

The 2011 NHV Competition Opening Wintery Hats on Display

On October 30th, Dutch hat lovers gathered for a special event - the opening of the 6th annual **NHV hat design contest** - *Met de Hoed de Wereld Rond* (With the Hat Around the World). This year's theme - Arctic/Antarctic - attracted some icy entries, 46 of which were chosen to be displayed in a fashion show at the afternoon event and in an ongoing exhibition, both held at Drachten's Karmel Klooster monastery in the Netherlands (right). Marcella de Bruijne, events coordinator for the NHV, attended the opening evening and sent in the following report...

After themes like Asia, Africa, Oceania and North and South America, it was now time for Arctic/Antarctic. Again, the choice of continent turned out to be a good one. A theme like Arctic/Antarctic resulted in very special and diverse entries, both in design and materials used. Approximately 200 guests attended the opening and almost all of them wore a hat. It



was a colourful sight! After we had all had a nice cup of coffee or tea and a delightful petit four, Ietje Hofstra, owner of the Karmel monastery, opened the exhibitions.



*The show began with the first model making a smashing entrance wearing a beautiful eccentric hat by Hillegonda Hoogvliet-Nijdam and accompanied by live piano music. Then, one after another, amazing hats were shown with the chapel as a fantastic background. With a theme like this, you may automatically think of fur hats, but there were hardly any in sight. After the show, competition judge **Mirjam Nuver** (left), an internationally respected hat designer, announced the ten nominees for the NHV Professional Prize. The contest hats are judged by Mirjam, Tanya Zeeman (chairman of **Feetbag** - an association of shoe and bag designers) and Sigrid Ivo (director of the **Museum of Bags and Purses** in Amsterdam).*



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As in previous years, the jury found the level of the entries to be very high - with surprising interpretations of the theme and unexpected use of colours and materials. Although one would expect them to go for the more prominent designs, the judges used other criteria to create their shortlist. Besides an original design, they looked carefully at good and correct finishing, both on the outside and the inside of the hat. They also felt that a nice, comfortable fit on the head was of great importance. The ten nominees were Lenny Moeskops, Trudi Windau, Anna Martinali, Meta Leefkens, Clementine Jesterhoudt, Els Drijver, Margriet Verweij-Achterberg, Elise Groenewegen, Sietje Dekker-Bijhouwer and Durkje van der Gaast-Hoeksema. The shortlisted hats are all pictured below.

After the announcement the hats were placed back in the exhibition while the hat

designers and other guests enjoyed a drink and a snack, giving everyone a chance to admire and discuss the exhibited hats and exchange the latest millinery news.

The organisers, who are all members of the **Dutch Hat Association** (De Nederlandse Hoeden Vereniging or NHV), can look back on another very successful event. Now for the long wait until January 21st of next year, when the prize ceremony will take place as part of the NHV's National Hat Day celebrations in Utrecht and the winners of both the NHV Professional and Public Prizes will be announced.

We wish all the contestants the best of luck. In the meantime, why not visit [Karmel Klooster monastery](#) to see these wintry millinery creations for yourself? Along with the competition hats, there are a number of other *Winterfeest* hats on display. The double exhibition, which includes a total of 86 hats, runs until December 26th and admission is €10 - but if you wear a hat you'll get a discount! A book containing photos and information about all 46 hats exhibited as part of this year's competition is also available for €20.

