



# Outdoor Art The Hague: The Zuiderpark Route

🕒 1,5 hrs walk

Start: Veluweplein, End: Sportcampus Zuiderpark

## INTRO

The population of The Hague grew enormously at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1908, architect and urban planner Berlage designed a large public park to offer workers and their families space for sports, recreation and education. This Zuiderpark opened its gates in 1936. Five years later, 200,000 visitors enjoyed the view of more than half a million flowers and more than fifty statues during the spring exhibition *Flowers and Pictures*. Two of those statues are still there.

Today there are about forty sculptures in the park: sculptures that were intended for this park, sculptures that previously stood in another place in the city, and for a few years now also sculptures that are part of *The Sculpture Gallery* in the center. Regularly artworks are added and sometimes they are moved to another location in the city. The Zuiderpark 'Open Air Museum' therefore has a changing collection.

Almost all sculptures fit so naturally into their environment that residents of Escamp often cycle or walk past them without noticing. The collection is usually still unknown to residents of other city districts. Time to draw extra attention to this special outdoor art collection of The Hague!

## MORE INFORMATION?

Would you like to know more about a work of art in the route?

Go to [bkdh.nl](http://bkdh.nl) and search by title, artist or by street on the map. The Zuiderpark Route takes you past 18 works of art. But there are still many more sculptures to be seen in the Zuiderpark. Curious?

Check [bkdh.nl](http://bkdh.nl).

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Start: Veluweplein  
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## Buitenkunst Den Haag: The Zuiderpark Route

Start: Veluweplein. ⌚ 1,5 hrs walk



### 1. *Woman and Man*

Corinne Franzén-Heslenfeld, 1945

Stand on the median strip with your back to the Veluweplein and look at the park. That is how Berlage intended it: an almost Paris-like park entrance. This avenue is just as impressive as the Lange Voorhout. And then those two huge statues on high pedestals, Speed and Victory. Not only in 1945, but even now the message is clear: this is the place to be for sports and games.



### 2. *Plaque Droogleevers Fortuyn*

Corinne Franzén-Heslenfeld, 1939

You can see here that Corinne Franzén-Heslenfeld could not only make large statues, but also work very precisely. Droogleevers Fortuyn meant a lot for the construction of the park (he opened the Zuiderpark Stadium with the kick-off in 1925). Later he became mayor of Rotterdam. On the left you see the port of Rotterdam and on the right the Hofvijver with the tower of Rutte and William of Orange on the Plein.

➤ Walk straight ahead, turn right into Henriëtte Roland Holstweg. Follow to the right until the bridge.



### 3. *Artificial fruitbowl, Banana*

Phil van de Klundert, 1975

On the lawn in front of the hospital on Leyweg, this banana, together with an apple, a pear, a tomato, and a bunch of grapes, formed a 'fruit bowl' for years. Van de Klundert had made his fruit so large that even for patients on the 15th floor it was quite clear: here lies fruit! But polyester does not last forever. Only the banana now reminds of the fruit bowl.



### 4. *Man*

Jan Snoeck, 1976

You will recognize Jan Snoeck's work from thousands. They are often somewhat worm-like ceramic figures in bright colours. At the entrance of the Sparta athletics track are three more sculptures of him. Snoeck's work makes you happy, also because of the brightly colored glaze. This seated man was first 'standing' in a schoolyard on the Van Vredenburgweg. You will automatically fill in body parts: head, nose, legs, feet. And a hat...

➤ Go back a little and take the path behind the playground.



### 5. *Jan Ligthartmonument 'Ot en Sien'*

Frits van Hall, 1930

Nowadays it is very different, but in the past children learned to read with a Jan Ligthart reading board (Aap, Noot, Mies, Wim, Zus, Jet) and with Jan Ligthart reading books, such as the *Close to Home* series. Jan Ligthart, a teacher in the Schilderswijk, wrote them together with Rieks Scheepstra. Ot and Sien play the leading

role in these reading books. They behave very well here in the park. How long will that last?



### 6. *Cat*

Gra Rueb, 1939

Here you see a nice relationship between pedestal and statue. At the corner of Marie Jungiusweg and Henriëtte Roland Holstweg, this cat from Gra Rueb looks us deep into the eyes from above. At first glance, it looks more like a formidable beast that could pounce on unwanted visitors at any moment than like a sociable purring pet. The elegant tail doesn't change that.

➤ Follow Henriëtte Roland Holstweg. Turn right for the pond.



### 7. *Flute player*

Lidy Buma van Mourik Broekman, 1941

The Villierskopje is the ideal location for wedding photos. Not all wedding couples will know that this mound consists of household waste from The Hague. Nor that this flute player plays the leading role in the bestseller from the early 20th century, *Orpheus in de dessa*, the famous novel by Augusta de Wit. It ends badly for the Indonesian boy, but here he still seduces people and animals with his fascinating sound.

➤ Continue towards the city farm.

