

Having recovered somewhat from his jet lag (is that Jet Laag in den Haag? Nee, is jetlag) **Pawn** has set about the city with a bit more purpose, but somewhat less resolve. This reminds **Pawn** of a post his old buddy Dave Malekar wrote some years back, over at [100 Word Rant](#):

Read Cautiously

You know what's stupid? The phrase "drink responsibly" is stupid. You know why? Of course you do. It's stupid because the whole entire point of drinking is to escape responsibility. Like anything else, drinking should be engaged in with unflinching dedication and a wholehearted commitment to getting this damn thing done right. By "right" I mean waking up with teeth that taste like tiny ashtrays and a vague awareness that at some point in the recent past you have done something absolutely unforgivable. Drink responsibly? Then what - nap resolutely? It could probably be done, but what would be the point?

Okay, enough glory reflected from Dave's wit. Moving on...

Yesterday there was some purpose, and great resolve; find "Slijterijangel" which translates as "Liquor Store Angel." Described thusly on [Den Haag Shopping](#), yet another blog:

In Dutch, they are referred to as "de zussen van de slijter", the liquor store sisters. Aida (22) and Hoda (29) Shojaee are from The Hague. Aida has a management assistant diploma and was trained as a dancer. Hoda studied international business. Together, these strong young women run the trendy Angel liquor store in the heart of the city.

Now anybody who watches weekday morning telly in the states knows that when it comes to alcohol, Hoda should know, am I right? I'm not sure, since I don't watch weekday morning telly. But I do know that any trendy liquor store run by strong women just has to be good, so off I went in search of it.

It's worth noting that in today's world of smartphones and GPS this is no longer such a problem. And sure enough, even though I wandered greatly along the way — stopping to traipse through several shopping districts, have lunch, admire architecture, etc. — I did finally find myself on Spui, and next to a gated and closed shop. Oh well. I guess when Den Haag Shopping reported that:

These two women demonstrate an approach and enthusiasm that simply brims with energy. This is even reflected in their opening hours. The store is open no less than seven days a week (six days until 11pm). And it is open even on official holidays, something you don't

see very often.

I didn't think to ponder what time they might open, something which is also not reflected on [their own website](#).Â Oops, not before 2PM it seems.Â Do not fret, but enjoy this video, *Haarlem Shake in Angel Liquor Store*, instead

https://youtu.be/_yf2EptiRSA

I ended up shopping at the far more prosaic **Gall & Gall**, just down Zoutmanstraat from here. So that was yesterday and this is today, day two in The Hague, and a day embraced with great hope and desire, but little expectation and frail resolve.Â Purpose?Â Yes, there was the conference to check in with, which was dealt with early.Â Then there was the matter of returning to the hotel to scope out plans for attending conference sessions (none today worth the bother) and trying to get in at least a little culture before leaving for Amsterdam in three day's time (3 May).

The latter greatly assisted by various web searches and map pondering and the like, narrowed down, at least initially, to Gemeente Museum, GEM and Fotomuseum Den Haag, all clustered together not too far northwest of the lovely Hotel Sebel.

Off I went.

I walked.

It bears mentioning that even though I whole heartedly embrace the wonderful public transportation options here — train, tram and bus — I have had spectacularly bad luck with timing.Â This has been reflected in walking out the door, a block from the tram stop, on at least four separate occasions so far, only to see the tram already at the stop, and pulling away.Â Also in waiting at the Mariahoeven bound 24 stop long enough that three (3) different buses should have come, yet none did (last night).Â Today, however, I figured that I would just walk anyway, and then take the tram back (the 17, *my* tram, stops right in front of the museums).

The draw, for me, at these museums was a massive, sprawling, comprehensive, retrospective, **Hollands Deep**, on the work of photographer [Anton Corbijn](#).Â You may not know him, but you know his work.Â He has shot portraits of the famous for decades, album covers for everyone from Bruce Springsteen to Bon Jovi to Johnny Rotten to Kim Wilde, Depeche Mode to Smashing Pumpkins, Nick Cave to the Rolling Stones, Nirvana to Courtney Love, the Bee Gees to Metallica.Â His portraits of Miles Davis and Lucien Freud are iconic, as are his many portfolio over the years from **Famouz** to **Star Trak** to **strippinggirls**. Here's a few of my faves, snapped in the gallery of Gemeente Museum where **Hollands Deep** is located:



