



EXHIBITION SHOP WORKSPACE

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## **Leonne Cuppen hands over the reins**

### **Young designers will continue Yksi Expo under a new name and with a contemporary interpretation**

As of January 1, 2023 Leonne Cuppen stops as initiator of Yksi Expo. After more than 31 years she passes the baton to the younger generation. A number of young designers will continue the foundation at the same location at Strijp-S, under a different name and with a new, contemporary interpretation. They want to focus on 'a flourishing and regenerative ecosystem where nature, people and technology thrive together'. Leonne Cuppen remains active in the world of sustainable and circular design with her company Yksi Connect.

In 1991, Yksi started as a design agency with an additional foundation and gallery to offer a platform to Dutch Design and especially young designers. After several years in the Designhuis near the City Hall, Yksi Expo moved to Strijp-S in 2011, to its current location at the Torenallee.

#### **Sustainability and circularity**

The exhibition space with store changed step by step into a more active space with exhibitions, presentations, workshops, lectures and other meetings as well as workplaces for a number of young designers - the Yksi Expo Young Talent team. In terms of content, the focus shifted to sustainability and circularity, while the view broadened far beyond the national borders. Especially since the self-developed exhibitions with Dutch design on all sorts of themes traveled all over the world and generated many international contacts.

#### **Enthusiastic young professionals**

A few years ago, Leonne Cuppen separated the foundation from the agency Yksi Ontwerp and founded her own company under the name Yksi Connect. The name says it all: to make interesting connections, especially between young design talent, business and industry. To get more time and space for that, she now hands over the baton of the foundation to the younger generation, after more than 31 years. A number of members of the Yksi Expo Young Talent team, supplemented with a handful of other enthusiastic young professionals will take over the foundation.

They will also show exhibitions and organize lectures, films, workshops, meetings and in-depth programs in the same space at Strijp-S. With workplaces as well, perhaps as a 'living lab', even more active than Yksi Expo. One of the spearheads will be more-than-human design. A taste of this is currently already on display at Yksi Expo as part of the exhibition Rethinking Plastic. In their own words, "We envision a thriving and regenerative ecosystem

where nature, people and technology thrive together." The group is busy developing ideas and will present the plans later this year.

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**Yksi Expo** organizes exhibitions to mainly highlight the work of Dutch designers.

**Yksi Connect** connects designers with the industry, provides inspiration, gives directions and resolves issues.

They draw their strength from collaborations and cross-fertilizations.