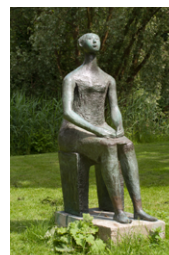


### 8. *Buck*

Peter Kortekaas, 1983

On the grounds of the city farm De Herweijerhoeve, the buck of Peter Kortekaas is located in the front left. It does not stand on a pedestal, but simply on the ground, as befits a buck. He is at child height. You can tell from his golden horns and fur that children are not afraid of him.

➤ Go back to Henriëtte Roland Holstweg, continue until the blue bridge on the right; cross the bridge and walk towards the Loevesteinlaan.



### 9. *Girl on bench*

Rudi Rooijackers, 1963

When you come out of the park, behind the blue benches you will immediately see *Girl on bench*. It's a girl to ask a lot of questions. Are you proud? Insecure? Shy? Stubborn? Were you born in Africa, in the Indies or in the Netherlands? Like many statues in the park, the girl looks different every season. This is due to the color of the reeds and the trees in the background.

➤ Walk back to Henriëtte Roland Holstweg and turn right.





10. *Sun*  
Aart van den IJssel, 1961

The sculptures of Van den IJssel often have something 'spiky'. Insects were his favorite subject for years. Many residents of Escamp still remember the meters long wall decoration by Van den IJssel on the wall of the demolished swimming pool Morgenstond on Loevesteinlaan. Twenty years ago this sun was still on the Guntersteinweg, but it has been shining here for years now near the Zuiderparktheater.



11. *Man and Woman*  
Bram Roth, 1964

Bram Roth once made this statue for the Municipal Employment Office on the Troelstrakade. Work is a party, it radiates. Like a dancing duo in a ballet studio, they revolve around each other so gracefully. The man has tools on his shoulder. Does the woman in an orchard catch apples with her apron? They are in a prime location here: on an elevation by the water and the orange Pharos building in the background.

Walk down the path towards Melis Stokelaan and then turn left.



12. *Gate*  
Roel Buijs, 2016

The park has also had a 'gate' at the Melis Stokelaan since 2016. Roel Buijs was inspired by the gates on Loevesteinlaan and Veluweplein. They look a bit strict, these square towers. Up close you can see that they consist of square surfaces where athletes have been saved. Those athletes are then attached to the plates on them. The higher, the more light surfaces in the towers.

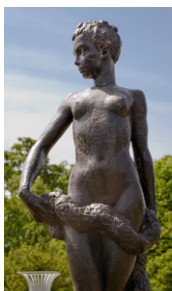
Walk between the athletics track and the sports campus to the Johanna Naberweg. Look diagonally to the left across the street.



13. *Three piece sculpture*  
Eric Boot, 1970

It looks like bronze, but when you tap it, you hear that it's plastic. From afar it looked like a one-piece statue; up close you see that it consists of three loose parts. The height of the pedestals is also important here. It is an ideal sculpture for a park. In a museum room it would look very different (and in your home it would hardly fit in the room).

Go to the Rose garden.



14. *Flora*  
Marian Gobius, 1945/1985

Gobius made this Roman goddess of spring from stone in 1945. Unfortunately, the statue was destroyed in the 1980s. But Gobius still had a mold of it and made a copy: now in bronze. You can still see from the large flower garland that it was originally a stone statue. Notice the way this *Flora* sees the world. This goddess stands her ground.



15. *Woman*  
Gra Rueb, 1941

Very occasionally on summer Sunday afternoons you see children playing on her knee. They shouldn't, but apparently she can take it. She has been sitting here in the middle of the flowerbed for over eighty years lost in thought. Probably her hands, feet and face all looked a bit more detailed in 1941. And look how pretty this lady sits on the floor. It just fits.



16. *Facade Sportcampus Zuiderpark*  
Faulkner Browns Architecten, 2017

Since 2007, ADO has been playing soccer on Prins Clausplein. The Zuiderpark Sports Campus now stands on the site of the old stadium. A steel polished edge runs around the building. No day, no hour of the same color. A piece of art!

Follow the Johanna Naberweg. On the right-hand corner you will see the *Open Depot* of *The Sculpture Gallery*. The arrangement on the forty pedestals on the Grote Markt/Spui changes every 1.5 to 2 years. In the *Open Depot*, the sculptures are now in the middle of green. Moreover, the facade of the sportcampus gives them a different background every moment.



17. *Eline Vere*  
Thom Puckey, 2012

*Eline Vere*, the novel by the famous Hague writer Louis Couperus, appeared in daily episodes in the newspaper *Het Vaderland* in 1888. The whole of The Hague sympathized with Eline's happiness and misfortune. And on December 4, 1888, you heard in the trams in The Hague in the morning: "Have you heard it yet? Eline passed away." The Hague was in shock. Thom Puckey portrays the death scene very realistically here.



18. *Little man with loose limbs*  
Tom Claassen, 2003

"Look mom, a little man!" the boy shouts enthusiastically, while he runs to the statue of Tom Claassen. He's right, it looks like a little figure, but it doesn't make you happy. His lower legs and forearms are missing. He can only wave a little with his arms. His legs can only move backwards. He never takes a step forward again. And yet, you can't suppress a smile.

## Colophon

Route and text: Piet Vernimmen,  
www.stadsgidsdenhaag.com  
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