JOAN JONAS: GOOD NIGHT GOOD MORNING

"I didn't see a major difference between a poem, a sculpture, a film, or a dance," recalls Joan Jonas. "A gesture has for me the same weight as a drawing: draw, erase, draw, erase—memory erased." For more than five decades, Jonas's multidisciplinary work has bridged and redefined the boundaries between performance, video, drawing, sound, sculpture, and installation. *Joan Jonas: Good Night Good Morning* traces the breadth of her career—from her early experiments as one of the first in New York City's downtown art scene to take up performance and video in the 1960s and '70s, to recent installations reflecting on ecology and the landscape.

Jonas's practice draws the past into the present, often incorporating images, footage, performance sets, and prop elements collected from previous performances into new installations that evolve over time. In doing so the artist imbues these components with new meaning, while also translating a given work from one medium to another. The themes and questions that have sustained her career are: the technical possibilities of video and its relation to live action; the ways in which literature, myth, and historical tales can illuminate the present; the perception and alteration of space; the visual trickery and illusion of fragmentation, doubling, and reflection; the generative process of collaboration; and the cyclical nature of time.

A decisively contemporary artist, Jonas continues to produce urgent works through immersive multimedia installations addressing climate change and interspecies kinship. "Despite my interest in history," she has said, "my work always takes place in the present."

Organized by Ana Janevski, Curator, with Lilia Rocio Taboada and Gee Wesley, Curatorial Assistants, Department of Media and Performance. With thanks to Mitchell Herrmann, Mellon-Marron Research Consortium Fellow, and Molly Superfine, Brandon Eng, and Piper Marshall, former Mellon-Marron Research Consortium Fellows, Department of Media and Performance.

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Scan this QR code to watch a special selection of nine video works by Joan Jonas currently available online.



We invite you to explore the accompanying publication, *Joan Jonas: Good Night Good Morning*, which is available in the Museum Store.

For related content, programs, selected transcripts, and a full list of collaborators and contributors, visit moma.org/joanjonas.