DIVE INTO ARTIS

New ARTIS Aquarium

Presskit

June 2026

Contents

Press release

One of the world's oldest aquariums will reopen in Amsterdam on the 13th of June 2026, following a five-year restoration and reinve ntion. Originally opened in 1882, the historic Aquarium of ARTIS Amsterdam Royal Zoo has been transformed into a contemporary experience about the importance of water for all life on Earth — combining monumental heritage, living animals and plants, immersive installations, science and art, all under one roof.

The reopening marks the latest chapter in the evolution of ARTIS, one of the world's oldest zoos, into a multidisciplinary centre for nature, culture, and science. Following the internationally acclaimed ARTIS-Micropia — the world's first museum dedicated entirely to microbes — and the interactive ARTIS-Groote Museum, the new Aquarium continues ARTIS's ambition to reinvent how broad audiences engage with nature in the 21st century.

As one of the oldest zoos in the world, ARTIS continues to reinvent itself to keep nature education and nature experiences relevant for a broad audience. Nowhere else in the world can visitors experience every facet of nature in one place: from meeting animals and plants up close in the zoo and botanical garden, to exploring the invisible world of microbes in ARTIS-Micropia, reflecting on their own connection with nature in ARTIS-Groote Museum, experiencing the 'overview effect' of Earth in the ARTIS-Planetarium, and discovering, once again, the underwater world in the renewed Aquarium. A significant part of the creative team behind the new Aquarium also previously worked on ARTIS-Micropia and ARTIS-Groote Museum.

A new story flows in the Aquarium

The Aquarium of ARTIS is one of the oldest aquariums in the world. Within the centuries-old walls of this listed national monument, a new story unfolds that immerses visitors in the world of water — the source of all life. In the renewed Aquarium, visitors are surrounded by vibrant underwater life while discovering the importance of water for everything that lives, both in water and on land. From small-spotted catshark to Randall's pistol shrimp, from tree frogs to humans themselves.

The new Aquarium offers visitors of all ages plenty to explore and experience. Visitors travel through oceans, rivers, coral reefs, mangroves, the deep sea, and even Amsterdam's canals, discovering both saltwater and freshwater ecosystems. They can build their own submarine for a journey to the ocean floor, cast a line in an interactive fishing game or step behind the scenes into the Aquarium's food preparation area. Along the way, they encounter animals ranging from cuttlefish to pufferfish and discover how water connects all life on Earth.

Rembrandt Sutorius, Director of ARTIS: "For five years, we have worked on both the restoration and reinvention of the Aquarium. The new Aquarium tells what may be one of the most important nature stories of our time: without healthy water, there is no life. At a time when oceans, rivers, and lakes around the world are under increasing pressure, we want visitors to experience how water connects us all — from life in the ocean to nature in our own cities, and even the water that flows from our taps every day. Anyone who takes a dive into the ARTIS Aquarium will emerge seeing water, and themselves, in a different light."

Preserving a rare piece of global aquarium history

The Aquarium is living industrial heritage and one of the oldest functioning aquariums in the world. When the building opened in 1882, it was internationally regarded as an engineering marvel. At the heart of this achievement was the revolutionary water filtration system developed by British aquarist William Alford Lloyd, one of the pioneers of the modern public aquarium.

Lloyd's circulation system made it possible to maintain large-scale saltwater aquariums, something exceptional in the 19th century. During the restoration, this historic Lloyd system was carefully preserved, restored and integrated with contemporary technology. Today, ARTIS is home to the world's last functioning Lloyd filtration system — a rare and still operational piece of international industrial and scientific heritage.

ARTIS will celebrate the reopening with a special gift to visitors: anyone arriving at ARTIS wearing diving goggles on the opening day on Saturday 13 June will receive free admission. All time slots were fully booked within an hour and a half of the promotion going live on Thursday 4 June. Unfortunately, reservations are no longer available. From Sunday 14 June onwards, the Aquarium will be open seven days a week and can be visited with a standard ARTIS-Park admission ticket.

Foreword

After five years of restoration, the ARTIS Aquarium is coming back to life. On the 13th of June, one of Amsterdam's most iconic buildings will reopen its doors. Not only as a national monument, but as a place where visitors can discover how water connects all life on Earth.

