

Press Release

dsm-firmenich donates DSM Art Collection to municipality Heerlen

Heerlen (Netherlands), March 27, 2024

dsm-firmenich, innovators in nutrition, health and beauty, today announces that it donates the DSM Art Collection to the municipality of Heerlen, the Netherlands, enriching the city with a unique collection. The donation consists of over 500 unique works by regional, national and international artists and represents an estimated value of around two million euros. dsm-firmenich is taking several artworks on long-term loan to decorate its new Maastricht headquarters amongst others. In this way, the company pays tribute to its historical roots of which it is proud. With the donation, dsm-firmenich ensures that the unique collection of works will be preserved for the citizens of the province of Limburg.

The historical line of the collection tells the story of the company, the blooming period of the mining region and the period of transition, up to the present day. The art collection was handed over at the Heerlen Town Hall earlier today.

Unique collection

The DSM art collection is one of the oldest corporate collections in the Netherlands and consists of both historical artworks and contemporary artworks. The collection started in 1952 with a focus on artists from the province Limburg. Since 2003, the focus has been on national and international artists. The collection includes works by Ger Lataster, Jef Diederer, Pieter Defesche, Lei Molin Shinkichi Tajiri, Barbara Wagner, Lucy & Jorge Orta, Ittmar Gilbao, Maarten van den Eynde, Duan Jiangyu, Melanie Bonajo, Viviane Sassen, Helen Verhoeven, Tanja Ritterbex, Aline Thomassen, Paul Drissen and Haddasah Emmerich, among others.

Ownership

The management, maintenance and exposure of the collection is organised by Heerlen's multidisciplinary cultural institution SCHUNCK on behalf of the municipality of Heerlen. Up to and including the first presentations in 2025, SCHUNCK will work with the curator of dsm-firmenich to capture and transfer the story of the collection. An exhibition will also be organised in SCHUNCK as part of the Year of Heritage. In addition, the collection will be permanently exposed in SCHUNCK's Art Depot.

Heerlen alderman for Culture Jordy Clemens is pleased that the art collection will stay in Heerlen: *"This art collection is linked to the region in countless ways. The works are of high quality and tell the story of a former state-owned company developing into a multinational but also of a region that went through a turbulent history and stood its ground. We are therefore delighted that these works of art will remain available as a single collection for the residents of the region. This donation by dsm-firmenich makes that possible and we are grateful for that. In turn, we promise to take good care of this collection so that future generations can also enjoy this special story."*

Joris de Beer, president of dsm-firmenich Netherlands: *"We want as many people as possible to enjoy the extraordinary collection of artworks that has been built up with great care since the fifties. By donating the collection as a gift to the municipality of Heerlen, we can realise this ambition. With the municipality of Heerlen, we have found a good home for our unique collection and are leaving something special to the citizens in Heerlen and the region Limburg. We are pleased that the artworks will stay together for the future."*



Catharien Romijn, art curator dsm-firmenich: *"The donation of our collection to the community marks the end of an era but is also a new beginning. I look forward to working in good cooperation in the coming months to transfer the collection to the municipality of Heerlen and actively collaborate on the first public disclosure of our collection."*

About dsm-firmenich

As innovators in nutrition, health, and beauty, dsm-firmenich reinvents, manufactures, and combines vital nutrients, flavors, and fragrances for the world's growing population to thrive. With our comprehensive range of solutions, with natural and renewable ingredients and renowned science and technology capabilities, we work to create what is essential for life, desirable for consumers, and more sustainable for the planet. dsm-firmenich is a Swiss-Dutch company, listed on the Euronext Amsterdam, with operations in almost 60 countries and revenues of more than €12 billion. With a diverse, worldwide team of nearly 30,000 employees, we bring progress to life™ every day, everywhere, for billions of people.

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