



## NEWSLETTER ART MONTH AMELAND

End of Year 2025

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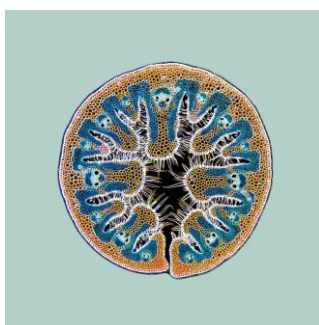
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### A Foreword

With this final newsletter of the year, we conclude Art Month Ameland 2025.

The island once again celebrated art and culture for a month, with exhibitions, music, films, lectures, and encounters that brought visitors and artists together. The theme "PERSPECTIVE" provided direction: how do we view art, each other, and the world around us?



Publicity image Art Month Ameland 2025  
Rob van Es

This year, we welcomed more than 5,500 visitors from the Netherlands and abroad. They discovered works by over 80 international artists, spread across unique locations on Ameland – from churches and museums to unexpected spots in the landscape. This Art Month offered space for new perspectives: a painting that gives you a fresh perspective on the horizon, an



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installation that invites you to reflect on reuse, and a concert that opens your mind.

In this newsletter, various people share their reflections on November.

We are grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, the support of our partners, and the hospitality of the Ameland community. Without them, Art Month Ameland wouldn't exist. With this introduction, we not only want to thank you for your presence and involvement, but also invite you to take the perspective you've gained here with you into the new year. Art continues to teach us that there are always multiple ways to see, feel, and understand. We hope to welcome you back to Ameland in 2026 – for another month full of art, encounters, and new perspectives.

**A personal note from Pieter Smit, director of Ameland Art Month:** For me, Ameland Art Month is always more than just a month of art. It's a place where people meet, where unexpected conversations arise, and where art sometimes touches you in ways you can't explain. Ameland has become colorful in November.

I hope you, too, experienced a memorable moment this year—a work that moved you, an inspiring encounter, or simply the feeling of being together on this special island. With this final newsletter of the year, we conclude Ameland Art Month 2025. The theme "PERSPECTIVE" gave us new perspectives and special encounters this year. But while we look back, we also look ahead: in 2026, Ameland Art Month will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Thirty years in which art and the island have intertwined, in which thousands of visitors have found their way to Ameland, and in which artists from the Netherlands and abroad have shared their work in unique locations. The anniversary year will be a moment to reflect on this rich history and to open up new perspectives together.

We warmly invite you to remain a part of this story. Because Kunst-maand Ameland is more than just an art event; it's a community of creators, visitors, volunteers, and islanders who together create something special.





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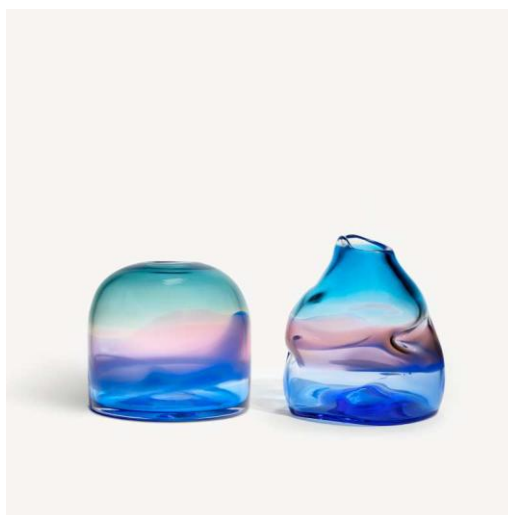
**Several retrospectives from Ameland Art Month enthusiasts**

### Looking Back – Niek Geelhoed

Art Month 2025 is over. I saw many beautiful things (and always things that are less appealing) during my week on Ameland.

