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## PORTRAIT OF THE KING

King Willem-Alexander from the Netherlands is a dynamic monarch coming from an old tradition but he is also a contemporary king who thinks and lives with the values and standards of our time. The old and the new are united in him. With this portrait of King Willem-Alexander a contemporary dynamic statue has been realized.

Portrait of the King  
An Artwork of glass combined with LED lighting.  
Location: The Council Room in the Provincial Government building Den Bosch.  
Installed: December 2013  
Artist: Gery Bouw,  
<http://www.gerybouw.nl/denbosch>

In the statue the old sand blasting technique on glass is combined with the contemporary art of controllable LED lighting. These techniques refer to the old and the new, united in one image. A third dimension is created by the use of 2 separate glass panels which contains complementary parts of the total image. The portrait looks different from each point of view.

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The LED lights shine subtle through the glass. The slowly changing colors in both glass panels create ever-changing expressions in the portrait. The atmosphere is ruled by the interaction in the changing colors. The light intensity of the environment will start a relationship with the portrait. During the day, the colors will be less visible than in the evening. A dynamic whole will be created.

On the birthdays of the King and the Queen and their three children the portrait will be several shade of orange all day. Every half hour the tie of King William Alexander will alternating change in red, white and blue.

### Techniques

Two poly grinded, hardened 'diamond' glass panels are placed parallel to each other on a pedestal. In the pedestal RGB LED lighting shines in the glass at the bottom end of the panels. The LED lighting is controlled by a controller in the pedestal which is connected to the mains voltage.

### Dimensions

490 x 10 x 760 mm (W x D x H ) each glass panel  
530 x 280 x 2020 mm (W x D x H ) including pedestal

[Documentary on Omroep Brabant](#) the making of the statue of king Willem Alexander.

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### Gery Bouw wins design competition "Our image of the King"


The artist Gery Bouw won with her glass design the "Our image of the King" competition. So Bouw has been given the task to realize her effigy of King Willem-Alexander. The glass object gets a place in the Council Room in the Provincial Government building. "Transparence, contemporary and innovative." said the jury.

The winning design by Gery Bouw consists of two glass layers with complementary images of King Willem-Alexander. Bouw combines old sandblasting technique on glass with a contemporary technique of controllable LED lighting. "I want to create a contemporary, dynamic portrait of the king. A dynamic monarch who's coming from an old tradition, but also a contemporary king who thinks and lives with the values and standards of the times" says Bouw. The jury characterizes the winning design as a tough combination of craftsmanship and new technology. "Brabant looks to the future. This design fits. It combines the old and the new in one picture, in a transparent way." according to King's Commissioner and jury president Wim van de Donk.


### Royal monitoring

The Council Room in the Provincial Government building House is the place where politicians Provinciale Staten take their decisions. This is done under the watchful eye of the Royal house of Orange, from William the Silent to King William III (paintings), Princess Wilhelmina (statue), Princess Juliana (painting) and Princess Beatrix (bust). An effigy of the inaugural King Willem - Alexander cannot be missed. Therefore Provinciale Staten launched the competition "our image of the King. Three Brabant artists, namely Gery Bouw, Eveline van de Griend and Jos Willems worked this summer on a sketch design of a portrait of the king. In addition to the Kings's commissioner, the jury consisted of members of the Provinciale Staten Jeannette Zwijnenburg (VVD) and Patricia Brunklaus (GroenLinks), visual artist Ria van Eyk, Head Collection, Presentation and Education of the Noord Brabant Museum Fiona Zachariasse and two public judges Pim Meijer and Thomas Rooijackers. The latter two represent 'de Brabander' in the jury. There is an appropriate time sought to reveal the artwork.




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