

Lisa Tan

Waiting Room of a
Psychologist
and a
Neurologist



Waiting Room of a Psychologist and a Neurologist, 2019.

At Kunstinstituut Melly, 84 steps away from the ground floor, on our third floor there is an exhibition *84 STEPS*. Almost all art pieces shown in this exhibition are made around the theme of care and taking care. Hearing those words, you might think about being ill or being at the hospital. But care can also be about taking care of yourself or another person, by, for example, asking them how they feel, or doing something together with someone who feels lonely.

Two waiting rooms

left



right

On both sides of the entrance of the exhibition you find two waiting rooms. These waiting rooms are not just replicas of a room where you can wait to be invited in by the doctor, dentist or psychologist, but the two rooms together form an art piece. The art piece has the name *Waiting Room of a Psychologist and a Neurologist*, and is created by artist Lisa Tan.

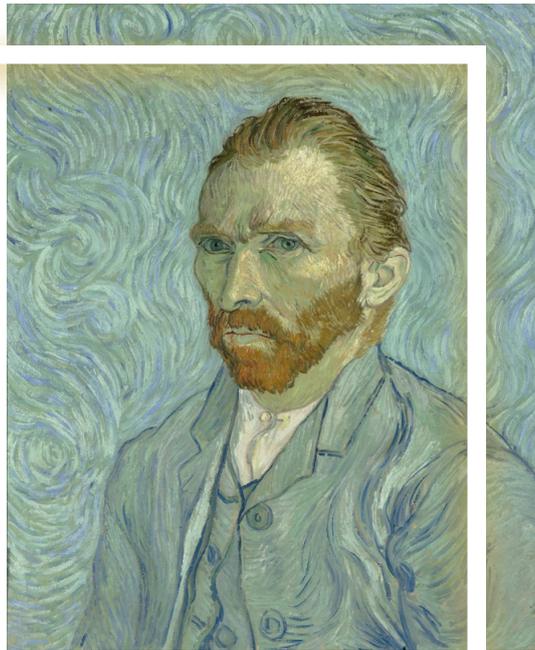


A psychologist is someone who helps people with mental problems like depression or sadness. A neurologist is a doctor who works with illnesses of the brain and the nervous system. The artist Lisa Tan researches with her artwork how places like waiting rooms unconsciously influence our thinking. At the top of this page you see two images of the waiting rooms. The art pieces on the walls, the plants and the framed letters are part of it as well.



1. Look closely at the images of the three framed paintings that are hanging in the waiting rooms. There is something special going on in them. Describe in the frame next to this text what you notice is special about the paintings on the wall.

Self-portrait



Self Portrait, 1889.

A self-portrait is an image of a person made by the person itself. You can think of a painter or a photographer who makes a painting or a photo of himself or herself.

There are many famous self-portraits made by artists. You can see a very famous one, next to this text on the left.

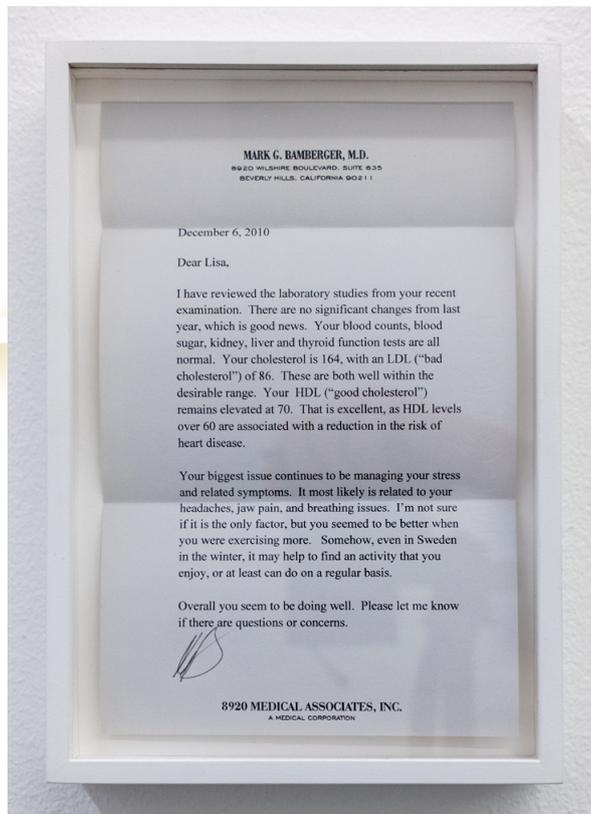
2a. Do you know which artist is painted here? Write down his name under the portrait.

2b. What makes this self-portrait so special?