It's always striking: people with the Art Month booklet can be found everywhere on the island in November. But we also see full restaurants and crowds on the boat. Art Month is alive and well, especially among the older generation. Connecting with the artists is always a pleasant experience. Through workshops or simply as an "attendant." Or, if that doesn't work, a video about how they work. You can see the results, but how do they do it? And what motivates them to create something like this? Many people are happy to talk about it with enthusiasm. It adds something extra.

Although we already have quite a bit of art at home and practically say there's no room for more, we still succumbed to something beautiful. That Kosta Boda glassware is absolutely beautiful. And the glass looks stunning in the room with the natural light streaming in from behind. For us, a nice souvenir of Art Month 2025.



### What can art inspire?



At Museum Sorgdrager in Hollum, artist Monika Loster created an impressive, bright red textile installation entitled 'Growth'.

She told me the following:

"Yesterday I heard so many warm words from the museum team, and they shared enthusiastic reactions with the visitors.

It was the best reward for all the hard work."

That countless visitors were so inspired, not only by her installation but also by the mixed media wall art pieces that explore the relationship







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between individuals and their environment, is what Kunstmaand should be about. Wonder, joy, but also contemplation, and sometimes even irritation; art should evoke all of these. In my opinion, that's when an art event is a success.

Renée Korbee – Artistic Director Kunstmaand Ameland

### It was a blast

I participated in Ameland Art Month for the first time, and I had a blast. What struck me most was how many visitors came to see my seven-panel exhibition featuring microscopic photographs of salt-loving mudflat plants in Ameland State, and almost everyone wanted to know more. This led to many interesting connections. The workshops I gave provided a deeper understanding. Participants worked with microscopes and mudflat plants, with the photo series as a backdrop. A beautiful combination that consistently attracted a lot of attention.

But it wasn't just with the public that I developed fascinating connections. Agreements were made with participating fellow artists for joint projects. And – how special – the Ameland Nature Center adopted my seven-panel exhibition, ensuring that the mudflat plant series on Ameland will remain in the spotlight until the end of 2026.



All very nice, of course, but the most special thing about this month was the visitors who more than once stammered and sometimes became emotional in front of the seven-panel exhibition. "I never knew plants could be so beautiful inside. All those details... This isn't nature anymore, this is art." Right on the mark.

Rob van Es  
[www.robvanes.nl](http://www.robvanes.nl)





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### Museum attendants – walking – cycling; over a month together on Ameland

“Will I be able to plan my hip surgery so that I'll be able to walk well again, and cycle well again, by November 1st?” That was the question Rietje asked the orthopedic surgeon at the beginning of June. Yes, she did, and everything went exceptionally well and smoothly. Everyone, family and friends, knows that Art Month is written in capital letters on our calendars.

Halfway through the year, we start to get excited. Do we already know which artists have been selected this year? Where are the museum attendants needed? And the closer we get to November 1st, the more we're preparing.

This year was another success. Beautiful weather for the first two weeks. Lots of interest. High-quality art. Many interested Ameland visitors. Family and friends dropping by. All the tours were more than full.

In short... on to the 30th edition of Art Month Ameland.

Rietje & Anton Dona

### Art Month 2025 – Attendants



Attorneys are indispensable during Art Month Ameland. Fortunately, there were 126 attendants this year. They are the cornerstones and are hosts at the venues. One of the reactions from Art Month visitors hits the nail on the head:

"We would love to come and be an attendant next year and thus contribute to the survival of this event. Save the date for 2026!"

Visitors from the west of the Netherlands arrived at the gallery asking: Where can we buy tickets? Our answer caused surprise and provoked the response: "That's impossible!"

In short, we look back on a wonderful Art Month and are happy that we were able to staff all the venues thanks to all the attendants. Every cry for help, when an attendant suddenly became unavailable, was met with immediate responses. Thank you to all the attendants for your dedication. But also for your input on improvements and sometimes for enduring the cold at the venues.

