

Karel Martens (1939)

Karel Martens has worked as a freelance graphic designer, specializing in typography. Alongside this, he has always made free (non-commissioned) graphic and three-dimensional work. Among his clients have been the publishers Van Loghum Slaterus (Arnhem) in the 1960s, and the SUN (Socialistische Uitgeverij Nijmegen) in the years 1975–81. As well as designing books and other printed items, he has designed stamps and telephone cards (for the Dutch PTT). He has also designed signs and typographic façades for a number of buildings. In 1999 he made the design for the façade of the printing company Veenman in Ede in commission for Neutelings Riedijk Architecten in collaboration with the writer K. Schippers. And in 2005 he designed the glass façades of the new part of the building for the Philharmonie in Haarlem. This design was based on a music score by Louis Andriessen

Education

1961 Arnhem School of Art (NL)

Awards

2012 Gerrit Noordzijprijs
 1999 Nomination, Design Prize Rotterdam, for the façade of Veenman printing works, Ede
 1998 Leipzig Book Fair Gold Medal for *Printed Matter*
 1997 Nomination, Design Prize Rotterdam for *Printed Matter*
 1996 Dr A.H. Heineken Prize for Art
 1995 Honorary commendation, Design Prize Rotterdam, for design of PTT Telecom chip-cards
 1993 H.N. Werkman Prize for the design of the architectural magazine Oase

Teaching

Karel Martens has taught graphic design since 1977. His first appointment was at the Arnhem School of Art (until 1994). He was then attached to the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht (1994–99). From 1997 he has been a visiting lecturer in the graphic design department at the School of Art, Yale University.

In 1998 he was the co-founder of the Typography Workshop (WT-Werkplaats Typografie) for postgraduate education within the ArtEZ, Institute for the Arts, Arnhem. From 2001 onward he shared the artistic supervision together with Armand Mevis and Paul Elliman. In 2006 the WT was accredited as a Master Programme. In 2014 he left the WT.

Martens is currently a mentor in the master's program at the Design Academy Eindhoven (department Contextual Design).

Selected recent exhibitions

- 2018 *Colours on the Beach*, Wilfried Lentz, Rotterdam (NL) - solo
Still Moving, Platform L, Seoul (ROK) - solo
 Jubilee exhibition, 30 Years of the AH Heineken Prize, van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (NL)
- 2017 *Motion*, Kunstverein München (DE) - solo
Motion, Design museum Gent (BE) - solo
Colours on the Beach, Le Havre (FR) - public project
- 2016 *Recent Work*, P!, New York (US) - solo
- 2015 Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, Harvard University, Connecticut (US) - solo
- 2014 *Karel Martens: New Work* 212 Crescent House, London (UK)
Power Structures, P!, New York (US)
- 2012 *Process 01: Joy*, P!, New York (US)

Selected monographs

- OASE Journal #100, *The Architecture of the Journal* (2018), issue based on Martens' ongoing work as founding designer of the journal
- Motion* (2017) Kunstverein München Companion, Roma Publications, Amsterdam
- Colours on the Beach* (2017) Editions Non Standard, Le Havre
- Print* (2016) Roma Publications, Amsterdam
- Reprint* (2015) Royal Academy of Art, The Hague and Roma Publications, Amsterdam
- Printed matter* (1996, 2001, 2010), Heineken Foundation, Amsterdam and Hyphen Press, London
- Counterprint* (2004) Lecturis Eindhoven and Hyphen Press, London

Collections

- Design Museum, New York (US)
 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (US)
 MoMA Library and Archives, New York (US)
 SFMoMA, San Francisco (US)
 Art Institute of Chicago (US)
 Private and semi-public collections worldwide.