Climbing the Ladder

Database Mapping 2021

DutchCu|ture
Each year, DutchCulture tracks the international events that Dutch artists and cultural organisations produce and take part in abroad. This helps us understand the cultural impact of Dutch art around the world. This mapping provides an overview of the scope, scale, and characteristics of the Dutch International cultural presence.

Over the past year, the cultural sector has begun to climb the ladder into a post-Covid world. This year’s mapping examines the extent to which the cultural sector was able to enter this new world and looks at the road ahead.
Cultural Participation Across the Globe

In 2021, we tracked 8,278 international cultural activities by Dutch artists and cultural organisations across the globe. 2,473 artists and organisations participated in events in 1,568 cities across 93 countries.

Covid continued to affect cultural activities in 2021. The number of international cultural activities tracked in 2021 is roughly the same as in 2020. This is about half the number of activities that took place in pre-Covid years.

Nevertheless, artists from all artistic disciplines participated in activities across six continents. Europe remains the dominant area, with over 60% of activities taking place there.

Top 50 destinations for Dutch cultural activities abroad.

This map shows the distribution of activities across different countries.

○ = Focal Country
At first glance, the number of activities (roughly the same as 2020) suggests that no progress has been made in 2021. However, upon closer inspection we see that, although the total number of activities remained roughly the same, the number of in-person activities was significantly higher in 2021 than in 2020. With 87% of activities (at least partially) in-person, the cultural sector has made significant steps up the ladder towards a post-Covid world.
Artistic Disciplines

Artists from all disciplines continue to be internationally active. While music remains the top discipline, this is the second year in a row that the number of music events has declined in proportion to other events (from 50% in 2019 to 40% in 2020 and to 28% in 2021). This is likely due to the fact that large concerts and music festivals are recovering slower than many other cultural activities due to the mass-gathering nature of the events.
In 2021, we tracked international cultural activities by 2,473 Dutch artists and organisations from 197 different Dutch towns and cities. The spread of internationally-active artists across Dutch provinces remained quite stable. While artists from every province were internationally active, the four major metropolitan areas (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague, Utrecht) remain strongholds for internationally-active artists, accounting for 68% of activities.

**Most Active Cities**

1. Amsterdam
2. Rotterdam
3. Utrecht
4. The Hague
5. Eindhoven
6. Breda
7. Groningen
8. Maastricht
9. Arnhem
10. Nijmegen
11. Obbicht & Papenhoven
12. Tilburg
13. Amersfoort
14. Hilversum
15. Haarlem
16. Alkmaar
17. Veenendaal
18. Bussum
19. Delft
20. Zoetermeer
21. Ede
22. Dordrecht
23. Enschede
24. Den Bosch
25. Hoofddorp
26. Boxtel
27. Leeuwarden
28. Zundert
29. Almere
30. Doorn
Major metropolitan areas continue to serve as a hub for international cultural activities. In 2021, the top cities for Dutch international cultural activities were Moscow, Berlin, New York, Seoul, and Paris. Of the different cultural venues, festivals play a major role in attracting Dutch artists, making up approximately 25% of all international venues in 2021.
About the DutchCulture Database

The DutchCulture Database tracks the international activities of cultural organisations and artists from the Netherlands. This helps us understand the cultural impact of the Netherlands in other countries. We collect information on international cultural activities with the help of our partners at the Dutch embassies and consulates, the Dutch cultural funds, directly from artists and cultural organisations, and through our own desk research.

This year we introduced the MyDC Portal. The MyDC User Portal is a new feature that allows Dutch or Dutch based artists and cultural organisations to add and edit their own page and activities directly on our website and in our database.

Disclaimer: we strive to make our database as comprehensive as possible, however we recognise that we are not able to capture every international cultural event and our database is not intended to be exhaustive.
Colophon

To find out more or to search the DutchCulture Database go to: www.dutchculture.nl

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