'No water, no life. No blue, no green.'

With these words, oceanographer Sylvia Earle captures just how fundamental water is to our planet. Water is the source of all life on Earth. Without water there are no plants, no animals, no people. That message forms the heart of the new story flowing through the ARTIS Aquarium.

With the reopening, the ARTIS story becomes complete once again. Visitors can journey from the invisible world of microbes at ARTIS-Micropia, through the animals and plants of ARTIS-Park, to ARTIS-Groote Museum, where they reflect on their relationship with nature, onwards to a voyage beyond Earth in the Planetarium, and finally into the remarkable world of water in the Aquarium.

Together, these places tell a single story about the interconnectedness of all life on Earth. Water occupies a unique place within that story. It connects oceans, rivers, plants, animals, and people. The new Aquarium demonstrates that the health of our waters, our natural world, and our society are inseparably linked. Understanding those connections has never been more important.

The Aquarium is also an extraordinary piece of Dutch heritage. Built in 1882, it is the oldest aquarium in the world where the original Lloyd water filtration system is still in operation. Yet behind its monumental façade, lay an enormous challenge. More than 140 years of saltwater exposure had deeply affected the building. Walls cracked, steel corroded, and parts of the structure became unsafe. What followed was the largest and most ambitious restoration project in ARTIS' history.

It was not only technically complex but financially demanding. As a non-profit foundation, ARTIS had to raise the necessary funds during a period in which the Aquarium was closed and while the COVID-19 pandemic placed considerable pressure on the organisation.

That this restoration has been realised is thanks to many; governments, charitable foundations, companies, private donors, and thousands of committed visitors made it possible. Together they have not only preserved a historic monument but safeguarded a place where future generations can continue to marvel at the richness and fragility of life beneath the water's surface.

For the first time, almost ninety per cent of the building is now accessible to visitors, including the historic catacombs where the original filtration system remains in operation.

The new Aquarium shows that heritage and innovation can go hand in hand. That wonder is the first step towards engagement. That a love of nature begins with truly looking.

From Saturday 13th June, everyone is welcome to experience it for themselves.

Rembrandt Sutorius

Director, ARTIS

The restoration

ARTIS was founded in 1838 as the society Natura Artis Magistra, Latin for: nature is the teacher of art and science. Today, ARTIS is one of the five oldest zoos in the world. Spread throughout the park are 26 national monuments and one municipal monument, together telling almost two centuries of history about nature, science, architecture, and education. The ARTIS Aquarium is now one of the three oldest aquariums in the world, alongside Brighton and Naples. In 2021, the Aquarium closed its doors for a restoration project that ultimately became the largest and most complex restoration in the history of ARTIS.

After 140 years of exposure to salt water, the building had suffered severe deterioration. The main load-bearing structure, decorative plasterwork, and interior elements had all sustained extensive salt damage. Only a large-scale restoration could save the building for the future.

Bringing history and future together

The Aquarium was designed by architect Gerlof Salm, built on 1,740 wooden piles and equipped with a revolutionary water system through which more than one million litres of water flowed each day – a remarkable technical achievement at a time when electricity did not yet exist.

During the restoration, ARTIS set itself the goal of restoring the monument's historic character while simultaneously creating space for a contemporary visitor experience and modern animal care. Architect Julian Wolse and restoration architect Cor Bouwstra worked from the principle that past and future should reinforce one another.

Extensive historical colour research formed the basis for the restoration of the monumental halls, decorative features, and original sightlines. The natural stone façades were cleaned centimetre by centimetre using laser technology and, where necessary, repaired with stone sourced from the same quarries used in the nineteenth century. At the same time, later additions, such as layers of paint and lowered ceilings, were removed to reveal the original building once more.

The restoration also transformed the visitor experience. Whereas visitors previously had access to only a limited part of the Aquarium, around 90 per cent of the monument is now visible. Historic spaces that remained hidden for many years – including the catacombs housing the Lloyd filtration system – now form part of the visitor route. As a result, visitors can discover not only the building itself, but also the technology and water systems that keep the Aquarium running.

