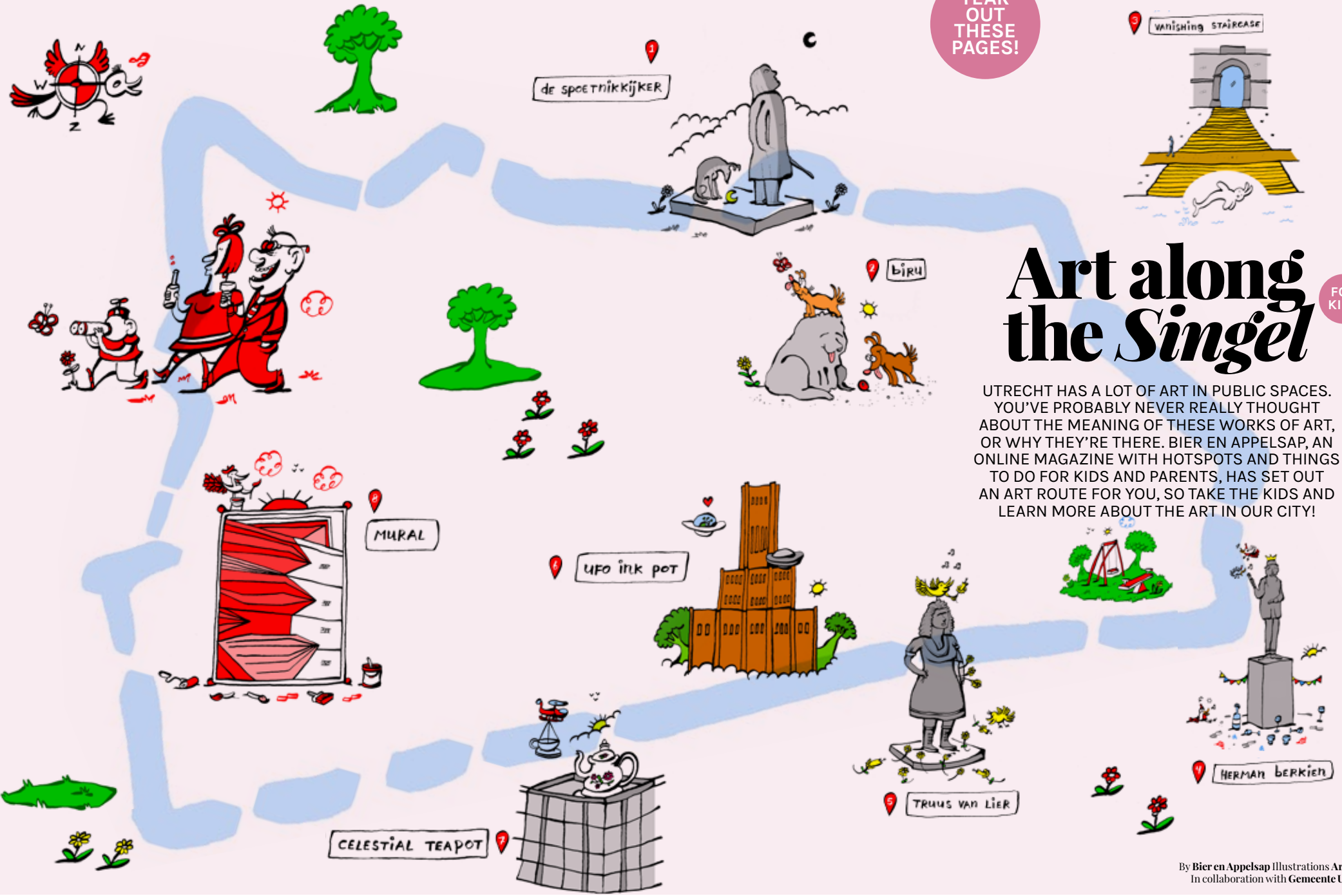


TEAR OUT THESE PAGES!



Art along the Singel

FOR KIDS

UTRECHT HAS A LOT OF ART IN PUBLIC SPACES. YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE MEANING OF THESE WORKS OF ART, OR WHY THEY'RE THERE. BIER EN APPELSAP, AN ONLINE MAGAZINE WITH HOTSPOTS AND THINGS TO DO FOR KIDS AND PARENTS, HAS SET OUT AN ART ROUTE FOR YOU, SO TAKE THE KIDS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ART IN OUR CITY!

EXPLORE

1
The first satellite

We start the route close to the Sonnenborgh Museum and Observatory. The Observatory was built in the 19th century on the site of a 15th-century fortress. The museum explains everything about the universe, telescopes, stargazing and the sun.

> **Question:** There's a man with a dog close to Sonnenborgh. The man is looking upwards. What do you think he's looking at?

