Unknown stories behind the monuments in Groningen.
Artist: Theresia van der Pant  
Name: Aletta Jacobs  
Year: 1988  
Material: Bronze  
Location: Oude Kijk in ’t Jatstraat 26 (Harmony complex), Groningen

The story:
This sculpture is from Aletta Jacobs, she was a doctor and an activist. It’s the only monument in Groningen that is dedicated to a woman. Aletta Jacobs was the first graduated woman doctor and the first student with a PhD in the Netherlands. She was born in Hoogezand and went to the University of Groningen. That’s where she graduated. She established a doctor’s office in Amsterdam and worked there for years in the sector of birth control and health care. Beside these occupations, she was also fighting for the right of women to vote and for world peace.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/369/aletta-jacobs)
Story:
The Academy building is the main building of the University of Groningen. It's built in a north-Dutch renaissance style and it's the place where all the academic ceremonies take place. The current building is a monumental building and it's built on the foundation of the “2nd academy building”, which was established in 1850. It was at the time that the central government of the Netherlands didn’t want to build a new building. The citizens and the province of Groningen had to come up with the money. The 2nd Academy building burned down in 1906 during painting works. The 1st Academy building was built in 1614 and designed by Garwer Peters. That building was originally a beguine. The 1st Academy building was demolished in 1846, because of its bad condition. The current Academy building was thoroughly renovated in 2007 - 2008.

(Source: http://www.rug.nl/about-us/who-are-we/discover-groningen/academiegebouw/)
**Artist:** Herbert Janse  
**Name:** Ubbo Emmius-monument  
**Year:** 1994  
**Material:** concrete, tree  
**Location:** Broerstraat 5 (Academia building), Groningen

**The story:**  
This piece of art from the theater designer Herbert Jansen is dedicated to Ubbo Emmius. Ubbo Emmius is the first Rector Magnificus of the University of Groningen. The tree stands for the University and the branches represent science. It is planted in the foundation of an archaeological well. The crest refers to the future. The expanded goose feathers in the bench refer to his writing materials. This piece of art is the first work achieved from the art project "knowledge years 1994-2014" of the University of Groningen. The project started in 1994, as celebration for the 380 years existence of the University.

(Source: [http://www.staatingroningen.nl/386/ubbo-emmius-monument](http://www.staatingroningen.nl/386/ubbo-emmius-monument))
Artist: Janet Mullarney  
Name: Farsi Largo/making space  
Year: 1996  
Material: polychrome wood, wood, copper  
Location: Waagplein, Groningen

The story:
This sculpture consists of 2 figures. These figures are of a man and a woman that seem to float toward each other’s. The woman seems stuck in the front wall and it seems like she is trying to get out. The man is floating on his back, stretched out and seems to be reaching toward the woman. The metal cords represent the communication between the 2 figures. Architect Adolfo Natalini gave orders for the realization of this sculpture. It is one of the 2 arts that decorate the Waagstreet complex that was opened in 1996. The other piece of art is the “Appuntamento con la Musica” made by Roberto Barni.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/393/farsi-largomaking-space)

Artist: Roberto Barni  
Name: Appuntamento con la Musica (meeting with the music)  
Year: 1996
**Material: Bronze**

**Location:** Waagplein, Groningen

The story:
Roberto Barni made this sculpture while thinking about a man who is going to an appointment. The man is walking to the rhythm of music and looks behind him, which refers to the memories. He doesn’t want to forget the past, that’s why he is looking behind him. According to the artist of this sculpture, there is some great energy hidden in the past that push on a person to go forward. The statue has been destroyed and restored a couple of times. This sculpture is one of the 2 arts that decorate the Waagstreet complex that was opened in 1996. The other piece of art is the “Farsi Largo/Making Space” made by Janet Mullarney.

