



THE FABRICS ON THE BENCHES

About the fabrics on the benches in the Grand Hotel Amrâth.

Christie van der Haak has been a fine arts practitioner since 1978. She began as a painter. It is characteristic of van der Haak's work that it is built up from many kinds of coloured patterns. The patterns in turn refer to everything in society, nature, history, etc.

Apart from painting, van der Haak began to apply patterns in glazes on ceramics. She has made many bowls and tiled panels. A major commission from the Municipality of the Hague is a large tiled tableau for a wall in the Jacob Catsstraat.

In the past 6 years, van der Haak has discovered the fantastic opportunities at the Textile Museum in Tilburg, where there is a computerised jacquard loom on which artists can experiment and create works. Here, patterns could be put to full use. For the artist, it was a real pleasure to try out all the possibilities of the machine.

Because many artists like working there, van der Haak found a factory in Germany with the same machines where she could undertake yet more work. The fabrics in this factory are ideally suited for upholstering furniture or draperies. From that time on, van der Haak has special antique furniture upholstered with her fabrics, which in turn matched the stretched canvases on the wall, which reflected variations of the same fabric in colour or pattern.

At Kunst Rai in Amsterdam in 2006, van der Haak exhibited a work of this kind with Galerie Biederberg. In this work, 2 canvases on the wall were combined with 2 Amsterdam school chairs with the same fabric. The style harked back to Jugendstil, which appealed directly to the Amrâth Hotel because they felt the style was in keeping with the Scheepvaarthuis.

Van der Haak has designed a fabric that matched the fabric used by the artist who carried out a great deal of work in the Scheepvaarthuis, Theo Nieuwenhuis, which included a butterfly and a flower as a repetitive pattern. Other colour sets were used for various rooms. Altogether, 1300 meters of fabric were produced in the German factory for the Grand Hotel Amrâth.

The napkins for the Grand Hotel Amrâth's Seven Seas Restaurant were also woven on the Dornier machine in the Textile Museum. The damask napkins have the same pattern as the fabric on the benches. Designs created by present-day artists thereby form a single whole with those of the artists of the previous century when the Scheepvaarthuis was built. A special feature is that the owner is continuing this tradition at this unique spot.