ART THAT MATTERS
by Spannenburg.Art

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EXHIBITION REVIEW

The Evolution of 'RESTRAINT'

Published: 20 January 2026

Location: Kunstlinie, Almere, The Netherlands

> *Arjan Spannenburg, an award-winning Dutch fine art photographer and FEP Merit winner celebrated for his raw explorations of identity and human connection, created a pivotal moment in contemporary art history with his installation RESTRAINT. Originally a 200cm monochrome pigment print centerpiece for his People Like Me exhibition at Kunstlinie Almere (October–December 2024), the work was physically vandalised when a visitor severed the canvas, an act that inadvertently manifested the piece's theme of societal pressure on LGBTQ+ intimacy. Rather than retreating, Spannenburg transformed the destruction into a profound "participation artwork", leading a communal restoration joined by Alderman Maaike Veeningen, Meke Smeulders, and Pride Amsterdam chair Suzanna van de Laar. By physically mending the canvas, the community turned a site of violence into a symbol of resilience, leaving the work with a unique provenance that serves as a permanent cultural record of the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights in the Netherlands during the mid-2020s.*

SUMMARY

Arjan Spannenburg, an award-winning Dutch fine art photographer and FEP Merit winner celebrated for his raw explorations of identity and human connection, created a pivotal moment in contemporary art history with his installation RESTRAINT. Originally a 200cm monochrome pigment print centerpiece for his People Like Me exhibition at Kunstlinie Almere (October–December 2024), the work was physically vandalised when a visitor severed the canvas, an act that inadvertently manifested the piece's theme of societal pressure on LGBTQ+ intimacy. Rather than retreating, Spannenburg transformed the destruction into a profound "participation artwork", l…

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ONLINE GALLERY



ART EXPANDS HORIZONS AND PERSPECTIVES.

Art should have an impact

The Silent Power of Vulnerability

Arjan Spannenburg (¼ 1978Spaêðœ»ÞuÄgËM7È×å®vU°ÊÆ°Ïj¨ùŠ‰€»qÁãÃ (¼ «ý• ê hT„¢"

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Gallery Representation & Exhibitions In addition to permanent representation by ZERP Galerie (Rotterdam), Spannenburg’s oeuvre has been selected for prestigious international platforms and events, including:

• PAN Amsterdam

• Kunstlinie, Almere

• Schwules Museum, Berlin

• Paratissima, Italia

• Tongerlohuys, Roosendaal

His works are held in diverse private collections and are often seen in prominent public locations, including the City Hall of The Hague.



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