For the art piece *Waiting Room of a Psychologist and a Neurologist* artist Lisa Tan also made a self-portrait. This self-portrait is made out of seven letters written by her doctor. The letters hang on the walls of the installation and you can read them when you visit the art piece. The first letter was written in the year 2002 and the last one in the year 2010. These letters all together show us who the artist really is.

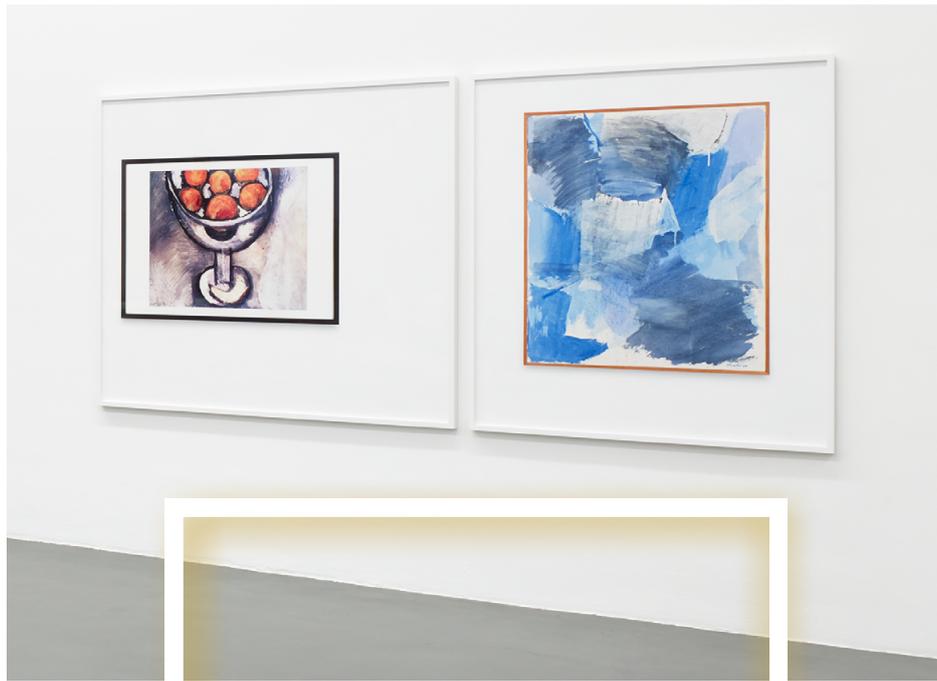
On the picture next to this text you will find an image of one of the letters from the year 2010. Read the letter carefully. By reading this letter you might already get an idea of who the artist Lisa Tan is.



3. Make a drawing in the open space underneath of what you think the artist Lisa Tan looks like, according to what you have read in the letter and write down one word that you think describes her best.

