

Be Nice: Invitation



BE NICE is a participative gathering organized by Manon Malan and Lisa Meijer at BUISNESS, an artist-run space in Rijnhaven Rotterdam. This event brings together community, food, performance, art, research, dialogue and above all *emotions*.

BE NICE invites FLINTA artists to reflect on our everlasting heritage of repressed feelings: being nice to avoid conflict, smiling for the sake of pleasing. Together, we explore how our behaviours—even when ‘deconstructed’—are still shaped by traditional gender roles, and how we internalize expectations of niceness when we feel frustrated or angry. Why do we soften our voices, lower our tone, and stay cool, when our emotional landscape is burning?

Alongside the joy of coming together around music and food—through a brunch, a participative workshop-performance and a lecture/talk about the history of emotions—this group exhibition creates space for shared experiences, misunderstandings, and emotions. We welcome honesty, anger, mistakes, bad taste, vulnerability and the unapologetic display of feelings. By doing so we hope to open conversations about how we adapt our behaviour to please others, and how we might break free from these patterns—and if we want to break free at all.

Save the date for **Sunday 13 July**, whether you want to take part in the conversations, or whether you are just curious.

Please make sure to reserve your spot for the brunch and the workshop by sending an email to buisnessrotterdam@gmail.com so we make sure there is enough food and seats available.

We look forward to seeing you at BUISNESS!

[Hillelaan 49D, 3072 JE Rotterdam](http://Hillelaan%2049D,%203072%20JE%20Rotterdam)

Open to the public - Free entry

BE NICE Program

11:00 AM — Opening & Brunch

We begin the day with a vegetarian brunch to meet, connect, and share a convivial moment together in Manon Malan's textile installation.

12:00 AM — *Mold Me, Participative Workshop-Performance*

Led by Romy Bauer, this workshop-performance invites you to explore and release emotions through the tactile experience of shaping clay.

2:00 PM — *Lecture: The History of Emotions*

Reframe your conception of emotions with a talk by Marie van Haaster on how past and present societal structures shape our feelings. In her research on the history of emotions Marie studies the practices and politics of consolation in a late nineteenth-century Paris hospice and asylum. Central to her research is the question of how we deal with difficult emotions in this society.

Looking at history shows us that patterns that seem natural or fixed today, were shaped by culture, have changed throughout time, and can be changed in the future. The lecture will be followed by an open discussion session on our experiences around a few key questions.

The day continues with drinks and snacks until 6:00 PM

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BE NICE is a collaboration between BUISNESS (Manon Malan) and IAMAIR (Lisa Meijer). This event is made possible thanks to the contributions of V2_Lab for the Unstable Media and CBK Rotterdam.

Artists:

Romy Bauer

Romy Bauer is a performance and spoken word artist from Limburg. She explores vulnerability, not only as an emotion, but as a form of critique. She is interested in how personal experiences can reveal what often remains hidden within larger structures, such as the art world. Her focus lies on what many artists know but rarely make visible: instability, emotional labor, invisibility. She seeks ways to make something vulnerable, exhausted, and yet connecting visible, within a system that often values marketability over humanity.

Manon Malan

MANON MALAN is a visual researcher and artist based in Rotterdam who collects and transforms images and objects, exploring their identity and meaning. Her work invites interaction and aims to provoke reflection, using art as a tool to share stories and spark emotional connections.

With a multidisciplinary approach, she combines textiles, garments, sculpture, lighting, and installations, all rooted in sustainable practices. Her designs emphasize participation and aim to explore social structures, emotional boundaries, and collective experiences.

She is especially drawn to texture, distortion, and the layered histories of materials. Urban structures like architecture, monuments, and public spaces form the foundation of her work. Through upcycling and collaging, she reimagines these spaces, challenging dominant narratives and advocating for inclusion, diversity, and social justice.

Her goal is to inspire and connect.

Lisa Meijer

Lisa Meijer is a multidisciplinary artist with a background in visual arts, museum studies, and cultural mediation. Her work spans visual studio work, photography, and a practice-based research called IAMAIR, taking the shape of an online agency that explores how performance art and cultural mediation can transform behavior, relationships, and generate poly-perspective narratives by blending fiction with reality. She will document and photograph the Be Nice event

Marie van Haaster

Marie van Haaster is a historian of medicine and emotions. As a PhD Candidate at the European University institute in Florence, she studies practices of consolation in an asylum in Paris at the end of the nineteenth century. Her research shows that the act of consoling someone else or of being consoled, is deeply political. Who are expected to be consoling? Who get to be consoled? What types of suffering - and whose suffering - are worthy of being consoled? In her talk, she will discuss the cultural character of emotions, and show how configurations of gender, ability and class have shaped the way we relate to the suffering of others.