XEM CANDAN VERMEIJ

Ever since I was young, I have wanted to tell stories.
It has always been about moving people, about touching them emotionally. I want to tell a story in such a way that you can recognize yourself in it, that it becomes tangible. These are my own stories, or those of others. Within the visual arts, my mediums are photography, film, and collage art. Outside of the visual arts, I work as a theatre maker, dancer, and poetry writer. Through storytelling, I aim to create awareness as a maker for the many narratives that exist within our generation. What interests me is the shared story of a generation that I gradually uncover. What is a story in which multiple people can see themselves reflected, and how does it relate to the spirit of our time? As a maker, I continually ask myself what the best way is to tell a story: How can I make something tangible for my audience? I am constantly searching, improving myself, and experimenting with new forms. My work is always shaped through dialogue between myself and the people I collaborate with. I believe that art emerges through cooperation and multiple perspectives. Within this process, I take on the role of artistic director. Everything I create is built as a collage. Whether I am making theatre, writing poetry, or creating a photographic series, the process remains the same. I begin with separate elements that, at first glance, seem unrelated. I search for the connections between these fragments and bring them together into a cohesive whole. In this way, my visual language remains consistent, and there is always an overlap in the artistic choices I make. All the media I work with keep me fresh and alert and contribute to my own unique authorship. My work is a reflection on authenticity and on the people around us. My art is always grounded. I do not seek something elevated or distant, but rather the beauty that my audience can recognize and see themselves in. I create work that needs an audience. I want to make performances and exhibitions. A story never has to be about my audience for them to understand it; it is about recognizing a part of yourself, a struggle, a joy, an experience.

WEBSITES

Portfolio

xemvermeij.myportfolio.com/autonoom-1

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/xem.cv/

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

De stadswacht

EDUCATION

2021 - 2022 Poetry perdu Amsterdam

2021 - 2025 Illustration Design Zwolle, CABK/ARTEZ Academie voor Beeldende Kunst diploma

2020 - 2021 Prep Year HKU bredebasis opleiding diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2026 Saxion art price Saxion Deventer Deventer, Netherlands An art award presented to a graduating student from an art academy in Overijssel. www.saxnow.nl/nieuws/2026/juni/xem-vermeij-wint-saxion-kunstprijs-door-deze-kunst-druk-ik-de-turkse-nationaliteit-van-mijn-vader-niet-langer-van-mij-weg
Group

2025 The Hague Media awards 2025 Grey Space den haag, Netherlands An evening in which artists from The Hague are put in the spotlight. I won the award for Best Young Artist of The Hague under the age of 25. www.haagsemediaawards.nl/
Group

2025 I hope that you will find me. Rabarber Den Haag den haag, Netherlands An exhibition of my graduation

PROJECTS

2026 descent Korzo & Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) Den Haag , Netherlands vimeo.com/822676996/f66bb17857
A collaboration that began with the project Playground by Theater Korzo, together with dancer Zeph van der Beek. We tell our story through dance, theatre, and spoken word. The work explores where we come from our roots, the bond we have with them, and how we carry them with us. In a society where more and more people hold multiple nationalities, we question what the concept of origin or heritage still means to us today. We take you along into our personal interpretation of origin. Parents, surroundings, friends, and the experiences that shape us. The struggle of navigating between different nationalities. Where do you find yourself?

project. xemvermeij.myportfolio.com/ik-hoop-dat-jij-mij-vindt
Solo

2024 We're setting off on a journey and bringing it all along Grey space den haag, Netherlands An exhibition with my art academy class focused on our travel project. thegreyspace.net/
Group

2022 Screening de programering op het DaDa art festival. Theater de nieuwe regentes Den haag The film explores the frustration we experience in the digital age. The increasing use of screens and the algorithms that surround and observe us. Are we slowly becoming trapped between the screen and reality? Created for the DaDa Art Festival at Theater De Nieuwe Regentes. xemvermeij.myportfolio.com/de-programmering-1
Group

2022 Forgotten progression Expositie Amalia van Solms, Museum Prinsenhof Delft A collaboration with Museum Prinsenhof Delft Sint Agathaplein 1, 2611 GH The piece was part of the exhibition Amalia: Ambition with Allure, 16 September 2022, 8 January 2023. This work told the story of a woman who played a significant role in Dutch history. Despite her impact, her name can never be found in our history books. I was invited to reflect on this subject in relation to our contemporary society. The piece was a tribute to the modernday woman and to motherhood. With thanks to Museum Prinsenhof Delft.
www.museumprinsenhofdelft.nl/tentoonstellingen/amalia-ambitie-met-allure
Group

COMMISSIONS

2026 illustration's Hard hoofd Nederland Multiple illustration's for Hard hoofd Magazine hardhoofd.com/roze-wit-blauw/ finished

2026 BLCKBX Jeugd theatergroep Rabarber Den haag , Netherlands Since 2023, I have had the honor of collaborating with Theaterschool Rabarber in The Hague. Here, I work as a teacher and director of the theatre production BLCKBX. In BLCKBX, I collaborate with young people aged 17–27. We explore what they want to express, developing and supporting their own creative authorship. Throughout this process, we work together towards a performance. In this production, we tell the stories of Generation Z.
www.rabarber.net/talentontwikkeling finished

2025 Illustration's Zam magzine Amsterdam , Netherlands Illustrations for Zam magazine, multiple assignments since 2023. www.zammagazine.com/ finished

2025 Afgezanten Kortenbos gaat los Den Haag, Netherlands An performance for kortenbos gaat los, festival, 2025. www.kortenbosgaatlos.nl/ finished

2025 Tattoo theater mascini Amsterdam , Netherlands an performance on the poetry evening. www.theatermascini.nl/theater/844-dichtersavond?datum=20260119 finished

PUBLICATIONS

2025 I hope that you wil find me Catalog Metropolis M, Amsterdam amsterdam , Netherlands metropolism.com/nl/ Article about my graduation project.

