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One of the core activities of the Sikkens Foundation is to award the Sikkens Prize once every few years to people and institutions who the board considers make a special contribution to the aim of the Sikkens Foundation. The first Sikkens Prize was awarded in 1960 to the architect Gerrit Rietveld. This award was for his entire oeuvre, “insofar as this contributed to the achieving the synthesis between space and color.” In this respect the commission was thinking primarily of Rietveld’s first important structure, the Rietveld-Schröderhuis in Utrecht, in which the elements of composition were emphasized by the use of primary colors, revealing their architectural significance. Furthermore the use of color was consciously used as an architectural element in all his later buildings. He was followed by, amongst others, Le Corbusier (1963), Theo van Doesburg (1968) and Donald Judd (1993). A summary of the Sikkens Prizes awarded in the past decades shows that the majority were awarded to individual artists and architects known for their groundbreaking work in the field of the use of color. This also applies for the artist Krijn de Koning, who received the Sikkens Prize in 2007. However, the Sikkens Foundation does not restrict itself to the visual arts and architecture, but sees color, which is after all a universal phenomenon, in a very broad context. This is revealed, for example by the prize being awarded to The Hippies (1970), the State Department for the IJsselmeerpolders (1979), the film maker Ettore Scola (1983) and the cleaning department of the city of Paris (1995). Awarding the 2004 Sikkens Prize to the HEMA was also entirely in line with this approach.