LOES SCHEPENS

Our disregard for nature is a folly born of ignorance
Through her work, Loes Schepens aims to highlight our relationship with nature; she seeks to slow down the process of disconnection from nature that we, as humans, are experiencing. By using plants to create the handmade paper for her artworks, she offers direct sensory experiences that evoke landscapes, textures, colours and even sounds—such as the rustling of leaves. Her works are abstract, amorphous sculptures that encourage the viewer to reflect on our connection with one another and with nature. Her fascination with nature's influence on people grew as Loes discovered more about its impact on our brains. Being surrounded by nature gives us a sense of security, happiness, calm and freedom. Nature activates areas of our self-awareness and our social skills. At the same time, nature also reflects transience and change to us. As we lose more and more of nature on our planet to commercial and political ends, it is becoming increasingly important to pay attention to this fragile natural world. Loes prefers to create site-specific installations, as she has done at Groeneveld Castle and Soestdijk Palace. By spending a long time at a location and focusing on its history, she explores stories about trees or a vegetable garden. Loes places these stories in a new context and, through her works, draws attention to ancient knowledge. Her project 'Forgotten Seeds' also focused on creating various paper works, made from nine different native plants that are so important to our landscape and biodiversity. 'Paper has a memory'; this makes every sheet unique. Papermaking is an age-old craft that has scarcely changed. Loes has fully embraced this process and expanded it further with the technique of pulp casting to work in three dimensions as well. She describes working with her hands as a 'moment of reflection'. In a world where natural resources are being depleted and mass production is the norm, Loes reflects on the origins of the materials she works with, such as the flax she grows herself. As well as creating installations and artworks, Loes regularly collaborates with other artists and also gives masterclasses on special paper-making techniques. Through workshops, she keeps the craft of papermaking alive. She inspires others to look at the world with fresh eyes.

WEBSITES

Personal website

loesschepens.nl/
Collective website

botanicaltales.nl
Collectieve website

thelinenproject.online/community/loes-schepens/
Colective website

craftscouncil.nl/craftsmap/loes-schepens/

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/loesschepens/
www.linkedin.com/in/loes-schepens-8153005/
www.instagram.com/paperartanddesign/

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Botanical Tales

MEMBER OF A PLATFORM, DIGITAL OR OTHERWISE

IAPMA

The Linen Project

MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

Craftscounsil

EDUCATION

2019 - 2019 Indigo dyeing with wool and cotton textielfabrique

1995 - 1997 Plant-based papermaking Jean Decoster kunstenaar, Zoutleeuw, België

1995 - 1995 Japanese paper making Washi centrum Shikoku, Japan

1982 - 1987 Graphic Design Breda, St. Joost Academie diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2026 The state of Fashion/available to promise Eusebius church Arnhem, Netherlands Under the title Available to Promise, the State of Fashion Biennale 2026 explores the systems that shape fashion today. The focus is not merely on clothing, but rather on the enabling structures of the fashion industry: from production chains and platforms to labour networks, trade routes and ecosystems. stateoffashion.org
Group

2026 Paper Art Biennale Art Centre Art Centre, Denmark International exhibition www.silkeborgbad.com/
Group

2025 The Linen Project Coda Apeldoorn, Netherlands In The Linen Project , heritage, education, agriculture, design, craftsmanship and the economy come together. The project is also investigating, together with partners from the industry, how the mechanised linen supply chain can be redesigned. In 2024, there were over 800 participants in '1m2 flax', in which people across the Netherlands grew their own square metre of flax in their gardens. It will be possible to take part again in 2025. Consumers regularly purchase cheap(er) products that are increasingly of poor quality, often produced under poor working conditions and with a huge impact on our environment. Through various activities, The Linen Project aims to foster greater insight into and appreciation for textiles, as well as raising awareness of the fashion system. This presentation features work by: Heleen Klopper, Jan Peter Scheen, Loes Schepens, Hans Hutting, Marieke van Mieghem, Eva Klee. www.coda-apeldoorn.nl/agenda/70/05-02-2025/the-linen-project-x-coda
Group

2025 Reflections Breaking Time Leiden Art Hub Leiden, Netherlands Five artists who draw on their personal experiences to select materials and, through their own hands, imbue them with a new reality. The tactile works created from wood, textiles and paper are sometimes recognisable but also alienating. They remind you of something, but what is it? The layered nature of the works sometimes makes you smile, but can also touch you on a deeper emotional level. It is the vulnerability of all these works that draws you in and allows you to explore how they make you feel. One artist finds their materials on the street or in second-hand shops. Another in the woods. Recognisable forms recur in the works of all the artists, sometimes used in surprising ways that run counter to what you might expect. However, it is the unconventional use of the everyday that reveals the inner world of these artists. These works, ranging from small to monumental, all have a connection to humanity. Whether found or made, they transcend time. est-art-foundation.org/leiden-art-hub.php
Group

