

Jip van den Toorn (1993)

Inappropriate Grandma

2017

While art history is full of female nudes made by male artists, male nudes made by female artists are extremely rare.

Needlepoint is an art form associated above all with femininity, which is why Jip van den Toorn chose it to depict this male nude. The result immediately provokes embarrassment and mirth, though this is not the case with female nudes in art. As such, *Inappropriate Grandma* refers to the inequality in women's rights that persists to this day. The material and the narrative are mutually reinforcing. The fact that the cushions are made using the needlepoint technique immediately raises questions like, 'who made them?', or 'who has these on their sofa?'. As if they were the handiwork of some inappropriate grandma. The cushions won in the Experimental New Talent category at the World Illustration Awards 2018.

Jip van den Toorn presents her opinion about what is happening in the world every week in a visual column for the *Volkskrant* newspaper.