

Tours

Every Sunday at 2pm

Thursday 24 August at 6pm with Mark Beasley

Sunday 27 August at 1pm for Families

Live Events - Free Entry!

Friday 25 August at 10pm

Performance Nicholas Bullen (Napalm Death)

Saturday 26 August at 2pm

Talk by Mark Beasley: O Superman to Girls, Tricky

Saturday 26 August at 8pm

Performance

Lizzi Bougatsos (Gang Gang Dance, Angel Blood)

& Stephen O'Malley (Sunn O))), KTL)

Reading Rasheedah Phillips (Black Quantum Futurism)

Performance Moor Mother

Saturday 9 September at 2pm

Talk by Nicholas Bullen: Into the Black Hole

Friday 15 September at 9pm

Concert Attila Csihar (Mayhem)

BERGEN KUNSTHALL

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O SUPERMAN TO GIRLS, TRICKY. I AM HERE, WHERE ARE YOU: ON VOCAL PERFORMANCE

LAURIE ANDERSON, BLACK QUANTUM FUTURISM, LIZZI BOUGATSOS, NICHOLAS BULLEN, JEM COHEN, ATTILA CSIHAR, IAN MACKAYE, STEVE MCQUEEN & TRICKY, MOOR MOTHER, STEPHEN O'MALLEY, TONY OURSLER, THE POETICS (MIKE KELLEY & TONY OURSLER)

ORGANISED BY MARK BEASLEY

25 AUGUST – 15 OCTOBER

O Superman... presents a series of seminal vocal performances, artists, and audio/visual artworks, installed and enacted across all of the Kunsthall galleries and as part of a live programme in Landmark.

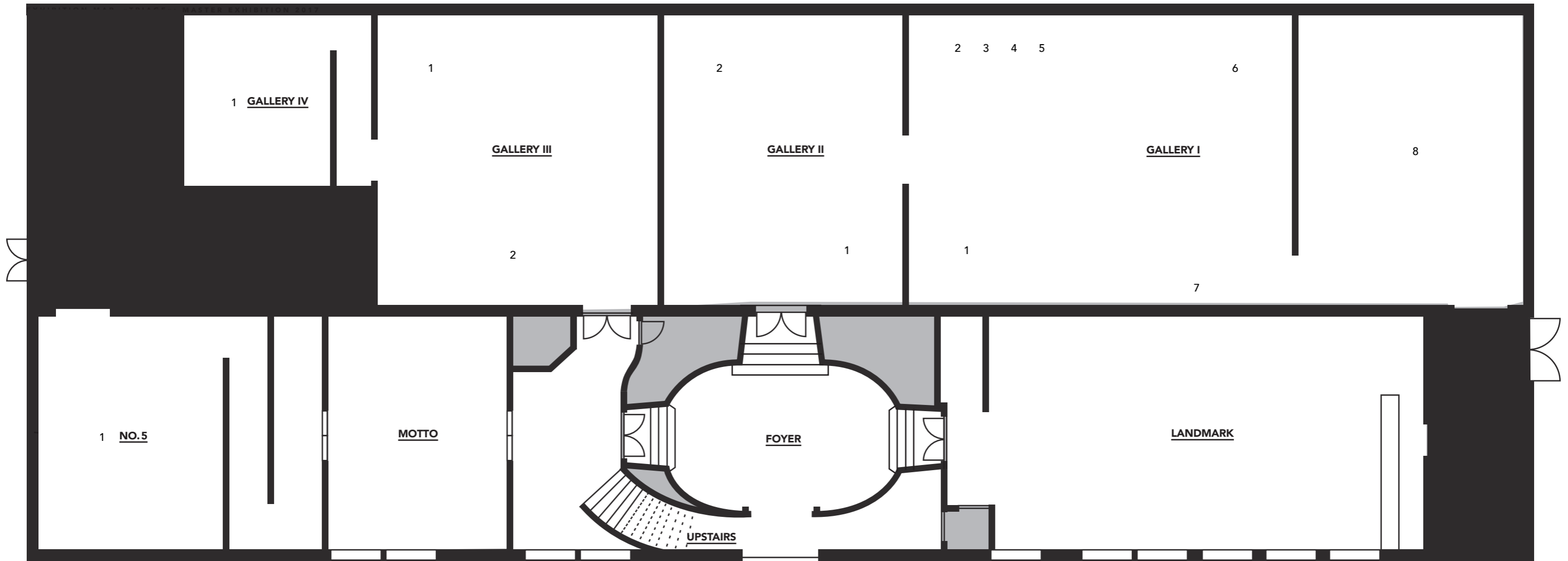
The voice as a material and concrete form can be bent or broken, much like clay, paint or steel, it is this materialness that when utilized in performance produces powerful and often disturbing affect. The voice in performance and as a material moves fluidly, occupying the spaces between existing structure and the architectures of bounded genre. It is the active agent that connects theater, music, and even dance; in short, voice overflows category, it is a binding material and a shuttling intensity that passes from body-to-body, from speaker to listener.

