

## Personal Comments - Subways and Transport

The Subways and Transport works are an ongoing series of paintings of people in public transport. I fell in love with this subject matter when I first picked up my brush. I was naturally drawn to it and will continue to paint it in years to come.

At first I was attracted to it because public transport is a place where people are really close together, sometimes even touching one another, but people don't seem to communicate there. Now this 'discommunication' still plays a part but I'm also interested in the psychology of the individuals and more abstract things like lighting, colors, reflections and atmosphere.

If you have any questions, remarks or are interested in purchasing a painting please don't hesitate to contact me anytime. I would be happy receiving your comments or inquiries and respond to them personally.

kind regards, Gerard Boersma

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The Subway, acrylics on masonite, 37.6 x 27.6" or 93,3 x 70 cm, 2004, sold

## The Subway

There's something about the subway of New York I find very intriguing. It has to do with the lighting, colors, reflections and of course the people. Here you see two guys riding the subway. Not speaking to one another as they go along, but deep in thought while reading. It's hard to see, but if you look closely you can see me in the reflections of the window left.

## Dirk

I really like the contrast between the muslim girls in an obviously western setting.

One of the women is wearing a burka, quite easy to paint I might add. I always wonder how a woman with such strong religious beliefs would feel in a western society. I mean all she gets is strange looks wearing a burka, but she must be irritated that everybody else is walking around quite naked through her eyes.

Anyway, she's holding a bag by a well known supermarket in the Netherlands called Dirk. It won't get more Dutch than that!



Dirk, acrylics on masonite, 35.6 x 27.6" or 90,3 x 70 cm, 2005

### The Tram

In The Hague you got these nice trams with red and some kind of light brownish yellow which I love to paint. Near central station I saw this man waiting for his tram to show up. The one right in front of him isn't his, or if it is he better hurry and get in. The scene reminds me of my museum paintings, because of the abstract background and the window. The window is almost like a painting within a painting, isn't it?



The Tram, acrylics on masonite, 13.8 x 12.6" or 35 x 32 cm, 2008



Connexxion, acrylics on masonite, 6 x 6" or 15 x 15 cm, 2008

### The Resemblance

I made this painting just like The Trams in 2003. It's one of only 6 paintings I made that year.

The painting shows a couple of women and one man waiting for a citybus to show up. The woman couldn't be further apart in cultural differences. The one on the left has raging red hair and the other two are muslim women, covering their hair with a headwrap. The man is stuck in the middle of this.

Either way, the cultural differences are there, but as human beings we still need the same things. In this case everybody wants to take the citybus, even the noses are pointing in the same direction for once.



The Resemblance, acrylics on masonite, .32 x 48" or 122 x 91,5 cm, 2003

### The Automat

In this painting a woman stands in front of an automat down at the station. It seems like she's part of the machine. Of course I did this deliberately, I want to make clear that we people are sometimes just like automatons. We do a lot of things automatically and we're not always aware of our surroundings. The woman is looking at something we can't see, she's probably looking at nothing in particular. Everything seems an automatism.

The painting is a modern version of the famous painting by Edward Hopper. If you look closely you will see some resemblances, like the glove she took off.

The model by the way is my friend Incks, a female mc from Brooklyn, New York. I really am a big fan of her music, you can check her out at: [www.myspace.com/incks](http://www.myspace.com/incks)



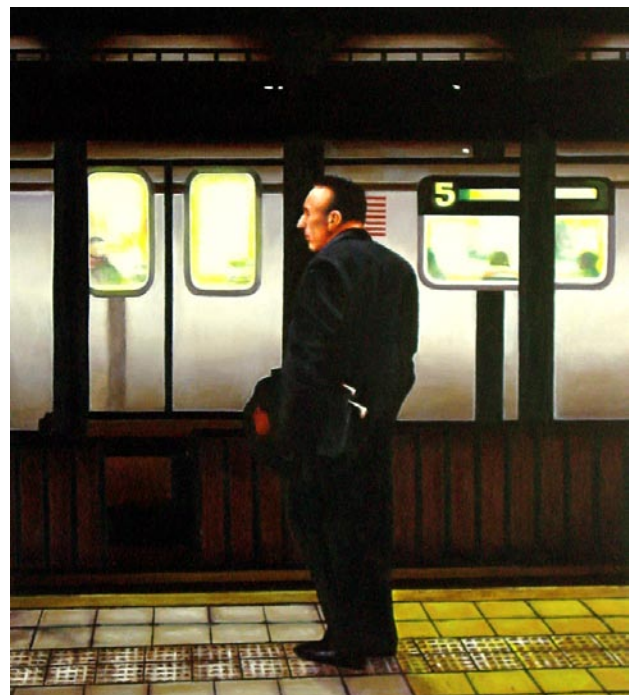
The Automat, acrylics on masonite, 37.6 x 27.6" or 93,3 x 70 cm, 2005

### Subway Platform

A man is waiting for his subway on a platform in New York. The man carrying a suitcase is alone and he's on the lookout. Another subwaycar is standing at the other side.

