Statue J.P. Coen

J.P. Coen is controversial in our time. He was responsible for a very large number of murders of residents and leaders of current Indonesia. Society must be transparent about this. The Beurs van Berlage certainly does not want to leave any misunderstanding about this and rejects the crimes.

Beurs van Berlage is a Gesammtkunstwerk. All sculptures, decorations and art were commissioned by Berlage and designed by well-known artists. The content and theme of all that art ties in with quatrains written by the poet Albert Verwey. In many cases, the themes of art were far ahead of their time. For example, much can be found about the rights of the workers and about the emancipation of women.

The vision of Berlage about how peoples should deal with each other is perhaps best expressed in the facing brick on the west facade of the Beurs van Berlage, under which the text reads: "Nature will soon become one: The Peoples are like groups of a union that controls all its globe. By land, by sea, train strives, fleet strives for the most. To the alternating goal where they call each other. "

A large diversity of people can be seen on this facing brick, which are depicted in great harmony and equality.

At the corners of the building, Berlage placed statues of famous historical figures, overlooking that part of the city. As a seafarer, Coen was the figure who looked out over the sea. Incidentally, his name is not mentioned on the facade, but the applied motto does not leave any misunderstanding about this.

The Beurs van Berlage's architecture, furnishings and art form an inseparable whole and are an example of the zeitgeist at the beginning of the twentieth century. It is precisely from this perspective and the complete picture that Berlage sketches that we choose not to affect the whole. We do not deny that choices and insights from the past are different in the present day.

Beurs van Berlage

Damrak 243

1012 ZJ Amsterdam

E info@beursvanberlage.com

T +31 (0)20 530 41 41

www.beursvanberlage.com