

Helene Kroller-Muller

Andrea Kroon

Dear List members,

Helene Kroller-Muller (1869-1839) is best known as a collector of modern visual art and the founder of the Kroller-Muller Museum in Otterlo, the Netherlands. But Helene's love for art went far beyond the visual arts, one could say that her whole living environment was shaped according to her philosophical and aesthetic vision on life and art. She employed artists and architects like H.P. Berlage, Bart van der Leek, Henry van de Velde, Frans Zwollo, Chris Lebeau and Otto Hennig to design furniture, textiles, ceramics, silver ware, stained glass, etc. Less well-known artists, such as Gertrud Arper and A.C. Strasser-Berlage, and German craftsmen like the Scheidemantel firm also worked on these designs.

A new research project focuses on the former residences of the millionaire couple Helene Kroller-Muller and her husband Anton George Kroller in Rotterdam, the Hague, Wassenaar and Hoenderloo. All these houses were demolished, with the exception of the House Groot Haesebroek in Wassenaar and the Jachthuis (= hunting lodge) St. Hubertus in Hoenderloo.

Part of Helene's collection of applied art survived in the Jachthuis (which is open to the public) and in the Kroller-Muller Museum. Her personal archive, which includes correspondence with collectors and artists in Germany and America, financial accounts, photographs, as well as the designs for many of the interiors and objects, documents this collection.

The research project will study the philosophical and aesthetic ideas that influenced the design of these interiors and objects, and will try to determine which Dutch, German and other designers and manufacturers were responsible for each surviving object.

I would like to hear from curators and researchers who are familiar with (unpublished) correspondence of Helene Kroller-Muller, her husband Anton George Kroller, or her assistant Sam van Deventer, or any other documentation which may be relevant to this research project in German, Belgian or other collections.

Please feel free to contact me at: andreakroon@yahoo.com.

Thank you in advance for your kind advice,

drs. Andrea Kroon,
Kroon & Wagtberg Hansen.

Reference:

Q: Helene Kroller-Muller. In: ArtHist.net, Apr 9, 2005 (accessed Jul 18, 2025),
<<https://arthist.net/archive/27146>>.