(Source: [http://www.staatingroningen.nl/392/appuntamento-con-la-musica](http://www.staatingroningen.nl/392/appuntamento-con-la-musica))

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**Artist: ...**

**Name:** Goudkantoor (Gold office)

**Year:** 1635

**Material: ...**

**Location:** Waagstraat 1, Groningen

The story:
In the beginning of the 17th century, there used to be a rectory at the place where the Gold office is stated. The city of Groningen bought the building to establish the tax office, while waiting for the real tax office building to be built. The current building was built in 1635. It was used as a tax office for the province of Groningen. It used to be called “The Collect house”. The Collect house was closed in 1795 and from 1814, the building was being used as warranty office for golden objects (hence the name Gold Office). In 1887, the building became a tax office again. The top floor was back then the office of the inspector of the medical service. The tax office moved to a new building in 1913 and the Gold Office was empty once again. The building was restored between 1928 and 1931 under
leadership of Siebe Jan Bouma. After the restoration, the top floor became a Natural History Museum and the Northern Maritime Museum was established on the ground floor. The Gold Office was one of the few buildings that remained intact after the liberation of the city of Groningen in 1945.

(Source: http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goudkantoor)


This square named “Waagplein” emerged in 1995 by the construction of the Waagstreet complex. The plan was to make this part of the Grote Markt attractive again. It was designed by the Italian architect Adolfo Natalini.

(Source: http://www.streetservice.nl/straten/waagplein/historie/)

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/55/waagstraatcomplex)

Artist: …
Name: Grote markt (Big market)
Year: …
Material: …
Location: Grote markt, Groningen

The story:
The Grote Markt is the center of Groningen. The buildings that stand out are the Martini tower and the town hall. This place used to be one of the most beautiful squares of the country before World War 2. A lot of buildings standing on the west,
east and north side of the square were destroyed during the liberation of the city in 1945. A new town hall was built in 1962 on the west side of the Grote markt. The new town hall was built where the Waag Street used to be (before its destruction in WW2). It was designed by the architect Jo Vegter. The new town hall was attached to the old one built in 1810. In 1994, a part of that new town hall was broken down to make room for the new Waag Street complex, designed by the Italian architect Adolfo Natalini. The Grote Markt was paved for the first time around 1200. There has been a town hall made of stone at the square since possibly 1255. That town hall has also been used as a court-house between 1625 and 1755, and it was also used as a wine house from 1470. The town hall was broken down in 1775 and replaced by the current town hall, which the construction started in 1793 and finished in 1810. At present, there is the construction of a forum that will come on the east side of the square. There will come a new square too, that will be called “de Nieuwe Markt” which means new market.

(Source: http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grote_Markt_%28Groningen%29)

Artist: Willem Valk
Name: Carl von Rabenhaupt
Year: 1972
Material: Bronze
Location: Grote Markt 1 (on the north side of the town hall), Groningen

The story:
Carl von Rabenhaupt is at the origin of the "Bommen berend" feast that is celebrated each year in Groningen on August the 28st. This feast is in memory of the ending of the siege of the city by the bishop of Munster. The name of the bishop was Bommen Berend. Carl von Rabenhaupt freed Groningen from the reign of the
bishop on that specific day in 1672. The statue is made in memory of the 300 year that Groningen has been liberated from that bishop. The Republic of the United Netherlands is attacked at almost the same time by France, England, the bishop of Munster and the electorate of Cologne. This marks the beginning of the second Munster War. Groningen is attacked by the prince-bishop of Munster (also called Bommen Berend) from the 21st of July in 1672. Groningen resisted the attack under leadership of the commanding officer Carl von Rabenhaupt. By the 28st of August, the attackers pulled back from Groningen, after heavy gunnery during 4 weeks. From that moment, Groningen was rescued after permanent resistance consisted of 2,000 men. The fields on the west-, north- and eastside of the city were put under water. Groningen made peace with Munster in April 1674 and in 1678 with France.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/355/carl-von-rabenhaup)
(Source: http://www.grunn.nl/historie/b_index.php)

Artist: Willem Valk
Name: Bevrijdingsplaquette (Liberation plaque)
Year: 1970
Material: Bronze
Location: Grote markt 1 (town hall), Groningen

The story:
This plaque is about the heavy fighting between the Canadian and the German soldiers by the liberation of the city Groningen. The Canadians entered Groningen on May the 13th of April in 1945. Willem Valk taught his students, how to make sculptures, at the Minerva Academy for 43 years.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/614/zonder-titel)
Artists:

