

# FACT SHEET GRONINGER MUSEUM 2025

Groninger Museum  
Museumeland 1  
Postbox 90  
9700 ME Groningen  
The Netherlands  
+31 (0)50 366 6555  
[www.groningermuseum.nl/en](http://www.groningermuseum.nl/en)  
[info@ Groninger Museum .nl](mailto:info@ Groninger Museum .nl)



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## History of the Groninger Museum

- The Provinciaal Kabinet van Oudheden (Provincial Collection of Antiquities) was founded in 1874 and in 1891 became the Groninger Museum van Oudheden (Groninger Museum of Antiquities), today known simply as the Groninger Museum.
- In 1891 the new Groninger Museum moved into temporary accommodation on Ubbo Emmiusstraat in anticipation of the opening of its new building on Praediniussingel.
- In 1894 the Groninger Museum on Praediniussingel opened to the public.
- On 29 October 1994, Queen Beatrix officially opened the new Groninger Museum building on Museumeland.
- The museum became independent on 1 October 1996.
- On 19 December 2010, the museum reopened after a renovation.

## Organisation

### Board of Trustees

Mr S. (Sander) Prinsen (chair)  
Ms C. (Cathy) Jager  
Mr K. (Koen) Perik  
Ms C. (Charlotte) Wekker

### Artistic director

Ms R. (Roos) Gortzak

### Business director

Mr J.G. (Jan Geert) Vierkant

## New Groninger Museum building

### Architects

- Chief architect: Alessandro Mendini
- Guest architects 1994: Philippe Starck, Michele de Lucchi and Coop Himmelb(l)au
- Guest architects 2010: Studio Job, Maarten Baas and Jaime Hayon
- In partnership with: Team 4 Architecten, Albert Geertjes and Geert Koster

Besides being an architect, Alessandro Mendini (b. 1931, Milan; d. 2019, Milan) was also a designer, artist, theorist and poet. His collaboration with other designers and architects gave us the series of pavilions, each with its own atmosphere, that house the museum's collections and exhibitions.

Mendini's basic design consists of three simple, austere building volumes that sit lengthwise in the water of the Verbindingskanaal, linked by corridors. Each volume is made up of multiple pavilions positioned on top of or beside each other. Each pavilion's exterior materials and decoration hint at what can be seen inside: cultural history, applied art, fine art, design. The Groninger Museum is regarded as a national and international highlight of postmodern architecture.

A renovation in 2010 gave the building back its original lustre. All the colours were restored, and Maarten Baas, Studio Job and Jaime Hayon revamped the interior, respectively designing the Mendini Restaurant, Job Lounge and InfoCenter. Hayon also designed the new studio and a discovery space in 2015. The Groninger Museum acquired the *Grand Stairwell Installation* by the American artist Dale Chihuly in 2019. The largest purchase in the museum's history, the work is on permanent display. The building contains more than 5,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space.

### **Mission statement**

The Groninger Museum is extroverted, individualistic and colourful. Its collections and exhibitions constitute its heart. All its activities are geared to the public. The Groninger Museum seeks to amaze the broadest possible audience, encourage people to form opinions, and invite them to visit often.

### **Collections**

- Groningen archaeology and history
- Fine art from 1500 to 1950
- Art after 1950
- Current and contemporary art, design, photography and fashion
- Ceramics

### **Employees**

Staff members of the GM: 95.

### **Who's who at the Groninger Museum**

Artistic director: Roos Gortzak

Business director: Jan Geert Vierkant

Curator of 20th-Century and Contemporary Art: Ruud Schenk

Curator of Asian Ceramics: Lecong Zhou

Curator of De Ploeg: Anneke de Vries

Curator of Groningen Cultural History: Edgar Pelupessy

Head of security: Sietse Bijsterveld

Head of Collections: Marlon Steensma

Head of Communication, Public Relations and Marketing: Karina Smrkovsky

Head of Education and Public Information: Ellis Hendriksen

Head of Facilities Management: Henk Jelijs

Head of Financial Department: Harm Grooten

Head of Personnel and Organisation: Jeanine Bekker

### **Patrons**

- Fonds 21
- Groninger Museum Salon
- J.B. Scholtenfonds
- Ministerie OCW
- Mondriaan Fonds
- Cultuurfonds
- Rabobank
- Stichting Beringer Hazewinkel
- Stichting De Ploeg
- Stichting Fondsbeheer Culturele Relatie-evenementen Gasunie/GasTerra

- Vereniging Rembrandt
- Vereniging Vrienden van het Groninger Museum
- VriendenLoterij
- VSB Fonds
- ELJA Foundation

### **Admission fees**

Adults	€ 16,50*
CJP cardholders, students	€ 10
Museumkaart cardholders	Free*
Visitors 18 and under	Free
Friends of the Groninger Museum	Free
Vriendeloterij VIP Card holders	Free
Rembrandtpas cardholders	Free
ICOM members	Free
Stadjespas cardholders (one visit per year)	Free
Wheelchair user's companion	Free

\*For some exhibitions an allowance is asked

### **Visitors**

The Groninger Museum receives an average 200,000 visitors each year.

### **Social media**

The Groninger Museum is active on X (82,071 followers), Facebook (30,000 followers) and Instagram (7511 followers), LinkedIn (9452 followers) and TikTok (3730 followers).

Figures from 2 January 2025

### **Opening hours**

The Groninger Museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays and on Dutch public holidays from 10am to 5pm. It is closed on Thursday 25 December 2025 and open on Friday 26 December 2025 from 10am to 5pm. It is closed on Thursday 1 January 2026. Open on Mondays during school holidays.

### **Menkemaborg, Uithuizen**

The Groninger Museum has owned the Menkemaborg estate and the surrounding gardens since 1921. The house is furnished with 17th- and 18th-century objects from the museum's collection. Address: Menkemaweg 2, Uithuizen.

### **Wall House #2**

The Groninger Museum programmes the unique Wall House #2, designed by the architect John Hejduk. It stages small design exhibitions there as an instrument for talent development. Wall House #2 is located beside the Hoornse Meer lake in Groningen. Address: A.J. Lutulistraat 17, Groningen.