

# Arngrímur Borgþórsson (IS)

## *I am anxious* 2-27/10 2021

*"The sun darkens,  
earth in ocean sinks,  
fall from heaven the bright stars,  
fire's breath assails the all-nourishing tree,  
towering fire plays against heaven itself.*

*Understand ye yet, or what?"*

*-From Völuspá (The prophecy of the Seeress), an Icelandic 10th century poem by an unknown author. The poem describes Ragnarök, the end of the world.*

You are an immigrant in Malmö, you're too fat, there's a pandemic on and your planet is melting!

What are you going to do about it? Learn Swedish! Get a passport! Lose weight! Quarantine! Recycle your garbage! Make something that will outlast the coming apocalypse!

In *I am anxious*, Arngrímur Borgþórsson exhibits sculptures, video and installations born of anxiety. In his work, he is influenced by ethereal objects and concepts which often exist only in theory, storytelling or on a screen and attempts to make them into more solid, permanent objects which exist in the real world. He is interested in the ethical, moral and practical implications of digital and social media and the questions which it provokes as we, as a species, explore and interact with it. The works themselves often take on the form of an installation, sometimes combined with simple performances or video. Arngrímur is also keenly interested in storytelling using objects, hints or traces which result in sculptures, installations or video. Frequently, Arngrímur comes up with a formula or a recipe for the work, such as a series of actions and/or a form of documentation, and then follows it to its ultimate logical, illogical or even absurd conclusion.

**Arngrímur Borgþórsson** was born in Reykjavík, Iceland. He lives and works in Malmö, Sweden. He graduated from the Reykjavík Academy of the Arts in 2006 with a BA and from the Umeå Art Academy in 2013 with an MA. He runs the artist-run exhibition space "Gallery CC" in Malmö along with six other Malmö based artists. He frequently collaborates as one-half of the artist duo "Knaggi" with Norwegian artist Andreas Knag-Danielsen. He has exhibited at various venues in Sweden, Iceland, Germany, Denmark, Finland and Norway. This is his first exhibition in Aalborg. [www.arngrimur.is](http://www.arngrimur.is)