**Gunnar Westman**
*Name: Bro bro brille*
*Year: 1955*
*Material: Granite*
*Location: Oude Ebbingestraat 18 (on the sidewalk), Groningen*

**Garwen Peters (1619-1627)**
*Name: Martinitoren (Martini tower)*
*Year: 1469*
*Material: stone, wood*
*Location: Martinikerkhof 1, Groningen*

**The story:**
The reason why Gunnar Westman made this statue was, because of a Danish nursery rhyme. The statue displays dancing children. The board of Vroom & Dreesman donated this statue to the town of Groningen in 1958. This was in honor of the opening of the warehouse. Gunnar Westman was born in Copenhagen.
(Source: [http://www.staatingroningen.nl/342/bro-bro-brille](http://www.staatingroningen.nl/342/bro-bro-brille))
The story:
The martini tower is a remarkable tower in the center of the city Groningen. The citizens of Groningen also call it “Olle Grieze” which means “old grey” and it’s the most famous and highest tower in the city. Saint Martin of Tours was the Bishop of Tours; the martini tower is named after him. The cathedral tower of Utrecht is also named after him. The history of the Martini tower in Groningen dates from the 9th century. The church at that time was built of wood, but in the first half of the 13th century the wooden church was replaced by a stone one. The 30 meter high tower was severely damaged by a lightning strike in 1408. The next tower was built in 1452, but it collapsed in 1468 probably by fire. The construction of the current tower started in 1469. This tower was also partly destroyed by fire in 1577 and restored in 1627. In 1938, big cracks were discovered in the tower. The state commission that takes care of monuments decided to restore the tower thoroughly. The restoration continued during the WW2. The martini tower almost didn’t get damaged during the liberation of the city. At present, people can still see a bullet hole in one of the clocks. The tower is now 97 meter high.

(Source: http://toerisme.groningen.nl/over-groningen/stad-groningen/martinitoren/geschiedenis-van-de-martinitoren)
(Source: http://historiek.net/geschiedenis-van-de-martinitoren-in-groningen/41972/)
(Source: http://www.architectenweb.nl/aweb/archipedia/archipedia.asp?id=386)

Artist: Ludwig Oswald Wenckebach
Name: Sint Joris en de draak (Saint George and the dragon)
Year: 1959
Material: Bronze, limestone
Location: Martinikerkhof 1, Groningen

The story:
The war monument of Saint George and the dragon is an allegory of the triumph of good (the Allies) over evil, which is the German army. The monument is of a man holding a sword. He seems tired, perhaps tired of fighting evil. The words written on his sword are: “justitia, Libertas, Pax”, which mean respectively justice, liberty and peace. This story is an old Christian myth from the 5th century. It’s about the martyr Georgius who defeated a dragon in his birthplace in the Middle East, causing a lot of people to convert to Christianity. The story became a popular design for the impersonation of the battle between good and evil in the 11th century. It was decided in 1945 that the city needed a monument that would remind them of the battle fought during the WW2 in Groningen. The monument would remind us of those who suffered or died during that war.
(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/344/sint-joris-en-de-draak)

Artist: Paul Virilio
Name: Stadsmarkering s10 (The 10th city mark)
Year: 1990
Material: natural stone, steal
Location: Martinikerkhof (graveyard), Groningen

The story:
The philosopher Paul Virilio designed the 10th mark of the city Groningen. It’s placed in the center of the city, behind the Martini tower. The design is a well. The angular points refer to the 9 other marks of the city. The Saint – Walburg church was located at the Martini graveyard till 1672. The church used to have a water well inside. The 10th city mark is placed at the exact same point where the water well used to be. According to Virilio, every modern man should have a central point in his life to be able to dream. He suggests that this well could be that kind of place. The city mark gives hope, connects the periphery and the center. Furthermore, the city mark exposes the history of the city and makes new links. The concept of the city marks was designed by the architect Daniel Libeskind. In
1990, Groningen was celebrating its 950 years existence. The city marks were designed in honor of that. The city marks were placed on every main entranceway to the city.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/380/stadsmarkering-s10)
(Source: http://toerisme.groningen.nl/over-groningen/groningen-op-de-kaart/bedrijfdetails/2739/stadsmarkering-s10-cruoninga)

