

DE PONT MUSEUM

BÁRBARA WAGNER EN BENJAMIN DE BURCA

ONE HUNDRED STEPS

17 September - 27 November 2022

NEW VIDEO INSTALLATION BY WAGNER AND DE BURCA AT DE PONT



Bárbara Wagner en Benjamin de Burca, One Hundred Steps, 2020, videostill

At the start of this autumn cultural season, De Pont is presenting *One Hundred Steps* by the Brazilian-German artist duo Bárbara Wagner and Benjamin de Burca. The film won the Best Short Film Award (Golden Lola) at the 2021 Deutsche Kurzfilmpreis. De Pont acquired *One Hundred Steps* for its collection in 2020, and is now presenting it in the museum as a projection installation incorporating a rug fabricated by the artists and featuring interwoven Irish and Islamic motifs.

Ever since they started working together in 2011, Wagner and De Burca have been focusing on local and popular music and dance traditions. Whether their focus is on German schlager music, Brazilian brega, or hip-hop from Toronto, they always examine how traditions develop under the influence of cultural, social and economic conditions, and how new types of music give rise to complex webs of codes in clothing, interaction, and behavior. Their close collaborations with musicians and performers result in films that are never simply documentary in nature, with script and natural speech flowing seamlessly into one another.

One Hundred Steps centers on performances by 20 musicians and dancers from Ireland, France, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria. The work draws inspiration from the

documentaries of Irish filmmaker Bob Quinn about the speculated ancient connections between Ireland and North Africa. Quinn, who makes a cameo appearance in Wagner and De Burca's film, believes that North-Africa and Ireland are both part of a broader Atlantean culture. As evidence, he cites the indisputable similarities in the cadences of traditional Irish singing and Arabic music. The artists have deployed this idea to fascinating effect, using music and the passage of time to connect the two cultures once more. The first part of the film is set in a 17th-century Irish country manor house, the second in a stately 19th-century townhouse in Marseille, France. The camera slowly passes through the rooms and hallways of the two houses, both of which now serve as museums. The Irish and North African visitors roaming these historically charged settings are gradually revealed to be folk musicians who, together, literally breathe new life into the rhythms and sounds of the Atlantean culture.

One Hundred Steps is the second work by the Brazilian-German duo to be acquired by De Pont. The museum previously acquired their 2016 film *Estas vendo coisas / You Are Seeing Things*.

The New Museum in New York is currently hosting *Five Times Brazil*, a survey exhibition of the work of Wagner and De Burca, and new video work by the artist duo is currently on display at [São Paulo Museum of Art](#).

You will find images for publication in this digital [press kit](#).

For further questions:

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UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT DE PONT MUSEUM:

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Times Changes Everything

17 September - 29 January 2023

SEBASTIÁN DÍAZ MORALES

Miles Marchan

from 5 December 2022

RAPHAELA VOGEL

from 18 February 2023

Check our website for updates.

De Pont museum opening times

Tuesday to Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm

Thursday **free admission**: 5 to 9 pm

Wilhelminapark 1, Tilburg, NL

www.depont.nl

De Pont Museum, 8 September 2022

