



## Retrospective Bram Bogart with previously unseen work

18 February to 7 August 2022

Pasty, impressively thick layers of paint and works so attractive, and with such rich colours, from princely orange to bright blue, you want to touch them: this characterizes the work of one of the most important Dutch post-war artists, Bram Bogart (1921-2012). From 18 February 2022, the Museum Prinsenhof Delft will present a retrospective with more than thirty works by the internationally renowned Delft artist Bram Bogart. This exhibition pays tribute to Bogart more than a hundred years after his birth, in the city of his birth. He was the founder of Dutch *art informel* and a major model for Delft painters Jan Schoonhoven and Jan Henderikse. The exhibition *Bram Bogart. Painter of measure* presents a cross section of Bogart's idiosyncratic oeuvre, in which the city of Delft continued to play a significant role. The exhibition comprises a number of works from the private collection of the Van den Boogaart family, supplemented with works from leading national museums, such as the Kunstmuseum Den Haag and Centraal Museum Utrecht, as well as the Museum Prinsenhof Delft's own collection. Most of the paintings from the family's collection will be presented to the public for the first time.

The exhibition, which traces Bogart's development chronologically, shows how the physical surroundings and the conditions in which he lived influenced his art. From his figurative floral still lifes and landscapes in oil and a self-portrait, painted when he lived in Delft, via Paris, Rome, Brussels and Ohain to the Kortenbos, where he produced his late, monumental work, large in size and with paint becoming heavier, thicker and more colourful. It becomes clear how, starting in the 1950s, Bogart applied himself to abstract expressionism and matter painting. Remarkably, two important works from the family collection, *Bloemen*, from October 1939, one of his earliest works, and *Jean et Jeanne*, from 2011, his last painting, will be shown for the first time in the exhibition *Painter of measure*.

### Introductory film: Bogart's world

Unique photographic and film material from the large Van den Boogaart family archive offers visitors a private look into the artist's life. These images, combined with interview fragments and reflections on his work by people from his surroundings, together make up a brief introductory film. An evocation of his studio with original objects from his workshop enhances the sense of intimacy and shows how he, as his son Bram van den Boogaart Jr. says, "could push the paint to its limits".

### Love of Delft

A love of Delft is a recurring theme in the work of Bram Bogart. References to the city are a leitmotif of his oeuvre; in his works' titles and depictions, and in his use of colour. At Prinsenhof in 1984, for example, Bogart exhibited thirteen works with a blue-and-white colour combination, entitled *Les Bleus de Delft*, alluding to Delftware. In *Painter of measure*, too, the blue-and-white palette of *Vermeer* (2003), *De Prins* (1990) and *Prinsenhof* (1963) shows this colour combination to still be a recurring theme, while the titles refer to Delft.

## **Presentation *Our man in Paris*. Bogart's influence on Schoonhoven and his friends**

The presentation *Our man in Paris*, on Bogart's influence on Jan Schoonhoven and his friends Armando, Kees van Bohemen, Jan Henderikse and Henk Peeters, will open concurrently with the exhibition. Download the press release [here](#).

## **Publication**

Accompanying the exhibition, the Dutch-language publication *Bram Bogart. Schilder van formaat* will appear, presenting Bogart's colourful, idiosyncratic oeuvre in word and image. A personal interview with his son, Bram van den Boogaart Jr., and pictures from the private family archive offer a unique and intimate view into the life of this painter of measure. Published by Waanders Uitgevers, €18.95.

## **Activities alongside the exhibition**

On the occasion of the exhibition, the Museum Prinsenhof Delft is organizing the following activities:

- **Opening weekend, 19 and 20 February**

The Museum Prinsenhof Delft is organizing an informative programme for the opening weekend, including a lecture by curator Anita Jansen on Sunday at 14:00 and on Saturday, from 11:00, ongoing, a personal note on the works he loves best by Bram van den Boogaart Jr. A jazz combo at museum café Blauw will enhance the programme.

- **Visual arts class: materials and techniques**

The museum is organizing the one-day class *Beeldend*, on materials and techniques in the visual arts. Bogart experimented with a wide range of materials. No tubes and delicate brushes for him, but buckets full of paint, large brushes and trowels. After a guided tour, participants will set to work in the education studio under the guidance of an art teacher, and practice three different techniques.

- **Brunch with Bram**

The second Sunday of every month, from 11:00, visitors can have Brunch with Bram at museum café Blauw. After an introduction to the exhibition and a visit on one's own, visitors can engage in conversation during a delicious brunch with Bram's favourite flavours.

- **Open House, Tuesday, 15 March and 21 June**

In cooperation with Rabobank, the museum is presenting a new series of private Open House evenings, during which we will welcome and meet residents of Delft, with special activities to get to know the museum better.

For more information and online reservation, go to [www.prinsenhof-delft.nl](http://www.prinsenhof-delft.nl)

Captions (left to right):

1. Bram Bogart, Paris, 1960 rue Santeuil, ©Shunk-Kender CJ. Paul Getty Trust, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
2. Bram Bogart, Deyellowblue, 1973, Museum Prinsenhof Delft, photography Tom Haartsen, c/o Pictoright Amsterdam 2022

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Notes to editors (not for publication):

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## **Press pre-viewing, Thursday, 17 February, 09:00 a.m.**

On Thursday, 17 February, curator Anita Jansen, accompanied by Bram van den Boogaart Jr., will offer members of the press a guided tour of the exhibition. Members of the press can register for this guided tour ahead of time by contacting us at [pers-prinsenhof@delft.nl](mailto:pers-prinsenhof@delft.nl).