Artist: Norman Burkett
Name: Monument Hendrik de Vries
Year: 1987
Material: Bronze
Location: Sint Jansstraat (in the grass), Groningen

The story:
This sculpture is homage to the poet and artist Hendrik de Vries. The head of the sculpture is of Hendrik de Vries, but the strangely composed torso seems to be something else. The way the statue is composed is not a coincidence. The verses and paintings of Hendrik de Vries used to contain weird, dreamy subjects. Norman Burkett implemented all those elements in the sculpture. Hendrik de Vries used to work in Groningen at the municipal archives.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/733/hendrik-de-vries-monument)
Artist: Pierluca degli Innocenti  
Name: De grote verscheuring (The big tearing)  
Year: 1965  
Material: Bronze  
Location: Gedempte Kattendiep 150, Groningen

The story:
The sculpture looks like a piece of bronze exploding from the inside out. Pierluca Degli was an Italian that lived in France since the 60's of the past century. During his residence in France (which at that time was at war with Algeria), he acknowledged the horror of the war. His dismay toward the war and the other tensions at that time was the reason for his sculpture. The student association Vindicat Atque Polit bought and donated the statue to the city of Groningen in honor of its 150 year existence. The sculpture was first placed at the Grote markt in front of the Vindicat building. The sculpture was moved in 1977 to the corner of the Grote markt and moved again in 1994 by the renovation of the Grote markt. The piece of art was finally placed at its current place in 2004, because of the renovation plans of the Grote markt.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/505/de-grote-verscheuring)
Artist: Wladimir de Vries  
Name: Veulen (Foal)  
Year: 1951  
Material: Bronze  
Location: Radesingel 4, Groningen

Story:
The town of Groningen gave instructions for a statue to be put at the Radesingel. There used to be a fountain at the same place, which seemed abandoned after the war. The city council of Groningen approved the design of the "Veulen". The sculpture was revealed on the 15th of May in 1951 by the mayor of that time, his name was Cort van der Linden. This statue is often associated with "het peerd van ome Loeks" statue. Wladimir de vries has a lot of sculptures in Groningen. He died in 2001.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/335/het-veulen)  
(Source: http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veulen_%28beeld%29)

Artist: Armando  
Name: Werkman monument (Workman monument)  
Year: 1995  
Material: Bronze
The story:
This enormous tree trunk is 5 meter high. In 1995 the local authority instructed Armando to make a monument for the printer and artist Hendrick Nicolaas Werkman, who was executed at the end of the WW2 (3 days before the liberation) by German soldiers in a forest called Bakkeveen. This is the reason why Armando chose to make a monument of a bronze tree. The tree represents strength and vulnerability at the same time, it stands for stubbornness and rebelliousness. The tree is like a silent witness for what happened in the war during those years. During the occupation of Groningen, Werkman established a publishing house together with his friends called “De Blauwe Schuit”. The lyrics that they published showed some kind of sympathy toward Jews and blacks during the war. You had to read between the lines to understand that message. Some say that, this is the reason for his execution.

(Source: [http://www.staatingroningen.nl/388/werkmanmonument](http://www.staatingroningen.nl/388/werkmanmonument))
(Source: [http://www.hetverhaalvangroningen.nl/verhalen/hendrik-nicolaas-werkman-wereldberoemde-groninger](http://www.hetverhaalvangroningen.nl/verhalen/hendrik-nicolaas-werkman-wereldberoemde-groninger))

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**Artist:** Abraham Hesselink  
**Name:** monument Jozef Israëls  
**Year:** 1922  
**Material:** Bronze, natural stone  
**Location:** Hereplein, Groningen

