherlands Embassy and Consulates, China



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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## Triple Parade

### Contemporary Dutch jewellery exhibition in China

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**TRIPLE PARADE started with the idea to present six jewellery artists from the Netherlands to China. It covers the work of several generations of artists. And although the pieces, the approach, the material and the personalities of all artists involved are different, they have in common that all of them are educated at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. Education plays a significant role in the development of one's identity, and hence is an interesting angle for exploring the work of these artists.**

Last years there were several huge exhibitions in China on contemporary jewellery. During those exhibitions the Netherlands were represented by the works of many different artists. After those large presentations, the focus now is on scaling down, taking time to reflect and learning more about details. That is what the exhibition TRIPLE PARADE will explore.

TRIPLE PARADE is focused on three artists: Gijs Bakker, Lucy Sarneel and Jie Sun. All three of them found other artists from the Netherlands with whom they feel a connection. You will see why Gijs selected Dinie Besems, Lucy choose Manon van Kouswijk and Boris de Beijer is nominated by Jie Sun.

Of the list of artists Gijs Bakker stands out. He is not only famous for his avant-garde approach of jewellery from the sixties and onwards. But he has gained a reputation outside the jewellery field as a designer and the founder of Droog Design. For his designs the values and symbols of our society play important roles. The meaning of jewellery is not ornamentation. "I present them to the society not as a design object that should only be viewed. Since a piece of jewellery has a very strong relationship with body, and therefore with the person wearing it, it participates in the message he or she presents to the world." In other words, jewellery is the most personal of art forms and its intimate connection with human beings and bodies is inescapable.



A nice example of his approach is his 'Plastic Soup Bracelet', that will be on show at Triple Parade.

Non-degradable plastics are poisoning our oceans, wildlife and our own health. Straws are among the most polluting items;



Gijs Bakker, Plastic Soup Bracelet,  
2013, Plastic straws, gold plated,  
100x95x65mm

they are generally only used once for about 10 minutes while existing much longer than a lifetime. The 'Plastic Soup' bracelets, made from gold- or silver-plated melted straws, direct our attention to this environmental issue.

The work of Lucy Sarneel presents a different approach to jewellery. In a way you can say that through her work jewellery was rediscovered as an ornament, yet an artistic ornament, which was meaningful to the wearer in expressing his/her identity. Lucy used familiar symbols for love, protection and handicrafts, as well as forms relating to forgotten traditions, proverbs, popular motifs and themes from folklore. Airplanes, children's toys suddenly arise from the play of organic forms. The unexpected connection between the wondrous world and the reality of everyday.

Jie Sun's jewellery is exemplary to the idea that materials and techniques are not an aim in itself. His most recent work the Camouflage brooches, with their scaled colourful surfaces, show his expert skills in the modeling of wood and resin, Chinese lacquer and paint. These one-offs refer to fur and the colouring of animals, flowers and nature while their shapes are human - though in an abstract sense. Besides this he designed and created Shy, a limited edition collection of jewellery made from a silver alloy, stunning, super light and resembling a soft pleated fabric. Jie Sun has developed into a mediator between East and West, valuing the best in Chinese and European culture.

For many people jewellery is about decoration or precious materials. In this exhibition you will learn that the artist' approach is completely different. Their final aim is not to make ornaments, but to express their thoughts and ideas in art pieces, explore new materials and make something that in the end is wearable.

The exhibition will first be presented in Ubi Gallery, opened in the autumn of 2012 in the new design hub of Beijing (Dashilar) as the first gallery dedicated to contemporary jewellery. For the lecture programme we are proud to be working together with the jewellery department of CAFA and the CAFA Museum. Later this year the exhibition will be travelling to Shenzhen, to OCT Loft, an organisation dedicated to contemporary art and design and already the partner of Dutch institutes on many other projects.

The name of the exhibition is based on the famous saying of Confucius: "Even when walking in a party of just three, I can always be certain of learning from those I am with. There will be good qualities that I can select for imitation and bad ones that will teach me what requires correction in myself."

This exhibition has turned out to be a parade of adventurous, singular and well thought-out pieces, presented in unprecedented formations and unexpected appearances.

You are more than welcome to visit us and enjoy the exhibition and lectures!

Machtelt Schelling  
Owner of Ubi Gallery

Curator of Triple Parade  
[www.ubigallery.com](http://www.ubigallery.com)

## **See also**

UBI Gallery