ART THAT MATTERS
by Spannenburg.Art

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EXHIBITION REVIEW

Die Ontwikkeling van 'RESTRAINT'

Published: 20 January 2026

Venue: Kunstlinie, Almere, Nederland

> *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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GALLERY ONLINE



ART OPENS PEOPLES EYES AND MINDS.

Art should have an impact

The Silent Power of Vulnerability

Die outonome werk van Arjan Spannenburg (gebore Texel, 1978) resoneer internasionaal met kurators en private versamelaars eweknie. Sentraal tot sy fotografie is die soeke na identiteit en selfuitdrukking. Deur kragtige, oorwegend monochrome komposisies, beeld Spannenburg jeug uit wat op die drumpel van volwassenheid staan.

Ons sien tieners in 'n verbygaande, onsekere lewensfase. Hierdie sensitiewe portrette vang onderwerpe vas, alleen met hul gedagtes, tog straal hulle gelyktydig 'n diepe behoefte aan kommunikasie met die buitewêreld uit, 'n soeke na ondersteuning, begrip en liefde.

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

• PAN Amsterdam

• Kunstlinie, Almere

• Schwules Museum, Berlin

• Paratissima, Italy

• 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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