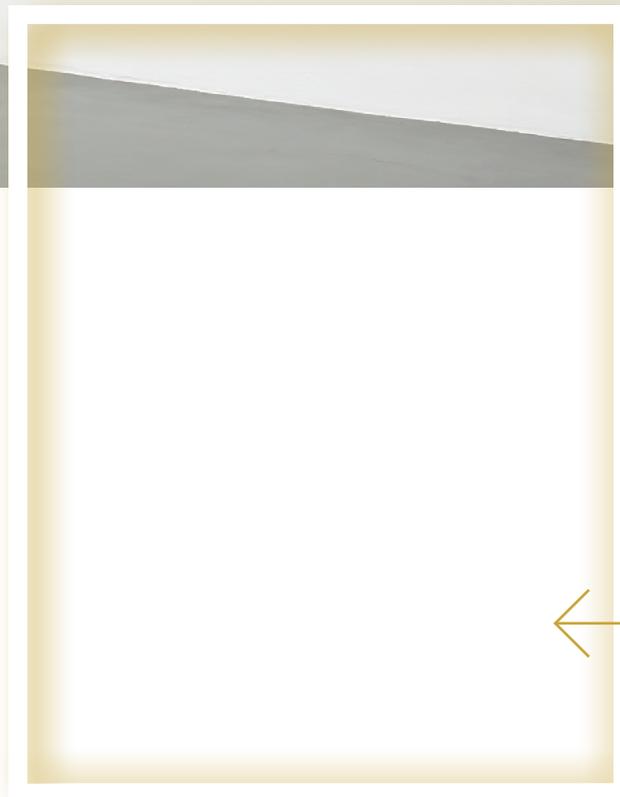


Waiting room, room of hope and fear

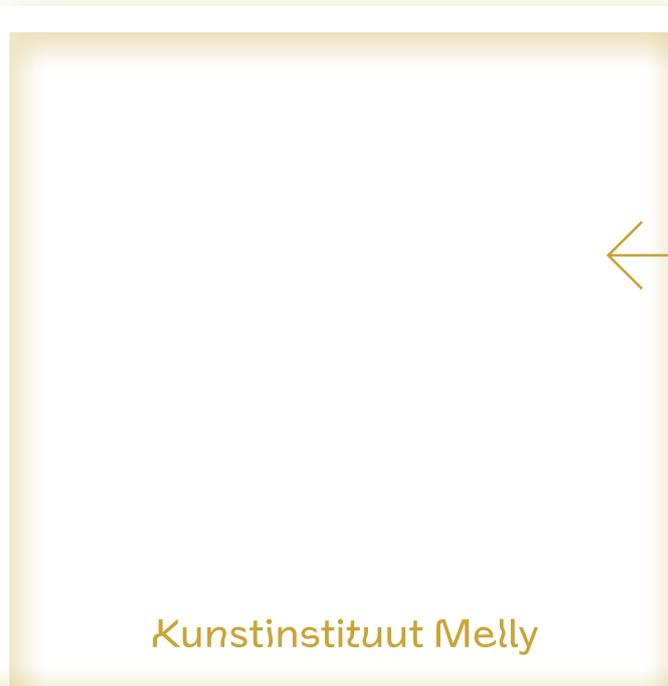


Lisa Tan describes waiting rooms as rooms of hope and fear. There are people who are not comfortable in waiting rooms and some are even afraid to be there. A lot of times, waiting rooms look alike and the design pays more attention to the function of the room than how it feels to be in one. The function of a waiting room is that it should be possible to wait there, but the room also needs to be able to be cleaned easily. And many different people must feel comfortable in the room.

On the walls in the art piece of Lisa Tan, you can find different framed pictures of paintings. The artist made pictures of the paintings she found in different waiting rooms. These paintings are copies of real paintings, made by artists such as Monet and Leonardo Da Vinci. By showing these pictures again in Kunstinstituut Melly, these paintings are seen as real art pieces and can be admired in that way again.



4a.
Do you have a good or bad memory of a waiting room? Write down your answer in the upper frame.



4b.
Write down in the lower frame what this waiting room you had to wait in looked like, or describe one detail of the room you remember.

Waiting rooms of the future

Maybe in the future, there will only be waiting rooms where people feel safe and at ease while waiting. What would a waiting room like that look like for you?

5a.
Put a circle around four words you think fit the waiting room.