2025 Layers of Time Paleis Soestdijk Baarn, Netherlands The 'Layers of Time' exhibition is a special edition. The palace, with its centuries-old history, is in a state of flux, and as the artists wander the royal estate over the course of a year, they see that nature, too, is seeking a new balance. 'Layers of Time' shows that change can be exciting and beautiful. With new work

PROJECTS

2026 Flaxwear State of Fashion Arnhem, Netherlands thelinenproject.online/ Together with eight other stewards from 'The Linen Project', we created a collection of field clothing, designed for weeding, harvesting and rotting in the fields. The specific weather and soil conditions gave us the idea of making an outfit from our own flax. This resulted in a hand-woven apron, various personalised bags and special shoes. All the pieces are held together by cords and straps, woven using traditional techniques. The apron is woven from paper yarn and thread, spun and twisted from our own flax and dyed with indigo.

2020 H.E.R.B.S. Paper art and Design Den Haag, Netherlands loesschepens.nl/h-e-r-b-s/ Is it possible to make paper from leftover herbs? After extensive research, Studio Nienke Hoogvliet discovered that herbs used as textile dyes can have a positive effect on our health. However, the dyeing process produces waste – the residue from the herbs. To make the entire process circular, a collaboration was formed between designer Cecile Bleijenberg (FANT), artist Loes Schepens and designer Nienke Hoogvliet. Together, they explored how the herbs from their own garden – rosemary and sage – could be used to dye scarves, make paper and colour paper. They created a broad colour palette ranging from yellow and green to pink for textiles, new textures in paper and unique ways to incorporate as many of the process's leftovers as possible into new objects. Cecile and Loes also made collages together using leftover textiles and their handmade herb-dyed paper.

2020 Forgotten Seeds Paper Art & Design Den Haag, Netherlands biodivers.nl/ Together with organic seed distributor Biodivers, I created an installation featuring nine key native plants that are beneficial to biodiversity. The exhibition was held at Paper Art & Design

– created from unique natural materials sourced from or inspired by the estate's gardens and woods – the artists explore a new relationship between humanity and nature. botanicaltales.nl/
Group

2024 The Linen Project Muesum Arnhem Arnhem, Netherlands Various artists and designers, who are also stewards of the Linen Project, are exhibiting their work, created using flax they have grown themselves over the past five years. www.museumarnhem.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/the-linen-project
Group

2023 fibrous nature and textured landscapes Galerie Sophie Den Haag, Netherlands A group exhibition (also open during Hoogtij) focusing on nature and the landscape galeriesophie.nl/galerie/page/2/
Group

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2023 De Hoorneboeg HIlversum, Netherlands De Hoorneboeg in Hilversum is a quiet area and country estate, situated in a woodland. This deciduous forest is surrounded by a nature reserve with heathland. During the heather's flowering season, Loes was invited to explore the possibilities of making paper from the local plants. During the four days she spent staying at the 'Stille Midden' cottage, she went on many walks in the area. She discovered other species such as tansy and greater stitchwort. Ferns, too, looked beautiful in the light filtering through the tall canopy of the deciduous forest. Moved by the beautiful landscape and the tranquil natural surroundings, she was inspired with new ideas for artworks. She made the pulp on site and later turned it into artworks in her studio. These are now on display in one of the beautiful buildings at De Hoorneboeg. dehoorneboeg.nl/

2012 Papeterie de Vaux Payzac, Perigord, France A historic site where a paper steam engine factory has been restored and is on display. There is a museum on the premises, and they offered me an exhibition and an artist-in-residence programme. I spent a week working there and drew inspiration from the surroundings for new work. instagram @papeteriedevaux

COMMISSIONS

2026 Come to met particulier Den Haag, Netherlands A large sculpture made from flax I grew myself and dyed using madder. loesschepens.nl/werk/ finished

2023 Crawling Thoughts particulier Den Haag, Netherlands Two sculptures for a hard-to-reach wall, made of flax. loesschepens.nl/werk/ finished

2019 Snowfields advocaten kantoor Den Haag, Netherlands A special commission from a law firm for two sculptures. loesschepens.nl/werk/ finished

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2026 Trunk 08 Private Barcelona, Spanje Sculpture Asparagus peel and mulberry 125 x 50 x 5

2026 Yellow Sheet Private Den Haag, Nederland Sculpture Flax paper, natural dyed with Rosemary 43 x 45 x 8 cm

2025 Veil of Weld Private Den Haag, Nederland Paper sculpture Organically grown flax, botanically dyed with woad, indigo-dyed cotton