**Story:**  
Abraham Hesselink made this statue in 1922. The sculpture is composed of a man with 2 children, a boy and a girl. The man is a fisherman that is returning home from the beach with his kids. On the left of the man there is a cross, which is the grave of the wife of the fisherman and the mother of those kids. It was in memory
of the painter Jozef Israëls who died in 1911. The painter lived in Groningen during his first 16 years. The statue was severely damaged during the World War 2 (1943) by the NSB members, because Jozef Israëls was a Jew. After the war, the statue was restored by Willem Valk and revealed again to the public in 1946. The sculpture was inspired by one of Jozef Israëls paintings titled “Langs moeders graf”, which means past mother's grave. The painting is in the museum of Groningen.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/329/jozef-israylsmonument)

Artist: Bernard Tschumi  
Name: Tschumipaviljoen (Tschumi pavilion)  
Year: 1990  
Material: steel, beton, glass  
Location: Hereplein, Groningen

The story:
The museum of Groningen organized a manifestation in collaboration with the department spatial planning in 1990. The name of the manifestation was “What a Wonderful World”. The meaning of the manifestation was to show the modern media (a video clip) from private atmosphere to the public. 5 architects were invited to design a pavilion where video clips could be displayed. The results were 5 designs: the Tschumi pavilion of Bernard at Hereplein, the busstop of Rem Koolhaas at Emmaplein, a pavilion at the place where we have the current museum bridge, a pavilion of Peter Eiseman nearby the previous one and a pavilion of Zaha Hadid at the Vismarkt. Only 2 of the 5 designs remained after the manifestation ended namely the Tschumi pavilion and the Videobusstop. The space in the Tschumi pavilion is divided in 5 compartments. Tschumi makes use of the deconstructivism principle for his works. This means disturbing and disassembling common constructions and shapes in the architecture, which leads to chaotic buildings. Those buildings depict the social chaos. The Tschumi pavilion is being managed by the Tschumipavilion foundation since 1995, with the purpose to realize artist projects in there. The emphasis is on project that makes use of modern media.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/1649/tschumipaviljoen)
**Artist:** Wladimir de Vries  
**Name:** Landbouw en veeteelt (Farming and cattle breeding)  
**Year:** 1953  
**Material:** Bronze  
**Location:** Herebrug, Groningen

**Story:**
This statue is about a young girl that is well-built; she is standing with her breasts in front. This girl symbolizes the city, she has her foot on the head of a laying calf, and the belt on her hips represents the connection between the city and the rural areas of the region. Farming and cattle breeding used to be the primary income for the region. In the origin design of the sculpture, the girl is holding the ear of corn with both hands. Many details were left out by the realization of this statue. Wladimir de Vries wasn't happy with the result, according to him the calf looked more like a sheep. Many citizens were also not happy with the sculpture. They thought that the girl was too naked, beside this the citizens also thought that the legs of the girl were too big and her breast too flat. For some people, the fact that the girl was having her foot on the head of the calf reminded them of the (recent) German oppression during World War 2.  
Artist: Kees Verkade  
Name: Fietsles (Bike lesson)  
Year: 1971  
Material: Bronze  
Location: Ubbo Emmiusingel (in the grass), Groningen

The story:
This sculpture was donated to the city of Groningen by the "Bondsspaarbank" for its 150 year anniversary in 1971. It used to stand at the Vismarkt, until people stole the statue twice in the period between 1981 and 1983. The statue was damaged during the 2 thefts and later restored. In 1986, the statue was placed where it is now.

(Source: [http://www.staatingroningen.nl/368/fietsles](http://www.staatingroningen.nl/368/fietsles))

Artist: Fransje Carbasius  
Name: Kind met lam (Kid with lamb)  
Year: 1955  
Material: Bronze  
Location: Ubbo Emmiusingel, Groningen

The story:
This sculpture was made by Fransje Carbasius in 1955. She was 70 years old at that time. She studied at the Academy for Visual Arts in The Hague. After her study, she traveled a lot to France and Italy. These could be the places where she got the inspiration to make this sculpture. She used to keep animals in her workplace to study them. The Kid with lamb was first place at the Aletta Jacobs school (former Bouman school), but was removed from there because of vandalism. The statue was then stored by the municipality of Groningen. The sculpture is placed here at the Ubbo Emmiussingel since 1986.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/367/kind-met-lam)

![Image of Kid with lamb]

**Artist:** Frederik Jeltsema  
**Name:** Zittende jongeling (Sitting youngster)  
**Year:** 1916  
**Material:** Bronze  
**Location:** Emmaplein (in the grass), Groningen