I don't know if you have ever used the subway of New York, but there's a certain atmosphere there I find strange but quite appealing at the same time. I think the man feels this as well. He probably wants to go home as soon as he can. In his mind he must be home already, knowing exactly what he's going to do as soon as he sets a foot in his apartment.

The painting is part of the permanent collection of hospital Isala Ziekenhuis in Zwolle, the Netherlands.



Subway Platform, acrylics on masonite, 20.4 x 17.3" or 51,8 x 44 cm, 2009, sold



The Rest, acrylics on masonite, 23.6 x 17.7" or 60 x 45 cm, 2005, sold

### The Trams

In 2003 I only made 6 paintings. The problem, well not really a problem, was that my technique evolved drastically that year. From having quite a loose brushstroke I went to a more and more hyperrealistic one. Therefore I needed way more time to complete a painting. It took me about 2 months to finish one, I finally stopped making the really large ones early 2004.

The Trams is one of those rare paintings of 2003. It shows a man waiting for his tram in front of the Stadschouwburg (Municipal Theatre) at the Leidseplein in Amsterdam. In the forefront he's covered on both sides by a tram. The green/ blueish one is an old tram of Amsterdam, the new ones are the one on the right.

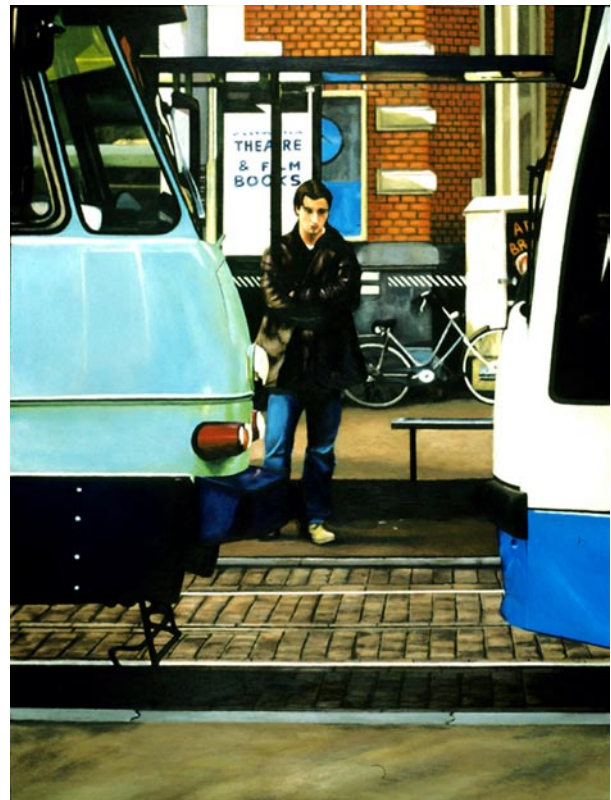
So the painting could be explained as a contrast between old and new, but also as our dependency on our techniques. To me the man being covered on both sides by trams is a symbol of this. He's almost buried between the inventions of man.

### The Rest

I might not share his religious beliefs, but I do have a great deal of respect for this man on the painting.

In the midst of all the rumours of a large city, he just sits down and starts reading a book. It just might be a holy book where he finds his strength to carry on. I'm certain it's not crap that he's reading. He's way too balanced for that.

However, he doesn't let the city get to him and calmly waits until the bus comes to take him away. Leaving the big city with all the temptations it brings behind and ready for his own 'Tanqueray'.



TheTrams, acrylics on masonite, 48 x 32" or 122 x 91,5 cm, 2003



The Bags acrylics on masonite, 20 x 15" or  
38 x 51 cm, 2006

### **The Bags**

'Baglady, you can't hurry up,' sang Erykah Badu and this painting shows how true these words are. The young woman on this painting is carrying way too much weight on her shoulders. She has too much luggage to get ahead and that's why she's probably taking the subway. Although she can hardly move her own two feet, I think she's quit happy with all the stuff she just bought.

The painting is about our consumer society. You can say we look at consuming like it's a new God. People say new things will make you happy. I see it as a burden. The woman on the painting knows how heavy this burden is. 'Pack light,' Erykah Badu would sing.

### **Contact**

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