Marian and Harry





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### Ameland Artists

Art Month 2025 was a wonderful, successful, and atmospheric November for the Ameland Artists. Twenty-five Ameland Artists exhibited their artwork at "Ritskemoei" in Buren. Over 5,300 art lovers visited the exhibition space. More than 120 artworks were sold!



The Ameland Artists welcomed the many visitors with great pleasure and attention. They acted as hosts amidst their artistic expressions, encompassing various disciplines.

In 2026, the Ameland Artists (AK) will celebrate their 15th anniversary. An artistic journey full of creative development and professionalism.

Since 2020, the Ameland Artists have been exhibiting, in addition to other exhibitions, permanently online on their website.

[www.amelanderkunstenars.nl](http://www.amelanderkunstenars.nl)

### Three locations, three observations

Some artists employ the legitimate slogan "my art speaks for itself, my work needs no explanation." Other artists, however, prefer to explain, also in text, the perspective from which their work originates. In both cases, the visitor experiences the art in their own way.

Below is a description of three observations (at my favorite locations) of how visitors were invited to understand, interpret, and appreciate the exhibited art.

At Buitenruimte Grijpstra (Ballum), I, along with other visitors, enjoyed Foekje Grijpstra's enthusiastic explanation of the work of Wilhelmina Zoutewelle and how Wilhelmina translates people's paper history into beautiful contemporary (wall) objects. Foekje's contribution reinforced my appreciation for the work.

At Duinoord (Nes), I and two friends visited the intriguing work of the art collective 0000 artcollective. While discussing their zero art, my friend K. mentioned that he was gradually gaining a better understanding of the art, which initially had no connection with him.







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Allie van Altena's work was displayed in the Mennonite church (Nes). I saw how some visitors turned their heads at first sight of the Antibodies skeleton drawings.

Other visitors, often at the suggestion of the attendants, decided to read Allie's text and/or take the time to observe and understand the perspective from which the series originated.

A quote from the guestbook:

".....Take your time.....let it sink in. Peace descends upon me, let it happen!! I find it very special."

### From Sweden to Hollum: Kristina Digman's art at De Griffel

After a two-day drive, we arrived on Ameland last October: myself, my sister Malena, and our friend—and excellent driver—Örjan. We spent three wonderful days on your beautiful island and were impressed by how open and friendly everyone was.



My paintings were given the best possible spot in restaurant De Griffel in Hollum. We were incredibly happy with our stay, even though it was actually far too short. If we ever return, we will definitely stay longer so we can see more art.

I am deeply impressed by this annual event and

grateful to have been able to participate in Art Month November.

Thanks to Pieter, Herrinette, Renée, Frank, and everyone who contributed.

See you soon ♥ Thank you,  
Kristina Digman,  
Sweden





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The Kunstmaand organization asked us for a few words. Yes. Where do you even begin after such a wonderful month with so many familiar faces? Thanking them? No need, because they know how grateful we are. Looking back? Oh dear, so much has happened.

What a wonderful month it was. All regulars. We didn't count them.

Some always had the same thing: cappuccino with nut cake AND whipped cream, others the annual pea soup. As a

team, we sometimes say: "We're going to play musical chairs again." Grateful that it went well again this year. There's room for everyone.

Every year, a prime location with regulars like guards, artists, Germans, Frisians (just speak Frisian), family, acquaintances, and friends. Some even bring us presents; they're so happy to be back.

We sometimes say that we're Kunstmaand all year round. And that's true, always connecting with art, nice people, and of course, delicious food. That's our target audience.

We hope to continue this for many years to come and see each other again every year. That's a blessing.

Team Koaikershuus Ameland

### A huge undertaking

I look back with mixed feelings. It was a huge undertaking for me to display all the works. The reactions from the entrepreneurs were mostly positive. I had expected sales, and Renée was also surprised that I didn't sell anything.

Reactions to the sculpture route were mixed; some found it interesting to have to "search" for the sculptures. Others found it inconvenient. At Kiewiet, visitors walked into the shop because they couldn't see the artwork. Still, something to consider.