The aquariums themselves have been enlarged, deepened and completely rebuilt. Behind the scenes, logistics were fully redesigned to ensure that animal care, water quality, and animal welfare meet contemporary standards.

Sustainability as a foundation

The restoration also provided an opportunity to future-proof the monument. Sustainability formed an important design principle from the outset. This aligns with ARTIS's broader ambition to become climate-positive by 2030.

Historic techniques were combined with contemporary innovations throughout the restoration. The monumental Lloyd water filtration system was preserved and supplemented with modern, energy-efficient installations. New saltwater aquariums have been constructed using self-healing concrete and basalt-fibre reinforcement; materials that are more durable and better able to withstand exposure to salt. The building has also been fitted with heritage-grade insulating glass, low-temperature underfloor heating, and 118 solar panels. In addition, the Aquarium has been prepared for aquathermal energy: a system that uses heat extracted from water to enable the building to be heated entirely without fossil fuels in the future.

ARTIS recognised as a Professional Organisation for Monument Conservation (POM)

The restoration also marks a broader development within ARTIS. In January 2025, ARTIS received official recognition as a Professional Organisation for Monument Conservation (POM), partly as a result of the restoration of the Aquarium. This recognition underlines ARTIS's role as a steward of cultural heritage, where preservation, expertise and future resilience go hand in hand.

Animal welfare, conservation & research

Animal welfare, education, and nature conservation are central to the new Aquarium. The restoration provided not only an opportunity to restore a historic building, but also to completely redesign the aquariums according to the latest insights into animal welfare.

A carefully considered species plan

Throughout the design process, the same question remained central: which species can we keep here responsibly? Can we provide sufficient space? What do they need to display natural behaviour? Can we meet their dietary requirements?

Background structures, shelters, currents, planting, lighting conditions, and water quality have all been tailored to the species that live there. Consideration was also given to which species naturally share the same habitat and coexist successfully in social groups. The focus is not on the number of species, but on the relationship between animals, plants, and their environment. Every species contributes to a broader story about water, biodiversity, and interconnected ecosystems.

The majority of animals are new to the Aquarium. A small number have returned following the restoration. During the closure they were housed at other zoological institutions or in the behind-the-scenes pop-up aquarium at ARTIS.

ARTIS carefully evaluates both the origin and long-term sustainability of the species it keeps. Most animals originate from accredited zoos and aquariums through exchange programmes. For some species, ARTIS participates in conservation breeding programmes, including those for sharks and rays, numerous freshwater fish species and native species such as the fire salamander.

For aquatic species, however, such programmes are still far less developed than those for mammals and birds, as scientific knowledge remains relatively limited worldwide. A small proportion of species originate from professional and sustainable breeding facilities. The new Aquarium aims to minimise the proportion of wild-caught animals. In the few cases where an animal originally comes from the wild, this concerns:

- Species that play an essential role within aquatic ecosystems but cannot yet be successfully bred outside their natural habitat, such as sea urchins, copperband butterflyfish and sunburst butterflyfish species.
- Animals rescued from other aquariums or, in exceptional cases, from private owners because ARTIS can provide a more suitable environment. These animals may originally have come from the wild. The giant freshwater puffer is one such example; it previously lived in a private aquarium where it quickly outgrew the available space.
- Species requiring immediate conservation action, where ARTIS intends to work with other aquariums to establish long-term conservation programmes. One example is the Atlantic blue tang from the Caribbean.

All animal exchanges comply with national and international regulations and guidelines, including CITES legislation governing protected species.

Contributing to nature conservation

ARTIS contributes to nature conservation in various ways, both directly through research and partnerships and indirectly through education and public engagement.

First and foremost, ARTIS participates in international conservation breeding programmes and, where appropriate, takes the initiative in establishing them. One example is the programme for the short-tail nurse shark. ARTIS coordinates the European conservation programme for this species and conducts DNA research to gain a better understanding of genetic diversity and population origins. This helps determine whether and how these populations may one day contribute to strengthening wild populations.

ARTIS also supports organisations in the Netherlands, such as RAVON, which monitors eel migration and works to identify opportunities and solutions for this critically endangered species.

