



Groningen, 18 September 2020

International exhibition *The Art of Aardman – Shaun the Sheep and Friends* opened at Forum Groningen

**After Paris, Melbourne, Frankfurt and Seoul, the exhibition giving a masterful insight into the work of Academy Award®-winning Aardman Studios was officially opened in Groningen on Friday, 18 September.**

### **Clay animation**

*Shaun the Sheep*, *Chicken Run* and *Wallace & Gromit*: the weird and wonderful creations of Aardman Studios are brought to life in Groningen. The exhibition takes visitors on a journey of discovery past original versions of Gromit's famous vegetable garden, the flying machine from *Chicken Run* and the spectacular five-metre tall galleon from *The Pirates! Band of Misfits*.

### **Interactive**

Groningen is the sixth city where *The Art of Aardman* is exhibited, after Daegu, Seoul, Melbourne, Paris and Frankfurt. In addition to a host of clay models and film sets, Forum Groningen has also added a number of interactive elements to the exhibition. Hans Poll, Director of Programming and Marketing: "Standing in their shoes for a bit helps you appreciate and understand Aardman's work even more. In our exhibition, you can learn how to make a storyboard and create your own work in our stop-motion studio." Throughout the exhibition, Forum will also be showing Aardman's entire film oeuvre in its cinemas. Claying workshops will also be organised.

### **Second exhibition**

*The Art of Aardman* is the second major exhibition at Forum, the landmark culture giant in the centre of Groningen. The programming is spearheaded by popular visual culture, current affairs and technology. The previous exhibition, *AI: More than Human*, was about artificial intelligence.

Ngaio Harding-Hill, Head of Attractions & Live Experiences, Aardman: "We are delighted that, after journeying to the other side of the world, to venues in South Korea and Australia, the Art of Aardman exhibition is returning to Europe. The stunning Forum

Groningen is the perfect cultural venue to host the exhibition and we hope it delights its visitors in The Netherlands as it has around the world.”

*The Art of Aardman – Shaun the Sheep and Friends* will be on show until 9 May 2021. Tickets are available from [forum.nl/aardman](https://forum.nl/aardman).

Note to the editor (not for publication)

### **About Forum Groningen**

In the heart of Groningen is Forum, an accessible meeting place for those who are curious about tomorrow's possibilities in today's world. With our international exhibitions, Storyworld, five cinemas, a multifunctional auditorium, the library, the Smartlab, catering facilities and our roof terrace with a stunning view, we challenge people to look at current developments with an open mind, and invite them to be amazed and inspired. Forum is one of the ten buildings nominated for the [BNA Best Building 2020 award](#).

For more information, please contact Pernille Claessen | Department of Marketing & Communication | M +31 (0)6 536 111 06 | [p.claessen@forum.nl](mailto:p.claessen@forum.nl)

### **About Aardman**

Aardman, based in Bristol (UK) and co-founded in 1976 by Peter Lord and David Sproxton, is an independent and multi-award-winning studio. It produces feature films, series, advertising, games and interactive entertainment - such as the ‘visually astonishing’ (Guardian), BAFTA® nominated console game, [11-11: Memories Retold](#), and the four-times Gold Cannes Lions-winning [StorySign](#) app - and innovative attractions for both the domestic and international market, including a new [4D theatre attraction](#) at Efteling in the Netherlands.

Its productions are global in appeal, novel, entertaining, brilliantly characterised and full of charm reflecting the unique talent, energy and personal commitment of the Aardman team. The studio’s work – which includes the creation of much-loved characters including Wallace & Gromit, Shaun the Sheep and Morph – is often imitated, and yet the company continues to lead the field producing a rare brand of visually stunning content for cinema, broadcasters, digital platforms and live experiences around the world.

The studio runs the Aardman Academy to nurture talent and strengthen ties between the animation industry and education. The Aardman Academy offers a variety of courses from intensive one-day workshops teaching production skills and storyboarding, to comprehensive twelve-week courses for professionals in craft based subjects from model making to animation.

In November 2018 it became an Employee Owned Organisation, to ensure Aardman remains independent and to secure the creative legacy and culture of the company for many decades to come.