

Henri Verstijnen

Andrea Kroon

Dear list members,

In preparation of an exhibition on the work of the Dutch artist Henri Verstijnen (1882-1940), I am trying to locate surviving ceramic works by this artist.

Verstijnen was employed by the famous E. Wahliiss factory of Art Nouveau ceramics and glass in Teplice (Czech Republic) in ca. 1902, where he modeled vases and other objects with female figures. Some photographs of his models for ceramics survived, but surviving objects have not yet been located. Verstijnen travelled to Vienna, Bohemia and Prague, where some of his scetches and paintings may have ended up in local collections. From ca. 1906 onwards, Verstijnen was employed as a designer of decorations for ceramics at the Societe Ceramique in Maastricht (The Netherlands). Many of his designs survived (depicting mainly floral and animal motives), as well as some objects. After 1918, Verstijnen abandoned ceramic design. He moved to The Hague (The Netherlands) where he worked as a populair painter and graphic artist until 1940. His works include depictions of exotic mammals, birds, fish and flowers, as well as images inspired by theosophical beliefs. His commercial works includes political caricatures and illustrations for children's books.

Although many of his works survived in Dutch collections, these are mainly paintings and graphic works. I would therefore be very interested to hear from colleagues, who may be familiar with a ceramic object that could have been designed or decorated by Verstijnen.

The artist signed his work in full or with the monogram H.V. (sometimes with the V resting on the H). Unfortunately, most of his early designs were unsigned, and can only be identified by comparison to surviving photographs and sketches. Please feel free to contact me personally for more information or some visual material.

Best wishes for 2004 to you all,
Andrea Kroon.

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Reference:

Q: Henri Verstijnen. In: Arthist.net, Jan 7, 2004 (accessed Jul 3, 2025),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/26165>>.