Internationally, ARTIS contributes to the protection of the rare Evers' ricefish in Indonesia by helping establish assurance populations both in Europe and on Sulawesi, while collaborating with local organisations to restore natural habitat.

ARTIS also contributes indirectly by using the Aquarium as a platform to inspire millions of visitors to become part of the solution themselves.
Later this year, the *Room for change* will open, where ARTIS and its partners — from scientists to NGOs — will showcase hopeful projects and initiatives aimed at protecting water and aquatic life.

Facts & figures

13 June 2026

The Aquarium reopens to the public on Saturday 13th June and will be open seven days a week from that date onwards.

5 years

The restoration and development of the new Aquarium took five years. The Aquarium officially closed on 1 February 2021.

1882

The Aquarium first opened to the public on 2 December 1882.

27

ARTIS is responsible for 26 national monuments and one municipal monument. Over a period of fifteen years, ARTIS has carried out major maintenance work or complete transformations on approximately three-quarters of its historic buildings.

42nd

The ARTIS Aquarium was the 42nd public aquarium in the world. Today, it is among the oldest surviving aquariums in existence, alongside the historic aquariums of Brighton (1872) and Naples (1872).

250

The renewed Aquarium is home to approximately 250 animal species, including fish as well as other aquatic life such as shrimp, starfish, lobsters, sea urchins, frogs and salamanders. As a botanical garden, ARTIS also works with living aquatic plants and algae, including sugar kelp, mangroves, seagrasses and water lilies.

16

Since their return to the Aquarium, the short-tail nurse sharks have already laid 16 eggs. The eggs have a distinctive shuttle-like shape, allowing them to become wedged securely between rocky outcrops.

35 days

The cuttlefish have also laid eggs, which hatched after 35 days. Newly hatched cuttlefish measure only one centimetre in length. Reproduction requires enormous amounts of energy from female cuttlefish, so much so that they die shortly after laying their eggs.

20

In addition to living animals and plants, the Aquarium also displays twenty preserved specimens, including four taxidermy flamingos and five puffins.

Facts & figures

8

Eight new artworks have been created specifically for the Aquarium. The artists are Marshmallow Laser Feast, Joana Schneider, Zoro Feigl, Vanessa Barragão, Claudia Martínez Garay and Klarenbeek & Dros. Two additional artworks will be added from the autumn onwards.

1 million

A total of one million litres of water circulate through the ARTIS Aquarium. Sixty per cent is seawater and forty per cent is freshwater. Most of the seawater originates from the Oosterschelde estuary in the Dutch province of Zeeland. Water for the coral reef aquariums is prepared on site.

€50 million

This is the largest and most complex restoration project ever undertaken by ARTIS. The restoration and renewal required an investment of approximately €50 million.

439,020

The construction of the Aquarium originally cost 439,020.93 Dutch guilders.

1885

In 1885, photographer J.E. Rombouts achieved international recognition with what is believed to be the first-ever underwater photograph of a swimming fish: a pike photographed in the Aquarium.

1903

In 1903, the Japanese giant salamander laid eggs at ARTIS. This was the first time such behaviour had been observed in a zoo and the first time it had ever been documented. Scientists travelled from Japan specifically to witness the event.

100

Every day, volunteers engage directly with visitors throughout the Aquarium. In preparation for the reopening, ARTIS began recruiting 100 additional volunteers in 2025, expanding the volunteer community to approximately 500 people. ARTIS believes in the power of personal interaction to inspire visitors and encourage engagement with nature.

Thematic spaces

The new Aquarium takes visitors on a journey through the world of water, moving through both aquatic and non-aquatic exhibition spaces. Each space has its own theme and tells a unique story about the connection between water, life beneath the surface, and ourselves.

The renewed Aquarium forms part of a broader development within ARTIS, where encounters with nature are combined with museum storytelling, interactive experiences, art, and science. The Aquarium was developed by much of the same creative team responsible for ARTIS-Micropia and the renewed ARTIS-Groote Museum.

