

ERASMUS EXHIBITION

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MUSEUM BOIJMANS VAN BEUNINGEN, ROTTERDAM 2008

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Five hundred years after Erasmus wrote one of the most influential books in history with his *In Praise of Folly*, the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum presented a large-scale Erasmus exhibition.

Making a great exception, the Louvre loaned the sublime portrait by Hans Holbein de Jonge. Art works which were seen for the first time in the Netherlands came from New York, London, Madrid and other world cities. The paintings, drawings, prints and objects gave an insight into Erasmus's ideas and revealed his influences on art and society.

Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus (1466-1536) was famous throughout Europe in his own lifetime. This exhibition collected together portraits of Erasmus by the best artists of his time: Quinten Massys, Hans Holbein de Jonge and Albrecht Dürer. Letters and documents showed that Erasmus kept a tight control over the way in which he was depicted. The exhibition also devoted attention to subjects which were important to him: scholarship and education, war and peace, church and art.

The design of the exhibition was the result of the special collaboration between the graphic designer Tessa van der Waals and the artist Krijn de Koning, who won the Sikkens Prize in 2007. The exhibition architecture was sponsored by the Sikkens Foundation.