

# Aesthetics of imprisonment

Diana Popa

Red Sky 4



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**Disclaimer: All photos were taken by the author in March 2026.**



A prison turned into a museum is by no means rare. However, the Oranjehotel in Scheveningen is a unique purely visual experience. It contradicts expectations. A dark page of imposed history – occupation during WWII - turned into beauty. The aesthetic experience contradicts the reality of imprisonment experience. The colours are bright and the layer of paint is thick to the point that the brick construction is hardly perceptible. Every centimetre of the space has been cared for, every object carefully chosen in a different stage of perfection and integrated into a multilayered, multidimensional showcasing: metal, brick, paint, wood, paper, textile, light and moving pictures. Its Suffering turned into Beauty.









**Reasons for imprisonment during occupation, displayed on the walls of the cels where once writings of the prisoners were carved into the walls.**

Nr. 18476

**Hendrik Sietsma**  
22 jaar

Gevangen genomen in: 1944  
85 dagen in gevangenschap  
Reden: wapenbezit

Nr. 14750

**Hendrik Franz Sledkens**  
Leeftijd onbekend

Gevangen genomen in: 1943  
110 dagen in gevangenschap  
Reden: III - inlichtingen

Nr. 13556

**Arie Rond**  
42 jaar

Gevangen genomen in: 1942  
28 dagen in gevangenschap  
Reden: IV - verzet

Nr. 14653

**Jan Thijmen Sietsma**  
18 jaar

Gevangen genomen in: 1943  
39 dagen in gevangenschap  
Reden: illegale pers

Nr. 13192

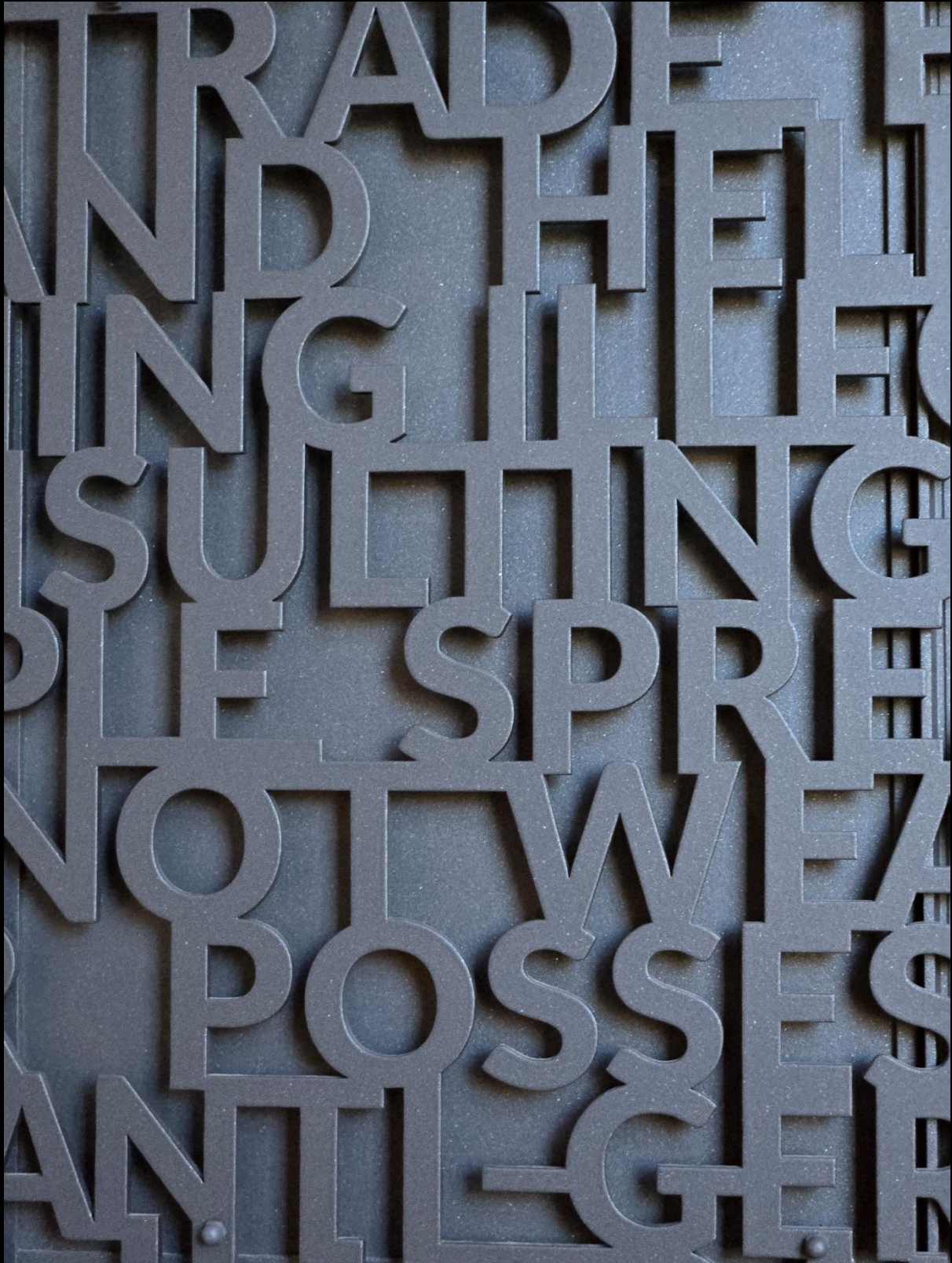
**Hermanus Johannes Reinten**  
49 jaar

Gevangen genomen in: 1943  
265 dagen in gevangenschap  
Reden: V - economisch

### **Reason for imprisonment (clockwise):**

- **Weapons possession.**
- **Intelligence.**
- **Resistance.**
- **Illegal press.**
- **Economic.**





**A story written in iron**



## The meaning and function of resistance.

In today's narratives, dominated by "multialignment"; "settlements" and "diplomacy" the reminders of the OranjeHotel force two questions:

*What is the meaning of resistance?*

*What is the function of resistance?*

WHO will give answer today to these questions in front of the nation and in front of history?











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**About the author.**

Diana Popa has over 17 years of experience in research and academia and has authored numerous reports and scientific articles. Recent research and analysis focus on resilience as part of defence programmes, emerging disruptive technologies, in particular Artificial Intelligence in high risk areas, including defence.

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