

CENTRAAL MUSEUM UTRECHT PRESENTS RORY PILGRIM AT LANDHUIS OUD AMELISWEERD

Solo exhibition opens on 13 July in historic manor house

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From 13 July to 27 October 2024, Landhuis Oud Amelisweerd is hosting a solo exhibition by the Netherlands-based British artist Rory Pilgrim (Bristol, 1988). Specially for the manor house, they have selected a range of work from the last fifteen years. Central to the exhibition are three films, supplemented with drawings, posters and installations, which explore forms of support, community and resilience. *Rory Pilgrim • Solo* is part of a five-year partnership with the Hartwig Art Foundation.

Rory Pilgrim • Solo

Rory Pilgrim's work is characterised by social engagement, music, language and dialogue. These themes are evident in the selected films: *Violently Speaking* (2014), *The Resounding Bell* (2018) and *RAFTS* (2022). They form the starting point for a special environment that Pilgrim has designed for the manor house together with the Polish artist Olga Micińska. Micińska created wooden pedestals and arms that bear Pilgrim's drawings. Various art disciplines come together in the historic spaces, creating a powerful setting that reinforces the themes in the works.



Rory Pilgrim, *The Horse has the Purse*, 2021

Film installations

Pilgrim's most recent work, *RAFTS*, explores the impact of emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic on our mental health. In the film, which lasts more than an hour, various people talk about what gives them support in times of crisis. The video is structured as an oratorio: a musical composition that tells a story through song, instrumental accompaniment and spoken text.

The Resounding Bell is also about the consequences of political choices – in this case Brexit. In the film, young women repeatedly pose questions about subjects such as growing up, politics, technology and climate change to the younger generation. In *Violently Speaking*, Pilgrim explores the unifying power of the spoken word. The film follows different groups of people: Quakers in Utah, transgender activists in New York and teenage girls in Britain. Although they seem to move in different circles, they are interwoven by the invisible threads of history.

Software Garden consists of a 'digital garden' of old television sets and plants. The spatial installation refers to the complex nature with all its connected parts, in which every individual action has consequences for the whole. Also in the garden are several plastic carrier bags, which symbolise both the destruction of our environment and the many stories they can carry.

Rory Pilgrim

Rory Pilgrim (they/them) has lived and worked in the Netherlands since 2008, where they have created a multifaceted oeuvre of song lyrics, texts, music compositions, films, drawings, installations and live performances. They bring together different generations and worlds of experience, and ask questions about how we care for each other and the world.

Pilgrim studied at the Chelsea College of Art and Design in London and at De Ateliers in Amsterdam. Their work has been acquired by Tate in London, Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Centraal Museum in Utrecht and Bonnefanten in Maastricht, and has been exhibited at the Centre Pompidou in Paris and the Serpentine Gallery and Chisenhale Gallery in London. Pilgrim won the Prix de Rome in 2019 and was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2023.

Landhuis Oud Amelisweerd

Centraal Museum is presenting a series of exhibitions at Landhuis Oud Amelisweerd from 2022 to 2027. During this period, the historic manor house forms the backdrop for a solo exhibition by a renowned contemporary artist based in the Netherlands. Each artist is given carte blanche to present their work in relation to the historical rooms, transforming this country estate into a contemporary sanctuary.

The Landhuis Oud Amelisweerd Foundation, an initiative of Stadsherstel Utrecht, ensures public access to this unique national monument. Together with Utrecht-based makers and institutions, it is developing public programming in the fields of art, science and history. The programme at Landhuis Oud Amelisweerd, curated by Centraal Museum, is a partner project with the Hartwig Art Foundation. Rory Pilgrim is the sixth artist in this series. The manor house has previously welcomed Amie Dicke, Marijke van Warmerdam, Hannah van Bart, Han Schuil and Ansuya Blom.

You can now visit Landhuis Oud Amelisweerd with the Netherlands Museum Pass. You can find more information at landhuisoudamelisweerd.nl.