

Tulips from Amsterdam?

Of course not: tulips in Rotterdam!

I love the tulip. Yellow tulips are dearest to me. They have a beautiful shape, are unemphatically present and when they're in their vase they always keep growing a little. The leaves of the tulip fold lovingly around the stem and show off their green tips beside the flower's bright colours.

Somewhere in my bookcase I've got a book about the tulip. It was given to me by someone who was born in Turkey, and who told me proudly that the tulip originates there. Four centuries ago, Turkish salesmen brought the tulip to Western Europe. In the Netherlands, the university of the city of Leiden was the first place to get them.

The tulip doesn't know any boundaries - just like Ger Bout's work, which is equally boundless. Why would a table have to be square, and why wouldn't there be a fisherman standing at the head of the Charlois neighbourhood? By now, that fisherman looks as if he's always stood there. Other works by Ger show that really, nothing has to be square.

The tulip project cuts through many boundaries: those between Rotterdam and the world, between primary schools and colleges, between students and professionals, between art and craftsmanship, between inside and outside. What's nice about this, is that wherever boundaries are cut, connections emerge. At least 25 tulips will enrich the city, but it might be even more important that hundreds of people have been working together. Proudly they will point at those tulips in Rotterdam, tulips that they, themselves, worked on. And in this way will feel even more at home in Rotterdam, wherever they have come from.

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