

What is Presence?

Presence is an interactive, immersive, luminous artwork.

What is the work about?

Groninger Museum presents Daan Roosegaarde's first major museum solo show: PRESENCE which evokes visitors to become aware of their own presence in a unique manner. Booklets available in the exhibition contain extensive background information in Dutch, English and German. More details are also available online at www.groningermuseum.nl/en/presence.

Why should people come to Groningen to see Presence?

This groundbreaking new interactive work, developed specially for the Groninger Museum, is completely different from the usual museum experience. It will surprise and inspire you on multiple levels. You'll walk into a 800 m² luminous landscape that changes colour and shape in response to your presence. It will challenge you to engage with it through touch and movement and make you aware of your own presence in a unique way.

Who is Daan Roosegaarde?

The artist and innovator Daan Roosegaarde is famous for Icoon Afsluitdijk and international projects like Waterlicht and Smog Free Tower. Presence is the outdoor artist's first large-scale museum-based solo project and his first exploration of interior space.

Can visitors touch the work?

Yes! Presence responds to visitors' touch and movement. They give the work its form and can shape it as they wish. Of course, you can choose just to look, but the work invites you to experiment with it.

What is Presence made of?

The work is composed of various elements that have been treated with a luminescent coating which is activated by light. The coatings are non-toxic. Should any small elements of it accidentally be ingested, it will leave the body in the usual way.

What type of light is used to activate the luminescent layer? Is it dangerous?

We use UV light, which is present for very short periods and is not dangerous. However, we advise you not to look directly into the light source.

How is the stardust (the tiny luminous beads) managed?

The beads are a permanent part of the work, which will be conserved by the Groninger Museum after the exhibition. They should therefore not be removed from the building. They are non-toxic but also non-biodegradable. Various steps have been taken to prevent them escaping, and these are constantly being evaluated. Stray beads are vacuumed up, cleaned and returned to the exhibition whenever possible.

What if there's an emergency in the galleries?

In case of emergency, the lights will go on and museum staff will provide assistance.

Is the exhibition accessible for the disabled?

Yes.

Can people with pacemakers and ICDs enter the exhibition?

The exhibition contains no technology that interferes with pacemakers or ICDs.

Is the exhibition suitable for children?

The exhibition is appropriate for children. We advise you to keep an eye on younger children, however, as it contains large rollable balls and lots of tiny beads.

FAQ for DAAN ROOSEGAARDE: PRESENCE

Why do I have to wear shoe covers?

The floor is part of the artwork. The cleaner we keep it, the better visitors' experience will be. The floor is also made of fragile material. We therefore ask that you use shoe covers or remove your shoes before entering the exhibition.

Can I make photos, videos or audio recordings in the exhibition?

Absolutely! But please, no flash photography.