

# Dutch Dolls

Dutch Dolls was founded by former classmates and superbest friends **Nanna Koekoek** and **Geeske de Graaff**. We met in 1999 at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam. We both studied **illustration** and soon started working together in class. As part of a performance we even became **blood brothers!** We founded Dutch Dolls after graduating in 2004. But we did have a life before we met...

Nanna grew up in small town Rhenen. Building tree houses, making fires and singing round a campfire was everyday stuff for this die-hard **girl scout**. Growing up, Rhenen quickly became too small and it was time to move to the big city: **Rotterdam!** At the Erasmus University she got her masters in cultural studies. After that it was time to start making beautiful things herself at art school in Rotterdam. The love for art and drawing was in the genes. Her American grandpa can be held accountable for that, for he was a political cartoonist and illustrator.

Geeske was born in **The Hague**. Not much green and bush to be found there. But she had lots of fun with schoolyards, pavement, bikes, berries and the downstairs neighbours who ran an '**adult**' club for extreme pleasure. Always an adventure to ring the bell and then run away... 4 times in a row! A lack of creative courses made high school a struggle, so graduation was a gift from above. After waiting tables for a year, art school finally happened. It took quite a while before she was lured away from the lovely beaches of Scheveningen to urban **Rotterdam**. But in the end, it was the best decision ever!

**Designwise**... well, both Nanna and Geeske are **music junkies**. So not surprisingly, music is the main theme in Dutch Dolls-designs. Our name was chosen after seventies glamrockers **New York Dolls**. As far as other inspirations go... think of flea markets, folklore, biology, bad movies, and basically things that are just so wrong, that they become right again. We love to combine illustrations with design using different printing techniques and fabrics. All of our stuff is handmade!

Dutch Dolls gives **workshops** too! We have developed workshops for the Willem de Kooning Academy Rotterdam, Amsterdam Academy of Architecture, Villa Zebra Rotterdam and Corrosia Almere. We've also been showing off our skills at Koorenhuis Den Haag and at De Parade.

The **DJ-team** sort of happened about 4 years ago. It started with drunken sets in either someones attic or basement, and slowly evolved into something that we really like and are quite serious about. These days, people love us for our **endless energy** behind the decks and our **uptempo** musical selection. People hate us for our **airhorn**... but it just isn't a real party without it!! In the club, we bring you bootybass, breakbeats, hip hop, baltimore, dancehall, ravey stuff and the latest hits in the remix or mashed up. It's **bootyshaking music!!** For the more intimate occasion (cultural events, openings etc) we bring our favorite funk, soul, girlgroups and oddities. Also quite dancy!

We've DJ'ed at clubs like Off\_Corso, Club zonder Concessies, Vibes, Worm, Exit, De Unie, Singersweatshop (Rotterdam), BAR25 (Berlin), Paard van Troje (The Hague), Streetlab Projectspace (Amsterdam), De Beuk (Barendrecht), Cardiff Arts Institute and cafe Gwdihw (Cardiff) and at events like State-X Festival (The Hague), BMX Bunkerjam, Witte de With Festival, Museumnacht and Wohnzimmer (Rotterdam).

Our designs are available from our webshop at [www.dutchdolls.nl](http://www.dutchdolls.nl)!  
For more information e-mail us at [info@dutchdolls.nl](mailto:info@dutchdolls.nl).