Entering Orbit

Database Mapping

2022

DutchCulture
INTRODUCTION

The DutchCulture Database tracks the work of Dutch artists and cultural organisations around the world. The aim of the database is to look at the overall trends in how Dutch artists move through the world internationally. This helps us understand the Netherlands’ cultural impact around the world.

In 2022, we saw a strong start to recovery after two years of travel and gathering restrictions. Activity levels have risen and artists once again have the ability to travel internationally at near ‘normal’ levels, although world events continue to affect international collaborations. This year we explore the theme of how Dutch artists are finding their ‘new orbit’ in a transforming international cultural field, amongst the changes and challenges of the past few years.

Want to learn more about the DutchCulture Database? Click here.
In 2022, we tracked 14,409 cultural activities by Dutch artists and cultural organisations around the globe. 2,963 Dutch artists and organisations were involved in cultural projects in 2,548 cities in 113 countries. With nearly twice as many activities as the previous two years, this is the first year we have seen strong recovery in international cultural participation. Likewise, only 3% of activities were online in 2022, indicating that live activities are once again in full-force.

Activities in Russia are based on distanced events (such as book translations or exhibitions that began in 2021 and remained set up into 2022).
All cultural disciplines have been internationally active in 2022. Music, in particular, saw a large return of activities in 2022, following two years of diminished activities. Our two newest disciplines (added in 2020), 'Sustainability & Urbanism', and 'Art & Science', also saw significant growth.
In 2022, 2,963 artists and cultural organisations participated in cultural activities abroad. We tracked artists from 232 Dutch cities and towns. The four main Randstad cities continue to act as clusters for internationally active artists, holding 67% of all internationally active artists.

The number of Dutch artists working abroad increased by 8% from last year and the number of internationally active Dutch cities increased 18%. This is another indication that international cultural activities are returning to their pre-Covid levels.
Over 7,000 venues hosted Dutch artists and organisations across 2022. Events such as festivals, biennales, fairs, and conferences continue to act as focal points, attracting Dutch artists. Above are the top 50 cultural events based on the number of activities at each event.
Major metropolitan areas remain key hubs for Dutch artists. Across disciplines, the most popular cities in 2022 were Berlin, Paris, London, New York, and Tokyo.

Dutch artists participated in all sorts of cultural activities in 2022. Concerts and screenings are by far the most frequent. However, it is important to keep in mind that other activity types, while less frequent, may be longer in duration or larger in scope. For instance, a month-long exhibition, week long conference, or book translation.

*Activities in Russia are based on distanced events (such as book translations or exhibitions that began in 2021 and remained set up into 2022)
The top countries remain quite stable, with Germany, the United States, Belgium, France, and the United Kingdom retaining their top spots. Nine of the eleven disciplines grew in size this year, another indicator of a returning international cultural scene.
The DutchCulture Database collects information from a variety of sources. These include our partners at the Dutch embassies and consulates, Dutch cultural foundations, directly from artists and organisations, and through our own desk research. We would like to thank our partners for their help collecting this information.

Through our MyDC portal, artists and organisations can add activities directly to the database. In the last year, we have seen significant growth of the portal, with over 300 new MyDC users.

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.

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<th>NUMBER OF NEW MYDC USERS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF NEW ARTISTS</th>
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