Nick Cave - London 1988



Tom Waits



David Bowie



Assorted people from Famouz



More people from Famouz



Nick Cave - 33 Still Lives (1999)



Damien Hirst - Everybody Hurts (2003)



Patti Smith - 33 Still Lives (1999)

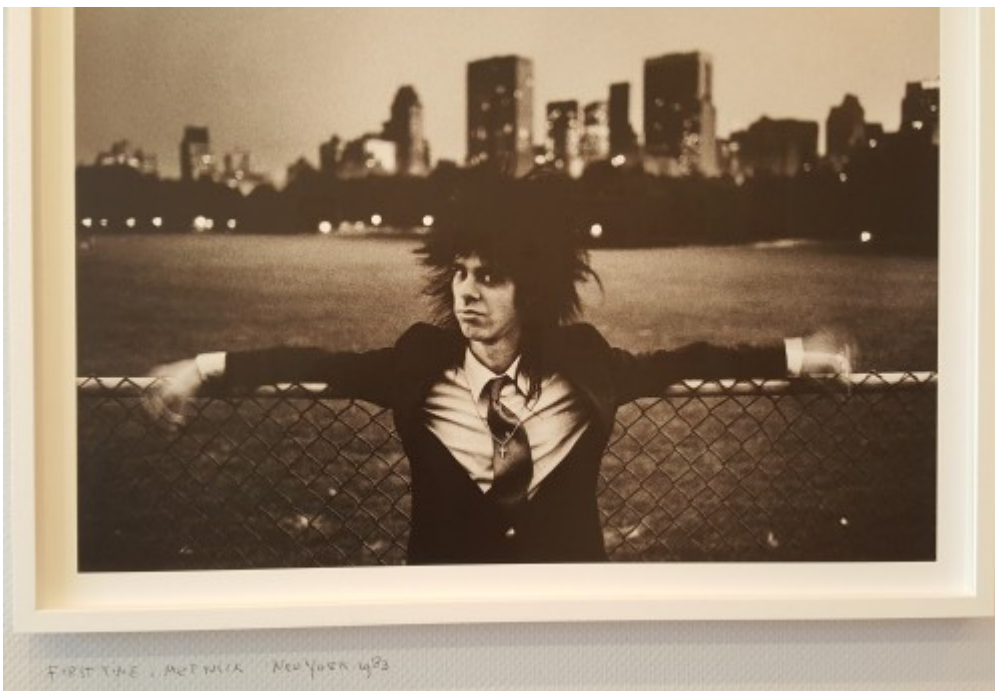


David Byrne - 33 Still Lives (1999)

You get the idea.Â But wait, thereâ€™s more.Â The subject is *so huge* that it spilled into the neighboring Fotomuseum, for the sister exhibition,Â **1-2-3-4**, where there were mostly portfolio of the different musicians heâ€™d worked with, such as:



John Hiatt - LA 1988



The first time I met Nick - 1982



Kim Wilde - London 1980

It bears noting that the catalogues from these exhibits are extraordinarily well made, with thick pages and exquisite printing. No, I did not buy them (to haul home) but likely will (once I get back there). The two volumes, together, weigh about as much as my luggage for this trip. □

Lest you think I saw nothing but Corbijn, here's some other treasures along the way. In Gemeente Museum is a stunning gallery full of Francis Bacon's work, the center of which is occupied by a humongous carousel:



Bacon gallery with carousel - view I



Bacon gallery with carousel - view II

GEM, the modern art museum, currently features an expansive exhibition of Charles Avery's work, entitled *What's The Matter With Idealism?*:



Charles Avery

Finally, there's the gift shops. At Gemeente Museum I grabbed a copy of *strippinggirls*, a joint effort between [Marlene Dumas](#) and Anton Corbijn, in which they went to the strip clubs of Amsterdam, met the performers, and produced both paintings (Dumas) and photographs (Corbijn) of them:



*WARM - From
Strippinggirls*



Marlene Dumas -

stripping girls

And lastly, an assortment of postcards from both Gemeente Museum and Fotomuseum, including these two gems:



Iggy Pop & The Stooges



Ata Kando - Haute Couture, Paris 1954

But now that I'm back at the hotel, having thoroughly enjoyed my outing, my resolve to do any more is shattered, as my feet are all pain and strain. No more long treks today. Perhaps a quick outing to a cafe along Zoutmanstraat for dinner, and then reading in the room, while letting these tired dogs relax a bit.

Ta!

PS - It's come to my attention that [CNN has a pretty good story](#) up about these shows.