**Story:**
It's about a boy sitting on a tree stump. Frederik Jeltsema aims at the 3 principles from Ancient Greek: the boy is naked, he has an athletic body and he is displayed in an ideal body ratio. Frederik Jeltsema was born in Uithuizen (a place in the province of Groningen), but he has lived in a lot of places like Amsterdam, The Hague and Haren. He has also lived in Paris and Rome. The statue is from 1916, but was donated to the town of Groningen in 1960.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/345/zittende-jongeling)
Artist: Hugo Hol

Name: anti-kernwepenmonument (anti-nuclear weapon monument)

Year: 1985

Material: ashlar stone, brass

Location: Emmaplein 4 (in the grass), Groningen

The story:
This is the first monument in the Netherlands that is created as protest against the nuclear arms race. This subject was really current in the 80's of the past century. In December in 1982, the city council of Groningen agreed with the realization of the monument. On November the 1st in 1985 at 11.55, the sculpture was transferred to the mayor of Groningen. The monument is composed of a cubical frame with a smaller cube made of black Belgian freestone in it. Hugo Hol wants to give us an abstract imagination of the problem that comes along with nuclear armament. The cubical frame symbolizes the imperfection of the society made by humans and the smaller cube symbolizes the originally pure nature. According to Hugo hol, the combination of both can either make us progress or destroy us.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/365/anti-kernwepenmonument)
Artist: Rem Koolhaas
Name: Videobusstop (Video busstop)
Year: 1990
Material: ...
Location: Emmaplein (busstop), Groningen

The story:
This unique looking busstop consists of a tiled wall, with a steel mesh curtain placed against it at right angles. On the right side of the tiled wall, there is a screen placed in it. The whole busstop is covered with a glass roof. Rem Koolhaas is the architect that designed this piece of art. He made the Videobusstop for the manifestation "What a Wonderful World! Musicvideo's in architecture" back in 1990. The museum of Groningen organized it. Rem Koolhaas wasn't the only architect to design a pavilion. The museum asked different architects to design pavilions, where people could watch videos. Rem Koolhaas thought that it could be good for the passengers, waiting for the bus, to watch interesting videos. It would be a good use of their time, not just standing/sitting there and waiting for the bus to arrive. 3 of the 5 pavilions made for the manifestation were broken down after. The only 2 that remained are this Videobusstop and the Tschumipavilion of Bernard Tschumi, situated at Hereplein. The Videobusstop is now used as a regular busstop.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/1651/videobusstop)
**Artist: Willem Reijers**

**Name:** Het verkeer (The traffic)

**Year:** 1959

**Material:** Bronze

**Location:** Emmabrug, Groningen

**The story:**

Willem Reijers designed this sculpture in 1958 for the (back then) fresh built bridge. He came up with the idea to visualize the traffic that constantly came into the city through that road and had to slow down in front of the bridge. The statue would represent the dynamic of the traffic. The statue looks like a chaotic accumulation of tires and wheels, as sign of the modern technology. During the realization of the statue, Willem Reijers became really sick and died before the statue could be finished. Wessel Couzijn continued his work. On May the 16th in 1959, the widow of Willem Reijers revealed the statue to the public.

(Source: [http://www.staatingroningen.nl/350/het-verkeer](http://www.staatingroningen.nl/350/het-verkeer))

**Artist: Silvia B.**

**Name:** Ultra

**Year:** 2004

**Material:** Cast iron, stainless steel

**Location:** Cascadeplein, Groningen
The story:
This statue is inspired by the current scientific developments that contribute in the beauty ideal of the woman. Silvia B. has changed the ratio between the upper-, and lower body. The statue uses artificial arms to be able to stand, which means that she can't stand on her feet well. The girl in the statue is not perfect (nobody is perfect), she stands for the flaws that every one of us have.
(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/309/ultra)

Artist: Jan de Baat
Name: Het peerd van Ome Loeks (The horse of uncle Loeks)
Year: 1959
Material: kwartsbeton (Engels?)
Location: Stationsplein, Groningen

