

DE PONT MUSEUM 25!

Dutch city receives sculpture of Anish Kapoor

This September, the Dutch contemporary art institution, Museum De Pont, will be given a sculpture by Anish Kapoor in celebration of the museum's 25th anniversary. The gift is a joint project with the City of Tilburg, local companies and individuals, Brabant C, Museum De Pont and the artist. Tilburg will be the first Dutch city to house a Kapoor sculpture in a public space.

This year, Museum De Pont celebrates its 25th anniversary. To mark this occasion, and in recognition of Kapoor's longstanding relationship with the museum, the British artist will create a six-meter-high sculpture made from stainless steel, which will be placed in the public space in front of the museum. In conjunction with the unveiling of the new sculpture, on **Saturday 16 September**, Museum De Pont will present *ReView*, a group exhibition celebrating the artists in the museum's collection.

Kapoor says of the museum, *"De Pont has allowed me, over many years, to show my practice as it really is. For an artist, it is not just a question of making a display of the work, great museums allow artists to use their work to explore new ideas. De Pont maintains a balance between the experimental private world of the artist and the public world of exhibitions."*

Kapoor's contribution is made possible thanks to a joint gift from the City of Tilburg, with support from local companies and individuals, as well as Brabant C, to highlight and acknowledge Museum De Pont's achievements for local, national and international art lovers.

Hendrik Driessen, Director of Museum De Pont says, *"This sculpture is not only a great work of art but also a wonderful token of appreciation for our museum. We have always tried to work closely with and for the people of this city and our contact with Anish Kapoor has helped us shape the thinking of the museum since we started in 1992. We're delighted that he has decided to underline the importance of our mutual commitment by helping us realize this ambitious project. Kapoor is testament to the strength of contemporary art and the role it can play within a community."*

Peter Noordanus, Mayor of Tilburg says, *"Museum De Pont in Tilburg is of great importance to Brabant, and has brought leading artists here for 25 years. It is one of the most successful private museums in the world, and as such, is a leading example for all cultural organizations in the area. De Pont has put Tilburg on the international map. I am delighted every time I see art lovers responding so positively to the museum. With this new addition, its position as an eye-catcher becomes even stronger!"*

Currently on view at Museum De Pont are the recently opened exhibition Fiona Banner: *Runway (AW17)* (29 April - 27 August 2017), Fiona Tan: *Ascent* (11 February - 11 June 2017) and Doorenweerd & Doorenweerd: *The Holy Spirit* (8 April - 2 July 2017).

Editors' Notes:

Museum De Pont

The museum has been named after the attorney and businessman Jan de Pont (1915-1987), whose estate provided for the establishment of a foundation to stimulate contemporary visual art. De Pont is housed in a former wool spinning mill that has been transformed by Bentham Crowel Architects into a space where contemporary art can be seen at its best. The vast, light main area of the monumental old factory and the intimate 'wool-storage rooms' constitute a beautiful environment for the many works of art that De Pont has collected since its opening to the public in September 1992. From the start, an aim of the museum has been to build a collection that concentrates not on breadth, but on depth of representing key artists from our time. The museum strives always to own at least one key work by any artist within their collection within which the specific and underlying interests of that artist's oeuvre converges.

In addition to Anish Kapoor, key artists represented by the museum include Marlene Dumas, Roni Horn, Richard Long, Tacita Dean, Ai Weiwei, Mark Wallinger, Rosemarie Trockel, Thomas Schütte and Bill Viola.

Sir Nicholas Serota, director of Tate Gallery in London, speaking on Museum De Pont has said: *"De Pont opened in 1992, just at the moment when we were thinking about what to do with the Tate. I visited it on more than one occasion...I think from the beginning you always had this feeling that there was a very direct relationship between the spectators, the viewer, the visitor and the art. The museum in a way felt almost naked: the art, you, a direct relationship. That is a very powerful experience."*

Anish Kapoor

Sir Anish Kapoor (1954) is a British sculptor. Born in Mumbai, Kapoor has lived and worked in London since the early 1970s, when he moved to study art, first at the Hornsey College of Art and later at the Chelsea School of Art and Design. Kapoor represented Britain in the XLIV Venice Biennale in 1990, when he was awarded the Premio Duemila. In 1991, he received the Turner Prize and in 2002, the Unilever Commission for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern. Notable public sculptures include *Cloud Gate* (colloquially known as *The Bean*) in Chicago's Millennium Park; *Sky Mirror*, exhibited at the Rockefeller Center in New York City in 2006 and Kensington Gardens in London in 2010; *Temenos* at Middlehaven, Middlesbrough; *Leviathan* at the Grand Palais in Paris in 2011; and *Orbit*, commissioned as a permanent artwork for London's Olympic Park and completed in 2012. Kapoor has 16 pieces (of which 6 are long-term loans) in the Museum De Pont collection, of which *Vertigo*, *Descent into Limbo* and *When I am pregnant*; he has had solo exhibitions with Museum De Pont in 1995, and in 2012.

For further information please visit the web page of the De Pont on Kapoor.
www.depont.nl

Museum De Pont opening times and contact information

Tuesday through Sunday 11 am-5 pm

Every Thursday also from 5-8 pm, with free admission

Route: De Pont is approximately one hour from Amsterdam or Antwerp

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