Beginning with Laurie Anderson's influential vocoded pop video/performance piece *O Superman* (1981), the exhibition goes on to present the fledgling grindcore and death growl of Birmingham's Napalm Death — as well as the current music and film work of founder member and vocalist Nicholas Bullen; Lizzi Bougatsos' (Gang Gang Dance, Angel Blood) meditative and ritual use of the voice in her contemporary performance and installation work; Tricky's ecstatic hip hop vocalizing, as immortalized by artist and filmmaker Steve McQueen; and the Afrofuturist music and poetry of Philadelphia's

Moor Mother and her collaborative project Black Quantum Futurism. Jem Cohen and Ian MacKaye (Fugazi, Minor Threat) document the beginning of the D.C. hardcore scene and Minor Threat's uncompromising and direct approach to lyric and vocals, the avant-experimental music of The Poetics (Tony Oursler and Mike Kelley) is also included, alongside Oursler's own project, "Synesthesia": a series of interviews he conducted with key artists and musicians including Alan Vega, Genesis P. Orridge, Arto Lindsay and Laurie Anderson.

All of the selected artists radically rearticulate vocal performance, making the familiar productively strange through the use of both emergent technologies and historic form, from the classical avant-garde to popular music. Their works speak directly to their times and the prevailing social and political climates, not through palliative ornamental use of the voice, but rather through direct and urgent address.

Presented as a walkthrough score for voice, *O Superman...* has been arranged by US based curator and writer Mark Beasley especially for the spaces of Bergen Kunsthall. Featuring live performance, archival material, audio installation, video and sonic essay, this exhibition-as-composition traces a partial history of radical and politicized avant-garde pre and post-punk vocals, from the Eighties to now.



NO.5

- 1 Steve McQueen
Girls, Tricky, 2001
Colour video, sound, 14 minutes 47 seconds.
Courtesy of the Artist and Marian Goodman Gallery

GALLERY IV

- 1 Jem Cohen, Gravity Hill Films
Untitled (Ian MacKaye interview, basement, Dischord House), 2017
Colour video, sound, 8 minutes 41 seconds

GALLERY III

- 1 Nicholas Bullen
I Am Here, Where Are You, 2016
Sound and video installation. 7 minutes 18 seconds
- 2 Nicholas Bullen
Manifest Intent - Selections from the archive collection of Nicholas Bullen

GALLERY II

- 1 Laurie Anderson
O Superman, 1981
Colour video, sound, 8 minutes 26 seconds
- 2 Moor Mother
Fetish Bones, 2017
Video by Bob Sweeney, 1 minute 6 seconds

GALLERY I

- 1 Lizzi Bougatsos
Meditational Flow Break Up (Energy Chance Revisited), 2017
Mixed media sound installation
- 2 Tony Oursler
Synesthesia: Alan Vega, 1997-2001
Colour video, sound, 55 minutes 40 seconds.
- 3 Tony Oursler
Synesthesia: Genesis P-Orridge, 1997-2001
Colour video, sound, 90 minutes 29 seconds.
- 4 Tony Oursler
Synesthesia: Laurie Anderson, 1997-2001
Colour video, sound, 47 minutes 07 seconds.
- 5 Tony Oursler
Synesthesia: Arto Lindsay, 1997-2001
Colour video, sound, 51 minutes 20 seconds

- 6 Moor Mother
The Motionless Present, 2017
Mixed media sound installation

- 7 Black Quantum Futurism (Rasheedah Phillips & Moor Mother)
Untitled, 2017
Colour video, sound, 9 minutes 30 seconds

- 8 The Poetics (Mike Kelley & Tony Oursler)
Lapsed C, 1993 / 2017
Colour video projected on phosphorescent screen. 20 minutes 57 seconds.
Phosphorescent wallpaintings.

LANDMARK

- The Poetics
Poetics Vocal Emphasis (Mix), 2017
Sound. Played on request.