Entrance

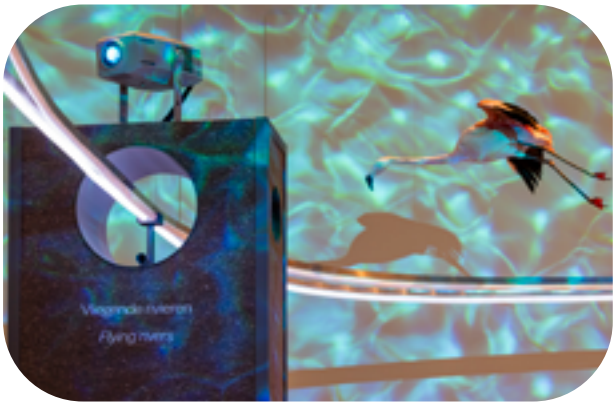
Just as in the original Aquarium, visitors are welcomed upon arrival by the Water Nymph. For almost 150 years she has poured water into ARTIS, but she now takes on an even more important role by carrying a message: *"No water, no life. No blue, no green."* This quote by oceanographer Sylvia Earle symbolises the importance of water to all life on Earth and forms the central theme running throughout the building.

Water as home

Seventy-one per cent of the Earth's surface is covered by water, making it the largest habitat on the planet. Yet water is never the same. It can be fresh or salty, warm or cold, dark or light, calm or turbulent, clear or murky. Each form of water creates a different home for a different community of life adapted to its conditions.

From flatfish, starfish and lobsters on the sandy seabed of the North Sea close to home, to colourful angelfish, scarlet cleaner shrimp and zebra morays among the rocky cliffs of the Red Sea. From ricefish and halfbeaks in the crystal-clear pools of Sulawesi to the critically endangered Lake Pátzcuaro salamander – a close relative of the axolotl – found in a single freshwater lake in Mexico.

In the great aquarium hall, visitors can marvel at the extraordinary diversity of aquatic habitats and the life they support.



Everything flows

In the gallery *Everything flows*, visitors discover that there is only one supply of water on Earth, and that it is constantly travelling. Through an endless cycle, water connects oceans, rivers, clouds, landscapes, animals, and people.

Seven interactive installations flow together to form one story about the water cycle. Visitors create whirlpools, generate digital clouds and discover how fresh and salt water meet in fragile ecosystems. Living animals, including sea nettles, blind cavefish and Marañón poison dart frogs, reinforce these stories and reveal how dependent all life is on water.

A world of layers & Stronger together

These two galleries explore how everything in the ocean is interconnected — from the deep sea to the surface and from coastlines to rocky reefs.
Visitors descend into the deep sea aboard a self-built submarine and discover how currents, pressure, and salinity shape marine life. They then encounter the ecosystems of the Caribbean coastal zone, where mangroves, seagrass meadows and coral reefs are connected in countless ways.

Schools of shimmering lookdowns swim along a towering cliff face, Atlantic blue tangs graze the rocks clean and a young pair of angelfish glides between them.

The gallery also features three species of Caribbean seagrass, carefully collected and transferred by researchers from the University of Amsterdam. Part of the vulnerable coral displayed nearby originates from Wageningen University & Research.

The Amazon and the Rhine

These two galleries explore how rivers connect ecosystems, animals and people.

In Life in the Rhythm of the River, visitors encounter the dynamic Amazon, where people, plants and animals have adapted to life shaped by seasonal flooding and periods of drought.

Highlights include giant red-tailed catfish and black pacu — often referred to as vegetarian piranhas — alongside brightly coloured Brazilian rainbow boas, poison dart frogs and splash tetras that lay their eggs above the waterline.

A Rhine to Love brings the story closer to home. It reveals how the River Rhine has connected people, animals, plants, and microbes for centuries. At the same time, it asks whether we have always cared for it properly. Visitors follow the river's journey from icy glacier to delta and discover what a healthy river ecosystem could look like.

A fair catch for everyone

This gallery centres on fishing, and the role fish play in human society.

Millions of people around the world depend on fish for their livelihoods. Others enjoy eating fish or unknowingly use products that contain fish-derived ingredients, including cosmetics and medicines.
Yet decades of industrial fishing and intensive aquaculture have damaged marine ecosystems. Fish populations have declined and habitats have been degraded.