2025 I hope that you wil find me Book eigen beheer Xem Vermeij Den haag, Netherlands xemvermeij.myportfolio.com/het-boek My first publication. In this book, you will find the complete work from my project I Hope that You will Find Me. Immerse yourself in the research, photographic stories, and explore the world of young people with multiple nationalities. The book begins with an extensive study on growing up with different nationalities. What do you feel, what do you experience? Are you alone, or is there a common thread connecting everyone growing up with multiple nationalities? This research was developed through an intensive interview process conducted with young people who identify with multiple nationalities. I take you through ten stories of young people who grew up with diverse national backgrounds, expressed through poetry and photography. These series emerged as a result of participation in the research. Ten young people were open to sharing their stories visually. Throughout the process, the guiding principle was what they wanted to convey, how they perceive their nationalities, and how they would represent their experiences visually. This was brought together through my artistic perspective, photography, and direction. See the page I Hope You Find Me for more images.

2025 If robots dream Jeugd theatergroep Rabarber Den Haag , Netherlands Photography for the poster and promotional material. www.rabarber.net/productiehuis/als-robots-dromen finished

2024 Promotie optreden Suzuki Swift, Timor Steffens Suzuki Nederland Amsterdam, Netherlands Promotie optreden Suzuki Swift, model release. www.events.nl/nieuws/event-centre-vinkeveen-hotspot-voor-automotive-events finished

2024 Once you flew Dodenherdenking Den haag , Netherlands May 4, Remembrance Day, 2024 I had the honor of speaking at the Roma and Sinti Monument in The Hague. My piece focused on the Roma and Sinti a people who travel in caravans and live in mobile homes. They suffered immensely during World War II, and in the Netherlands, over 80% of the established Roma community was lost. Even today, the people continue to live under difficult circumstances and are often unwelcome. At my reading, members of the local community and descendants of the Roma were present. As a writer, it was a tremendous honor to speak about such an important subject. No matter how busy life gets, it is never wrong to pause and remember those we have lost and those who continue to face great hardship. xemvermeij.myportfolio.com/ooit-vlogen-jullie finished

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2026 saxion art price 2026 deventer Art prize awarded to one young artist who had graduated from an art academy in Overijssel.

2025 Best young artist 2025 Haagse Media Awards Den haag, Netherlands Winning best young artist of 2025. At the hague media awards.2025 with mij project i hope that you wil find me.

2025 Festina lente Poetry flam 3 place Poezie slag amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands Yearly selection third place 2025

2025 Festina lente maand winnaar Poezie slag amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands Monthly Poetry slam first place

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2025 - 2026 Digitale art teacher On-going

2023 - 2026 Teacher, theater, dance, writing On-going





ik hoop dat jij mij vindt , 2026
expostitie

ik hoop dat jij mij vindt , 2026



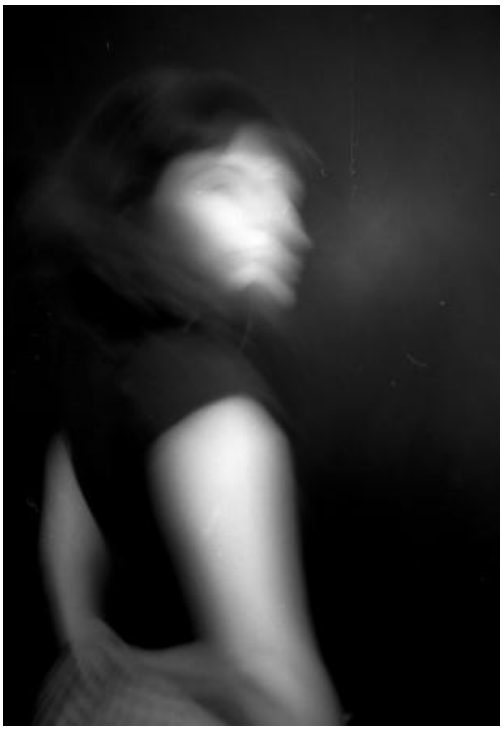
free work, 2026
analoge fotografie



free work, 2026
analoge fotografie



free work, 2026
analoge fotografie



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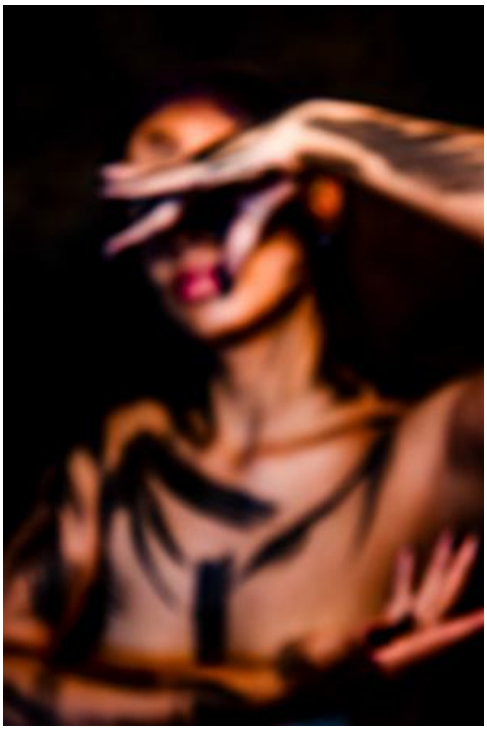

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