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## Visual Sources and Women's History: a Documentary about the Life and Work of Dutch Graphic Designer and Teacher Tine Baanders (1890–1971)



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Around the millennium, I was tracing and researching the work of women designers and architects in the Netherlands who were active between 1880 and 1940. The idea of presenting a documentary with visual historical material at the first MoMoWo conference workshop at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, about women designers, architects, and engineers between 1918 and 1940, comes from my experience then. Wanting to learn more about the practices of individual women as designers, architects, or engineers, I encountered difficulties in finding archival sources and written documents in public archives. The reasons for the lack of documents are sometimes that women had not been active in the field for a long time or had not achieved much because they stopped working when they got married. Sometimes they did not retain their work and documentation for later preservation in public archives because they did not believe it to be of any future importance – they were designing for the moment, not thinking about possible historical interest later. Confronting the gaps in public archives, I could only attempt to trace family connections and private archives that might hold documentation relating to the women whose names I came across and could help in (re)constructing their histories. Perhaps relatives could remember something of the lives of their grandmothers, mothers, or great-aunts, or of people whom the designers met.

A case study of the graphic designer Tine Baanders (1890–1971) was a good opportunity to address the importance of private archives for historical research on women architects and designers in the context of the first MoMoWo conference workshop for the period 1918 to 1940. Tine Baanders lived in Amsterdam and was active between 1910 and 1960. She did not have any children and after her death her papers and letters were kept by other members of her family. Today they hold a large number of negatives, photographs, and letters documenting not only her own life and work, but also that of her many Dutch and foreign friends who were part of the network of artists and designers in Amsterdam. Mr. Broos Baanders, a great-nephew of the designer, is actively involved in ordering and analysing the archive, having used it for a small exhibition and lectured about it himself. Working together, he, his daughter Sanderijn Baanders, Thomas Vorisek (technical assistant at the University of Leiden), and I produced a documentary about 30 minutes long with a focus on visual source material. It was first presented at the MoMoWo conference at the University of Leiden on Friday 25 September 2015. To watch this documentary please click the: [link](#).