Fortunately, alternatives exist. Visitors cast a fishing line and uncover stories about different species, the fishing industry, and practical ways to support sustainable fisheries that benefit both people and nature.

Food kitchen

From plankton to great white sharks. Here visitors can literally take a look behind the scenes and discover who eats whom. What was once a staff-only workspace is now visible to the public.

From this behind-the-scenes viewpoint, visitors learn about food chains, ecological relationships and the essential role every organism plays within an ecosystem.

The Earth's thermostat

In *The Earth's thermostat*, visitors discover how the ocean helps regulate the planet's climate and what happens when that balance is disrupted. In the adjoining gallery, So Beautiful, So Rich, So Vulnerable, visitors immerse themselves in the complex ecosystem of a coral reef.

Living coral reefs, symbiotic relationships and striking reef inhabitants demonstrate how essential healthy oceans are to life on Earth — from oxygen production to climate regulation. At the same time, they reveal just how vulnerable these ecosystems are to rising temperatures and ocean acidification.

Who owns the water?

Here visitors come face to face with their own water consumption: approximately 4,000 litres every day. Each of us depends on the same water as every other living thing on Earth. The gallery invites visitors to reflect on a simple but profound question:

Our underwater neighbours

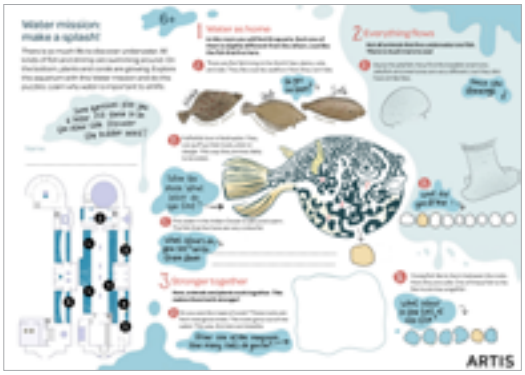
In *Our underwater neighbours*, visitors discover how rich and fragile nature can be close to home. Dutch ditches, rivers and wetlands are full of hidden life. This gallery shows how clean water is essential for biodiversity in our immediate surroundings.

Visitors also gain a glimpse beneath the surface of Amsterdam's canals and discover how relatively small interventions can improve conditions for aquatic life.

Notable species include the critically endangered European eel, several native roach species, the bright green European tree frog, renowned for its climbing ability, and the European bitterling, which lays its eggs inside living freshwater mussels — a remarkable example of cooperation between species.

The Aquarium for children

In the new Aquarium, children discover the wonders of water through play. They can build their own submarine and dive into the deep sea, create clouds using a bicycle pump, set ocean currents in motion and cast a line in the interactive fishing game. Using discovery cards, children learn about the diversity of aquatic life and explore how animals cooperate and adapt to their environments. From the striking clown triggerfish and mysterious moray eel to the short-tail nurse shark and the European eel, there is always something new to discover.



From autumn onwards, the Aquarium will also welcome school groups. During educational visits, pupils embark on a water mission and investigate why clean, healthy water is essential for all life on Earth – including their own.

Coming later this year

Room for change

In *Room for change*, ARTIS provides a platform for universities, colleges, NGOs, artists and nature organisations working to protect water and the life it supports.

This new gallery will open later this year. Here, ARTIS will showcase inspiring initiatives from organisations including the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), the European Seaweed Association, WWF, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Groningen and aquariums from across Europe.

Artworks

Water Body, 2026 - Marshmallow Laser Feast (United Kingdom)

At the top of the monumental staircase, a large-scale artwork draws visitors upwards, where the first stories about water begin. *Water Body* visualises the circulation of water across the planet. Visitors follow the paths of ocean currents, river systems and the movements of whales and seabirds. The work reveals how water connects climate, ecosystems and life on Earth.

How Water Grows, 2026 - Zoro Feigl (The Netherlands)

How Water Grows explores how forms emerge and disappear, and how fleeting beauty can be. Each bubble is unique, evoking flowing water, growing microorganisms and plant life. The patterns feel familiar and organic, arising from a delicate balance between air and liquid. Endlessly captivating, like a campfire made of water, the installation continuously transforms itself into new shapes.