The story:
This statue is derived from a folk tune from Groningen with the same title. It's about the horse of Lukas van Hemmen. This man was the owner of a bar and a livery at Aweg in Groningen. Lukas van Hemmen used to have a horse called Appelion which died from illness. There are many versions of how the horse died; some people say that the song is derived from a German student’s song. When the horse butcher came to pick up the dead horse, a few boys were singing: "the horse of uncle Loeks is dead". That's how the song came to live. The sculpture was supposed to be placed at the Vismarkt, but when the statue was finished they decided to place it at the central train station. The city council had to ask for permission first. The Dutch Railways agreed on one term; the head of the horse should face the station building and not the ass.
(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/343/het-peerd-van-ome-loeks)
Artist: Giny Vos  
Name: second thought  
Year: 2008  
Material: LED lighting, computer guided, wood, plexiglass  
Location: Stationsplein, Groningen

The story:
This piece of art that looks like a snow house hanging upside down is at the station. It hangs above the traffic circle in the bicycle parking. There are 11 plates made of Plexiglas in that ball, which are made in a certain way to make the contours look like the train station building. The LED – lighting that is used in the “snow house” is computer-controlled. It’s for the light effect in there; once in a while they change the display of the train station in the ball. The artist Giny Vos once said about her first visit to the bicycle parking, that the big holes on the roof of that parking caught her attention. These holes gave in her opinion a different image of the train station, but from a strange view. Also the contrast between the modern front yard and the old monumental building of the train station inspired her. Giny Vos tries to reflect the station and connect both construction works in the underground parking. The station square has changed drastically in the first decade of this century. It was an architectural office from Rotterdam that designed the square and put a parking underneath for 4000 bicycles. The square is also called the “city balcony” because of its floating style. The changing of the square was part of a bigger plan for the amelioration of the traffic situation between the taxis, the bikers, busses and the pedestrians at that place. Before the changes, the station square used to be full with bicycles.

(Source: http://www.staatingroningen.nl/1010/second-thought)
**Artist:** Eja Siepman van den Berg  
**Name:** Stap (Step)  
**Year:** 1984  
**Material:** Bronze, natural stone  
**Location:** Gedempte Zuiderdiep 158, Groningen

**The story:**
This sculpture is of a young woman's body, she stands tall and proud. The missing head and arms make her anonymous. Peter Stut (a teacher at the Academy) made the pedestal that looks like a catwalk. The style and posture of the sculpture is characteristic for Siepman van den Berg. The natural laws of the human body have always fascinated him; sometimes he makes his sculpture more abstract by not placing certain human characteristics (like the missing arms in this example). The classic look and style reminds us of the sculptures from art of Ancient Greece. The symmetry that is only interrupted by that front leg refers to the Egyptian art.

(Source: [http://www.staatingroningen.nl/364/stap](http://www.staatingroningen.nl/364/stap))

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**Artist:** J. G. van Beusekom  
**Name:** Korenbeurs (grain exchange)  
**Year:** 1865  
**Material:** ...  
**Location:** Vismarkt, Groningen
The story:
This building is built in a neoclassical style and designed by the city architect J.G. van Beusekom. The construction of the building started in 1862 and was completed in 1865. Before this building, there used to be 2 smaller ones. Those 2 smaller buildings were demolished to make place for the current building. The first grain exchange is from 1774, it was a roofed wooden gallery with a u-shaped courtyard. By the end of the 18th century, the city needed a bigger corn exchange for the fast growing market. Despite the need for a bigger one, the construction of the 2nd corn exchange started late (in 1825). This second corn exchange was made from stone, but had the same shape as the other one (u-shaped). At the end of the 19th century, the corn trade had increased so much that even the second corn exchange wasn’t enough. That’s when they decided to build the current building. At present, the building is an Albert Heijn supermarket (since 2000). The sculptures on the roof of Mercurius, Neptunus and Ceres refer to the former function of the building.
(Source: http://www.architectenweb.nl/a-web/archipedia/archipedia.asp?id=7370)

Belgian pub: De Pintelier.

(Source for inspiration: http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lijst_van_beelden_in_Groningen-Binnenstad)