

# DE PONT MUSEUM

## RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

### TIME CHANGES EVERYTHING

17 September 2022 - 29 January 2023

WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW VIDEO INSTALLATION BY RAGNAR KJARTANSSON, MARGRÉT BJARNADÓTTIR AND BRYCE DESSNER AT DE PONT MUSEUM, TILBURG (NL)



Ragnar Kjartansson, Margrét Bjarnadóttir, and Bryce Dessner, *No Tomorrow*, 2022, video still

From 17 September 2022, De Pont presents *Time Changes Everything*, a unique survey exhibition by the Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson (Reykjavik, 1976), with new works including the world premiere of his major video-installation *No Tomorrow* (2022). This will be the first solo show in the Netherlands by this internationally renowned artist, and the largest ever exhibition at De Pont. *Time Changes Everything* will encompass the full diversity of media in Kjartansson's body of work, with a balance of well-known and new installations.

*No Tomorrow* is a cinematic installation, the product of a collaboration between Ragnar Kjartansson, choreographer Margrét Bjarnadóttir, and composer Bryce Dessner. The visitor is surrounded by six large screens showing eight women, dressed in jeans and white T-shirt, strumming acoustic guitars as they circle around, as if forming some ethereal, translucent carousel of meticulously constructed choreographies. Any

boundary between space and time seems to fade away as the music becomes the dance, and the dance, the music. The work incorporates a song based on extracts from the 18th-century novella *No Tomorrow* by Vivant Denon and fragments from the work of the ancient Greek poet Sappho. The installation evokes simultaneous associations with 1940s song-and-dance films and Kjartansson's favorite painter, Antoine Watteau.

*In No Tomorrow we're playing with classic motifs of Western culture in an attempt to create a new way of making music and a new way of presenting it. Using the movements of the dancers to create music and a 30 channel sound and 6 channel video installation to reflect it in the exhibition space. Stockhausen meets the Grand Ole Opry, as Bryce describes it. It is also a wondering on our ideals of beauty, our search for it and the absurdity of its representations, inspired by the frivolity and reality of rococo paintings, classical ballet and song and dance films.*

*The performers all took a great part in creating this piece with us, it is a portrait of them and their art. – Ragnar Kjartansson.*



*Ragnar Kjartansson, Woman in E, 2016, performance, originally performed at MOCA Detroit, 2016*

Besides *No Tomorrow*, the exhibition encompasses work from all phases of Kjartansson's artistic career, including videos (one being *Me and My Mother*, which De Pont acquired in 2020), installations, paintings, sculptures, sketchbooks, and graphics. The museum's main hall will be the venue for the spellbinding 2016 performance work *Woman in E*, in which a woman wearing a sparkling golden dress stands on a rotating dais, repeatedly strumming an E-minor chord on an electric guitar. The E-minor chord is universally associated with melancholy, and exceptionally well-suited for the expression of wistful feelings and brooding heartache. *Woman in E* will be performed in the main hall continuously, by a rotating pool of 14 performers, for the duration of the exhibition.





Another work made especially for the exhibition by the artist, working in collaboration with the Eindhoven studio Fabrique Céramique, is *Guilt and Fear* (2022) an installation comprising 1,000 porcelain salt and pepper shakers in the form of neoclassical monuments, painted with the words GUILT and FEAR and displayed in a single extended configuration in a series of cabinets.

Photograph: Production of *Fear & Guilt*, 2022, in Fabrique Céramique, Eindhoven

The exhibition curators of *Ragnar Kjartansson – Time Changes Everything* are Martijn van Nieuwenhuyzen and Maria Schnyder.

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The **press preview** is on **Friday 16 September at 12:00 noon**. The artist will be present. Rehearsals for the performance *Woman in E* will be taking place during the preview. If you wish to attend, please register by sending an email to: [pressoffice@depont.nl](mailto:pressoffice@depont.nl) Download images suitable for publication [here](#).  
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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](http://www.depont.nl)

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De Pont museum, 31 August 2022