ANSWER: The statue of De Spoetnikkijker (the Sputnik watcher) was made by Oswald Wenckebach. On 4 October 1957, much to everyone's surprise, the former Soviet-Union launched the first satellite: Sputnik 1. Oswald wanted the statue to convey feelings of astonishment, fear and unease. It was removed in the 1960s due to vandalism. Fifty years later, the statue was re-erected on Servaasbolwerk at the request of local residents.



2
Chow chow

Close to the Servaas bridge, you'll see a statue of **Biru**, the chow chow dog that belonged to the Utrecht-based artist Joop Hekman (1921-2013). Joop often walked his dog along the Singel, or the dog lay sleeping on the pavement in front of his house. Thanks to a group of dog-owners, the statue (a cast of one of Joop's own works) was placed on the spot where Biru used to enjoy a snooze, in honour of Joop's 75th birthday.

> **Question:** Why has Biru got such a shiny spot on his head?

ANSWER: Because so many people stop to pat him.



3
Green steps

In 2018, a work of art called **Vanishing Staircase** by Birthe Leemeijer was placed behind the Centraal Museum. It looks like a staircase, but the steps are tilted. The work represents a connection between museum and park, park and water, and art and life. Special plants were planted between the steps. In 2021, an over-diligent city gardener burned all the plants away, thinking they were weeds. Luckily, the plants were replaced and the steps are now green again, creating a source of biodiversity along the Singel.

> **Question:** This work of art is sometimes referred to as a folly. Do you know what a folly is?

ANSWER: A folly is an ornamental building or structure with no practical purpose.

4
Utreg, my city

Smack in the middle of the pavement close to the cafés on Ledig Erf, there's a statue of **Herman Berkien**, made by Frans Stelling. Berkien was an Utrecht-born singer and cabaret artist (1942-2005). He's well-known for his songs in Utrecht dialect, such as *Utreg me stadsie*. In the 1970s, his fame spread beyond Utrecht with songs including *Waar is toch m'n caravan*.

> **Question:** Can you sing a verse from 'Utreg me stadsie'?

>> There's a playground behind the Centraal Museum. You can stop here to play in the shade of the trees!

>> Fancy something to eat? Twijnstraat is packed with fun shops and restaurants.



**THE STATUE OF BIRU
THE DOG WAS PLACED IN
THE SPOT WHERE HE USED
TO ENJOY A SNOOZE**



5
Resistance fighter

The statue of **Truus van Lier**, a World War II resistance fighter from Utrecht, was only erected very recently (in 2022). Only a few portrait photos of Truus, so we only know what her face looked like. The artist Joyce Overheul wasn't sure about her body shape and asked a law student from Utrecht University as a model. Truus was a law student in Utrecht, so it's a beautiful connection between past and present: the portrait from the past is superimposed onto a girl from the present. The statue of Truus van Lier isn't only a work of art; it's also a lasting tribute to Truus and all the women who fought for freedom during World War II.

> **Question:** What could be in the bag that Truus is carrying?

6
Flying saucer

On the roof of De Inktpot (a building in the shape of an inkwell and formerly the head office of the Dutch National Railways, now ProRail), there's a gigantic **UFO**, created by the visual artist Marc Ruygrok. In 1999, a huge art manifestation was held in the city to celebrate the new millennium: Panorama 2000. Twenty-four works of art, spread all around the city, were visible from the top of the Dom Tower. The UFO is one of two that still remain. The lights of the UFO are switched on in the evening and the flying saucer appears to come to life.

> **Question:** The real title of this work of art is 'So far'. What did the artist mean by this? Have they come so far? How much further will they go?

7
Cuppa?

> **Question:** Could a huge teapot be a work of art?

You bet! The huge **Celestial Teapot** on the roof of a car park in the Hoog Catharijne shopping mall is living proof. The seven-metre-high teapot was created by Lily van der Stokker for the 'Call of the Mall' art manifestation in 2013. It represents the intimate and cosy everyday life, in contrast to the businesslike vibe of the station area and shopping mall. The teapot has been moved several times, in search of a better spot. Can you imagine the spectacle of seeing a gigantic 'flying' teapot?



2
Colourful wall

In 2021, the streets around Tivoli-Vredenburg and Hoog Catharijne were given a facelift. They became livelier, more colourful. Designer Hansje van Halem created the design for this **mural**. The painting draws you in, as if inviting you to look inside the building. It was inspired by the diagonal lines and colour scheme of the Grote Zaal (the large concert hall behind it) and adds a festive, warm touch to an otherwise grey wall.

> **Question:** Which colours would you choose for a wall painting?

>> You're in the shopping area now, so you could head many nice shops. Or you could finish with a drink on the terrace of Het Gegeven Paard, where you can watch the boats, canoes and SUPs sailing past. Comptoir Libanais in Hoog Catharijne is the place to be if you fancy a Lebanese snack.