Divine Idylle, 2026 - Joana Schneider (Germany)

Joana Schneider works with reclaimed ship ropes and fishing nets. By wrapping them with thread, she transforms their shape and colour. Her work explores the relationship between humanity and nature and the ways they continually influence one another. The immersive installation *Divine Idylle* forms a world of its own, inspired by De Slufter on the Dutch island of Texel — a landscape where sea and land meet. Visitors step into an environment that feels simultaneously above and below the water's surface.

Coral Garden, 2025 - Vanessa Barragão (Portugal)

Coral Garden is a textile artwork inspired by coral reefs, reflecting both their beauty and their vulnerability. Through organic forms and richly varied textures, the work evokes marine life while encouraging reflection on its conservation. Barragão created the piece using recycled materials from the textile industry combined with traditional handicraft techniques.

Seaweed Futures, 2026 - Klarenbeek & Dros (The Netherlands)

In the immersive installation *Seaweed Futures,* Klarenbeek & Dros explore how cultivated seaweed can replace fossil-fuel-based plastics and materials. The artists developed algae-based paint for the walls, coloured hemp curtains using seaweed pigments and created 3D-printed spirals from seaweed fibres that represent an underwater seaweed farm. The sea is reimagined as a circular production landscape where ecology, design and technology converge — a vision of the blue economy of the future.

THE RIVER IN THE SKY - Claudia Martínez Garay (Peru, based in Amsterdam and Lima)

In three large windows within the gallery *Life in the Rhythm of the River*, Claudia Martínez Garay depicts a sunset in the Amazon region, where river and sky merge in the reflection of the water.
Animals such as the arapaima and the Amazon River dolphin appear alongside archival imagery of life in the region.
The work combines beauty with history, revealing both the richness of the natural world and the ongoing social and ecological challenges faced by the Amazon.

Illustrators

A number of illustrators contributed to the storytelling throughout the thematic galleries. **Joost Stokhof** created a mural depicting the food web in the *Food Kitchen*. **Jan Rothuizen** illustrated the history of the Aquarium building and its filtration system in his distinctive style. **Noortje Rap** visualised the *journey of the Rhine for A Rhine to Love*. **Lotte Dijkstra** created wall illustrations for *Who Owns the Water?* **Annemieke Bunjes** produced detailed illustrations of *aquatic life* for the educational interpretation panels throughout the Aquarium.

Practical information

Public opening celebration
The renewed ARTIS Aquarium will open to the public on Saturday 13th June 2026.

To celebrate the reopening, ARTIS is offering a special gift to visitors. Anyone arriving at ARTIS on Saturday 13th June wearing a diving mask will receive free admission. All time slots were fully booked within an hour and a half of the promotion going live on Thursday 4 June. Unfortunately, reservations are no longer available.

Further information and downloadable images

artis.nl/aquarium-pers

ARTIS visitor address
ARTIS
Plantage Kerklaan 38–40
1018 CZ Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Opening hours
Open daily from 09:00 to 18:00.

Tickets and admission prices
From Sunday 14 June onwards, the Aquarium can be visited with a standard ARTIS-Park admission ticket. Admission prices for ARTIS-Park vary by day and are lowest when booked online.

Indicative prices
Adults (13+) from approximately €29.50
Children (3–12 years) from approximately €25.50
Children aged 0–2 years: free of charge

Special Rates

Students	€ 16.50
CJP Card Holders	€ 16.50
School Visits	€ 6.50 per person

Accessibility
The Aquarium has been designed to be accessible both physically and intellectually for all visitors. The building is equipped with two lifts for visitors with limited mobility, and route maps are available throughout the building. All interactive installations have been designed with accessibility in mind. Stories are presented through a combination of audio, visual content with subtitles and tactile objects, ensuring that visitors with visual or hearing impairments can also engage with the experience. Further information about accessibility at ARTIS is available online.

Press Information
Press visits to the Aquarium are possible by appointment and must be arranged in advance through the ARTIS Communications Department.

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Colophon

The new Aquarium was commissioned by the Natura Artis Magistra Foundation.

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YIPP

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Light Design
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Exhibition Construction
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AV-technology
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