Sincerely,  
Paul Funcken



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### Art Month is over again

What a special event you have every year! Such a variety of artworks in so many special places.

And it was so busy, despite the bad weather.

I spent a few days on Ameland around the 17th. (.....)



And of course, I looked at my work in the Dutch Reformed Church. Very pleasantly surprised! What a place for my drawings! Goosebumps!

My work takes on a kind of added value in that church. Having been raised Catholic, it reminded me of the Stations of the Cross.

The light in the church is also fantastic. In hindsight, I should have framed my drawings with anti-reflective glass. But the reflection of

the windows in the drawings was also quite special.

I would like to thank you very much for all the work you put into making it this way.

I will pick up my work in Dokkum on the 13th.

Kind regards, Tom van der Ouderaa



### A Thank You

As this edition of Kunstmaand Ameland draws to a close, we look back with gratitude on a month full of creativity and connections.

What makes this Kunstmaand Ameland special is not only the work that shone, the music that filled the space, the films and conversations that told stories, and the tours that opened new perspectives, but above all the people who carried it all. Their energy, dedication, and belief in the power of art gave this edition its shape and substance.

Our sincere thanks go out to all the artists, volunteers, organizers, attendants, venue owners,



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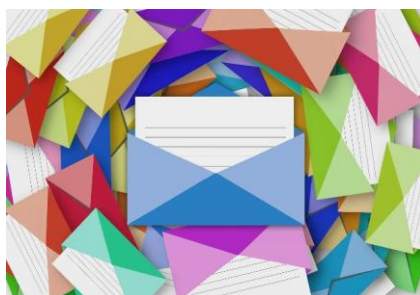
entrepreneurs, (business) partners, sponsors, and others who dedicated themselves with heart and soul.

Your involvement ensured that visitors could see, experience, enjoy, and discover from a variety of perspectives.

Thanks to your efforts, Kunstmaand Ameland has once again become a place where art connects, surprises, and inspires.

We greatly appreciate your contribution and hope to welcome you again next year for a new edition full of fresh perspectives.

Management and Board of Directors, Kunstmaand Ameland Foundation



### **Adjusted availability**

In the coming months, we will be operating with adjusted availability. We will be less often in person, but we will remain available by email for questions and information, although it may sometimes take a little longer to receive a response.

Thank you for your understanding



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### End-of-Year Perspective

As the year turns its final page, we look back on an Art Month full of

encounters, inspiration, and new insights. Art has shown us once again this year that multiple perspectives exist—that beauty, wonder, and connection can be found everywhere, if we look for them.

With this in mind, we wish you a wonderful end-of-year season: full of warmth, light, and space to reflect on what is precious. May 2026 bring you new perspectives and another opportunity to experience art together on Ameland.



### 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of Ameland Art Month



In 2026, Ameland Art Month will celebrate its 30th anniversary. For three decades, the island has brought art, nature, and culture together in unique locations. This anniversary year will be a moment where history and the future collide.

The title of Ameland Art Month 2026 will be announced in mid-December on our website and social media channels. Artists can register to participate in the anniversary year via the website from that date.







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### Become a Friend of the Art Month?



Friends support the Art Month every year.

You can become a Friend of the Art Month by choosing from two packages.

A package that costs you € 30 per year or a package for which you pay € 80 per year. The difference between these packages is explained on our website. You can also find the registration form here.

Would you like to become a Friend together with others who are now

Friends of the Art Month and

thereby financially support the Art Month? Then register!

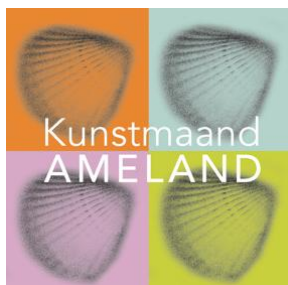
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