grey

soft

wool

wood

roses

flowers

nails

black

art

birds

pillows

sea

cows

skateboard

pie

tea

candy

clown

balloon

berry

sand

light

warm

iron

plush

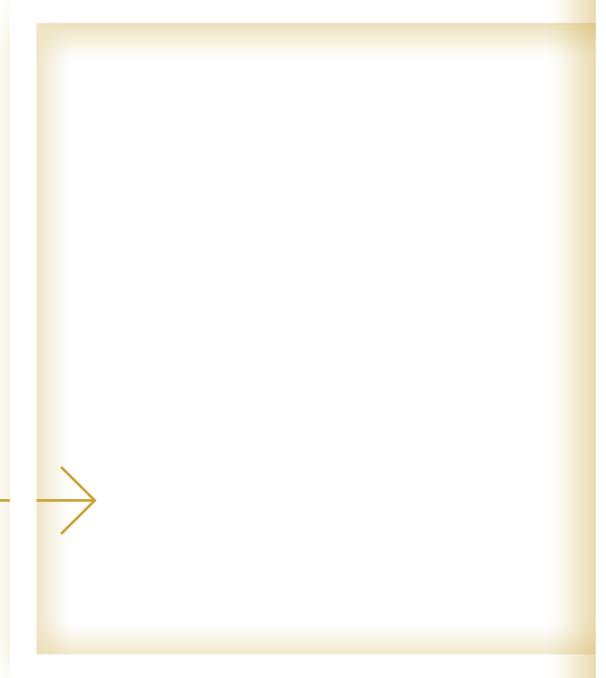
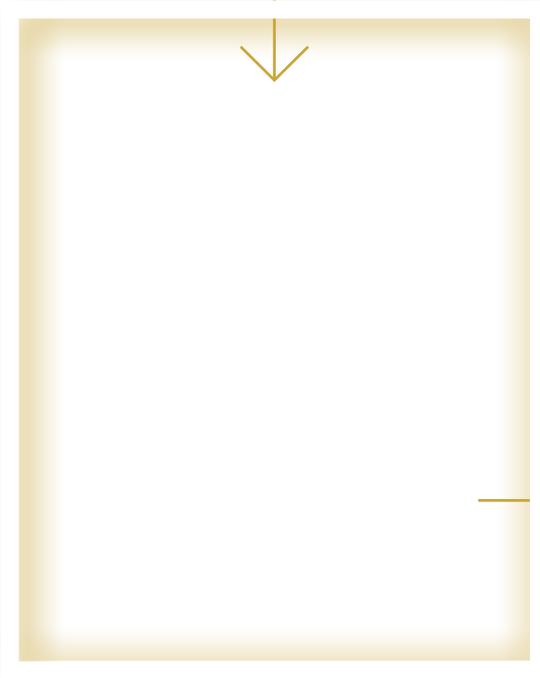
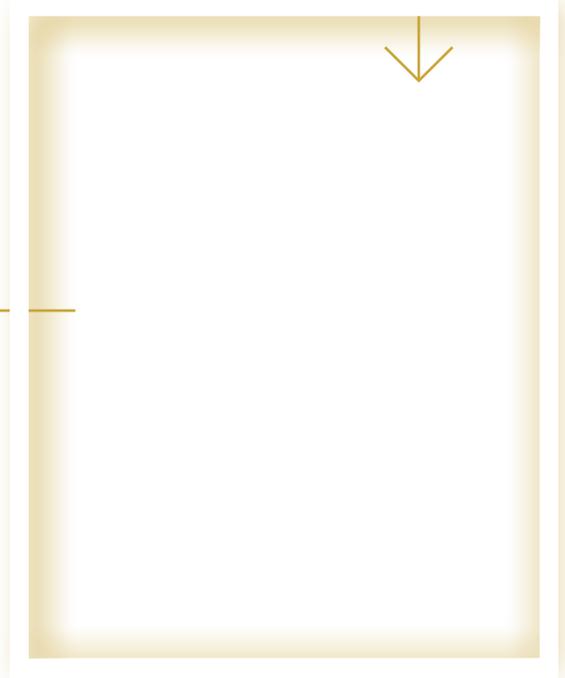
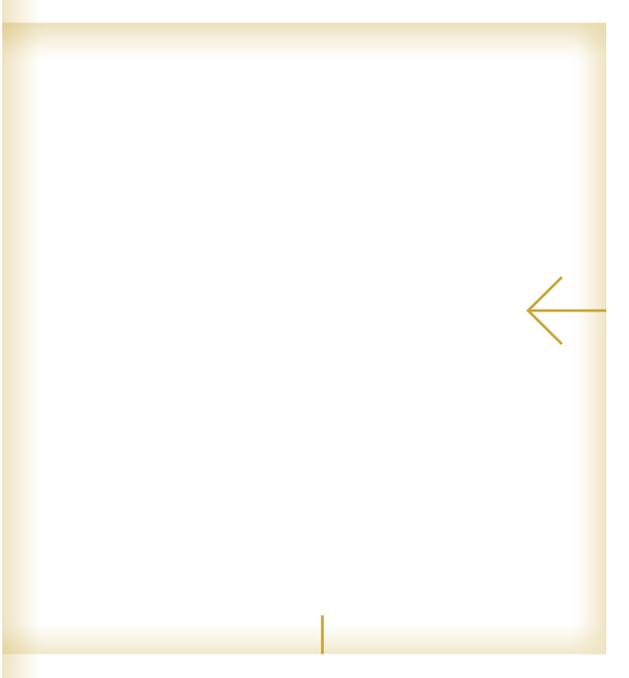
stuffed animal

cotton balls

green

algae

5b.
Write down the four words in the frames on this page. The next step is to cut out four paintings of the images of the art piece *Waiting Room of a Psychologist and a Neurologist* by artist Lisa Tan that you think match the four words.



Collage art

The word collage comes from the French word *coller*, which means paste. In a collage, you can combine different pictures into a new image. You can also use other materials in a collage, like fabrics, paint or materials you find in nature. Getting curious? Check out the collages of artist marjolijn kok on Instagram: [@marjolijnkok](https://www.instagram.com/marjolijnkok).

With this assignment, we will create a collage that is not flat but spatial, which one calls a 3D collage.

For making the 3D collage you need the following materials: tape or scotch tape, if you can find a glue gun or other strong glue, old magazines and/or advertising brochures, pencils or markers, scissors, paint and cardboard.

6a.
Use the words you have written down in the previous assignment and look for images in old magazines, advertising brochures you find that match the words.

6b.
We start by making the back and the bottom of the 3D collage. Cut out two shapes you like from cardboard. Tape or glue those together in a 90-degree angle.

6c.
Now the basis of your 3D collage is finished. You can also make two extra walls or leave it like this. Glue the images you collected from the magazines into the background of the collage. You can also add some of the pictures of the artwork by Lisa Tan. If you place images in the middle of the collage, you will have an extra spatial effect. You can also place little puppets or images of people and animals into the collage. Go on until your ideal waiting room is finished.

6d.
Create a title for your collage and take a picture of it.

Send the photo of your collage to activities@kunstinstituutmelly.nl. We shall place your photo on the website so everyone can enjoy your art piece. Have a look at other art pieces by clicking [this link](#).

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