2025 Rosemary Private Hasselt, België Hemp paper dyed with sage, bio cotton dyed in Rosemary and sage 38x25x6cm

PUBLICATIONS

2025 IN TOUCH Book Eindeloos uitgever Anna Andrejew Den Haag, Netherlands eindeloos.com/werk/in-touch-loes-schepens/ In the book For over 25 years, Loes Schepens has been researching and creating paper and art from plant fibres. She works in her studio in The Hague, where she transforms this traditional craft into unique works of art. This artist's monograph fulfils her wish to share her insights into nature and her calling to connect people with it. Bookmark Each book comes with a handmade bookmark made from nettle, cotton and hemp, botanically dyed with tansy, yellow chamomile and walnut. Special edition

2025 Wrinkled Private Alphen aan de Rijn, Nederland Object of flax and kozo 58 x 33 x 7 cm

2025 Difficult Times Private Leiden, Nederland Sculpture Pigmented self grown flax 58 x 78 x 6 cm

2025 Nettles and Seeds 6 private persons Baarn and Soest, Nederland A series of works featuring grass seeds from the garden at Soestdijk Palace, stinging nettle, botanically dyed hemp and cotton (tansy, yellow chamomile and walnut) 34 x 20 cm

2025 Trunk 07 Private Den Haag, Nederland Sculpture of handmade mulberry papier 120 x 50 x 8

2025 Poisened Private Arkel, Nederland Foxgloves from the Royal Forest Paleis Soestdijk, Japanse mulberry paper made by Rogier Uitenbogaart (paper makers from Japan) 94 x 66 cm

2012 Way of live Museum Papeterie de Vaux Payzac, Frankrijk Three dimensional object of paper

REVIEWS

2026 measter in craft Website Minne van Breugel Utrecht, Netherlands craftscouncil.nl/craftsmap/loes-schepens/ This article is about the specific nature of being an artist and the craft

2025 Artist monograph IN TOUCH Website Vivienne van Leeuwen Den Haag, Netherlands eindeloos.com/werk/in-touch-loes-schepens/ An article about the contents of the book IN TOUCH

2024 Metier Magazine Robbert Coops Zandvoort, Netherlands www.metier-magazine.nl/blank-mpvle An article in a printed magazine about Loes Schepens's Flax works

REPRESENTATION

-- A Gallery Den Haag, Netherlands https://www.avenue-designstudio.com/gallery

-- Timeless LInen Den Haag, Netherlands https://timelesslinen.com/

-- Loof Zaandam, Netherlands https://loof.nl/blogs/loof-stories/de-natuur-als-stille-kracht-in-de-showroom-van-loof

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2017 - 2026 30 exhibitions (incl performances) curated and organised with various artists at the Paper Art & Design gallery On-going

2017 - 2026 Delivering various workshops and masterclasses on specialised papermaking techniques On-going

2017 - 2026 Delivering various lectures to groups (sometimes from the sustainability sector), professionals and art college students On-going



Untitled, 2025
Zelf gegroeid vlas en handgeschept papier, techniek pulpgieten en vormen, 97 x 75 x 9 cm



Through the Veins 01, 2025
Pulp casting on a vacuum table, 60 x 42 x 6 cm



Jumping, 2025
Indigo-dyed paper thread (hand-spun using the Kami ito technique from flax paper), woven into a hand-made sheet of paper dyed with weld, 56 x 71 cm



Poisened, 2025
Foxglove, dried and mounted on handmade Japanese paper, framed in Dutch beech wood, 94 x 66 cm



IN TOUCH, 2025
Paper cover 350 g/m2 Ecorz Natural, interior Emotion touch 1.5 120 g/m2, semi-transparent inserts IBO One 60 g/m2. Wrapper: burning nettle, cotton and hemp, botanical dyed with tansy, yellow chamomile and walnut, 23 x 30 cm



Big tree Trunks, 2025
Hand made paper, dyed with weld, inserted with mulberry fibres and pure flax, 300 x 200 x 200 cm (variable)



Soft Stream, 2025
Paper made of kozo and flax, dyed with weld and fern, 70 x 50 cm



From the Earth, 2024
Own grown flax, pigmented with madder, 70 x 70 x 8 cm



Garden Delight, 2023
Various pieces of handmade paper featuring plants and photographic work printed on flax paper, created in collaboration with De Middelste Molen., Total space 20 x 10 meter



Mieriks wortel 01, 2023
photograph printed on flax paper (in collaboration with De Middelste Molen), 70 x 50 cm