Sallingsundvej 33A – Aalborg Øst

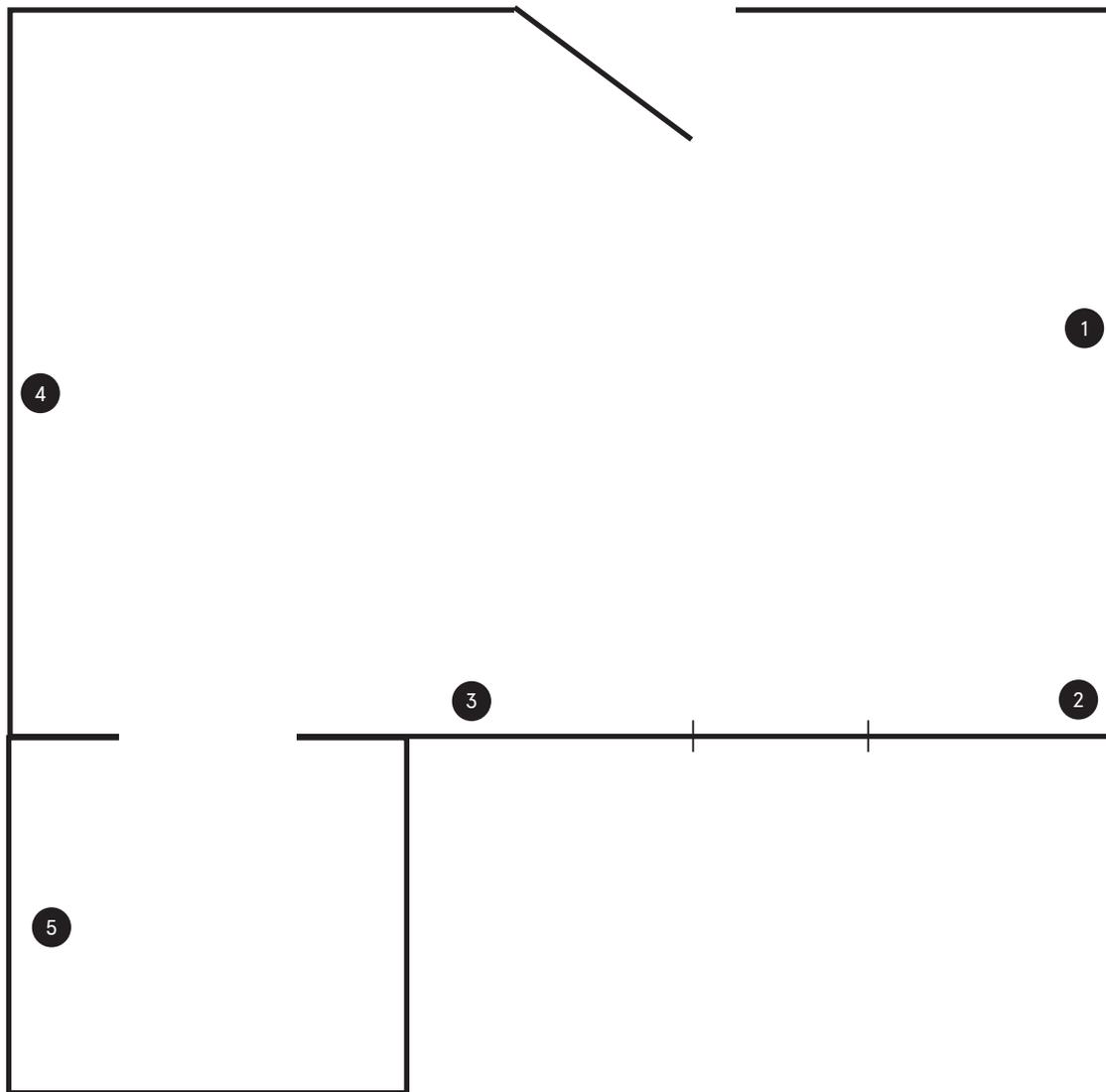
tir - ons 10:00 - 14:00

søn 10:00 - 16:00

**XM3**

- rum for samtidskunst

[www.xm3.gallery](http://www.xm3.gallery)



1

**Lose it!**

Hemp rope, brass fittings. 2020  
A graph created with a smartphone-based weight loss app. The graph documents over weight-loss and weight-gain over the course of a year. The graph is interpreted as hemp rope and without any numbers or dates, rendering it an abstract shape.

3

**It wasn't me**

Bronze. 2021  
A bronze sculpture containing a message to the future in my own, sloppy handwriting. As bronze is one of the longest lasting materials made by humans, holding its shape for about 38.000 years, this sculpture will likely outlast humanity.

5

**Korvar**

Video 5:42min. 2018  
A short narrated video about immigration, sausages and the Icelandic community in Malmö, Sweden, featuring digitally generated Icelandic and Swedish accents.

2

**Þetta reddast**

Video 6:30min. 2021  
"The Icelandic phrase "þetta reddast" is so frequently used, it has been described as the country's motto. "Þetta reddast" can be translated to "it will all work out okay". Always maintain a belief that things will work out in the end; no matter how big the problem, a solution will always present itself. So, are you stuck in the middle of nowhere? Did you lose your passport? Þetta reddast!"  
-From an Icelandic tourist brochure

4

**Electric Quarantinehead: 2 weeks at 750 watts**

A sculpture made of packaging from single portion microwave meals and frozen pizza. The sculpture came about during a two week period of quarantine, where I was confined to my apartment in Malmö at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. The Grandiosa pizza, Findus and Dafgård's meals are ubiquitous in Swedish supermarkets and are a stereotypical staple with the elderly and people who live alone in Sweden. Inside the sculpture is a small screen which is visible from above, below and through the eyes and mouth of the head. On the screen is a looping playlist of 200 music videos which all play songs, mostly released by various governments, health care agencies and companies from all over the world, in various languages, which encourage people to wash their hands, socially distance, sneeze into their elbows and to be careful.