



A trip to Eye Filmmuseum

This national museum for film, located on Amsterdam's IJ harbour, manages more than 55,000 films from all genres. The collection represents an outstanding sample of film history, from classics and blockbusters to cult films. But Eye does not only focus on the past: it also closely follows the latest developments in film by organizing new acquisitions, programmes, and debates. The building is open every day for anyone who is interested in film and film culture.

We visited the museum on a quiet Wednesday morning, after arriving at Amsterdam Centraal the route is very straightforward, with a single ferry ride and a dangling A4 poster leading us to the striking building on the harbour.

After a brief walk around the café -- lined with windows peeking over the calm water flowing through the canal into the busy city -- we made our way into the main exhibition: "What is film?"



What is film?

Permanente tentoonstelling
Permanent exhibition

Welkom in Wat is film?

Beneden en verspreid door het gebouw vind je onderdelen van de permanente tentoonstelling 'Wat is film?'. Via collecties, films en installaties maak je kennis met de ontwikkeling van film, van vroeger tot nu. Stroom door de collectie van Eye of maak je eigen filmpoek of animatie.

Welcome to What is film?

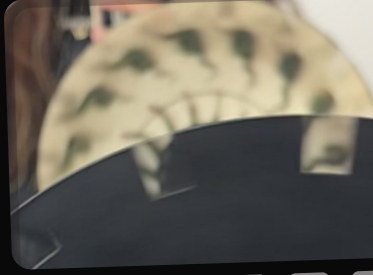
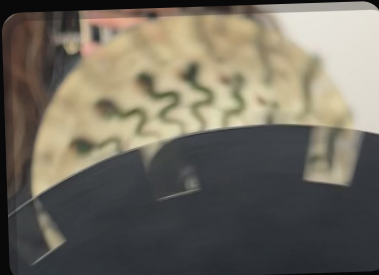
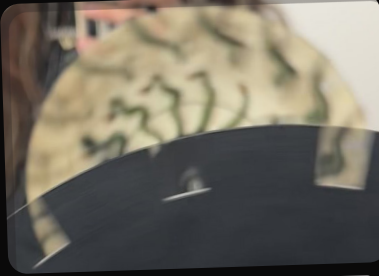
Downstairs and at various locations throughout the building you will find parts of the permanent exhibition 'What is film?'. These documents, films and installations from our collection illustrate the development of film from its earliest days to now. Cruise through the Eye collection, make your own filmpoek or animation film.

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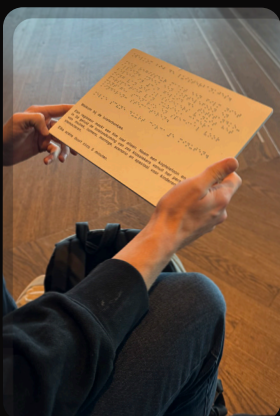
The walls leading up to the exhibition are adorned with various filmographic demonstrations to introduce visitors to the individual tricks of light that they will see create moving images in the exhibition later on.

Visitors are encouraged to try out these demonstrations themselves, spinning a circle while peeking through the gaps in the cover to see the image of a snake crawling up or finding the right viewing angle in a reflective cylinder to decipher the distorted image laid out in front of it.



Entering the exhibition itself, visitors will find themselves guided beautifully through the assorted collection of film history laid out in (mostly) chronological order.

In a separate, darkly lit room the walls are decorated with an animated tileset displaying snippets of the vast collection being preserved in the museum. Guests interact with tablets to fling emotions, colors, animals, whatever comes to mind at the walls to change the tone and palette seen around them. Guests are transfixed as they are able to make a wall reflect their current thoughts, their curiosities, their interests. They are able to make each wall their own.



Visitors are encouraged to actively engage with almost every piece of history laid out before them. A crowd forms waiting to stare out into a quaint diorama, on the other side of the room people are hand-cranking a film projector to stare in awe as the images start to move.

