

BERGEN ASSEMBLY 2016

PRAXES

MARVIN GAYE CHETWYND

JABBA, I'M BACK! COME BACK TOUR, BOOK NOW!

Marvin Gaye Chetwynd (b.1973, UK) works with exuberant collective performances and films merging irreverence and *joie de vivre*. As part of Bergen Assembly 2016, PRAXES has commenced a year-long enquiry into Chetwynd's practice, which grants time not only to developing a new episodic performance, but also to dwelling with the artist's wealth of accumulated material through a series of events and exhibitions.

Reawakening Jabba the Hutt – a recurring protagonist in Chetwynd's early performances – a participatory soirée at Landmark formally opens the exhibition at Bergen Kunsthall. Exemplary of how Chetwynd often draws on famed characters from cultural history to dismantle hierarchies in absurd and spontaneous choreographies, Chetwynd recasts the exaggerated Orientalist slave trader from *Star Wars*, revealing a smooth-talking *bon viveur* babbling in Farsi about East–West politics.

Pondering questions of re-enacting, collecting and the continuous editing of 'historical' performance material, the revival of Jabba coincides with the presentation in NO. 5, a space in which Bergen Kunsthall regularly revisits exhibition histories through recreations of past displays. The show focuses on *Home Made Tasers*, the first of Chetwynd's live works to be preserved in a museum collection. Centred on a sacrificial choreography around the 'Brain Bug' – a figure inspired by the aliens in the 1997 sci-fi blockbuster *Starship Troopers* – this live piece was performed at the New Museum (USA, 2012), Nottingham Contemporary, and the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery (both UK, 2015), the latter of which acquired the costumes, props and performance for their collection.

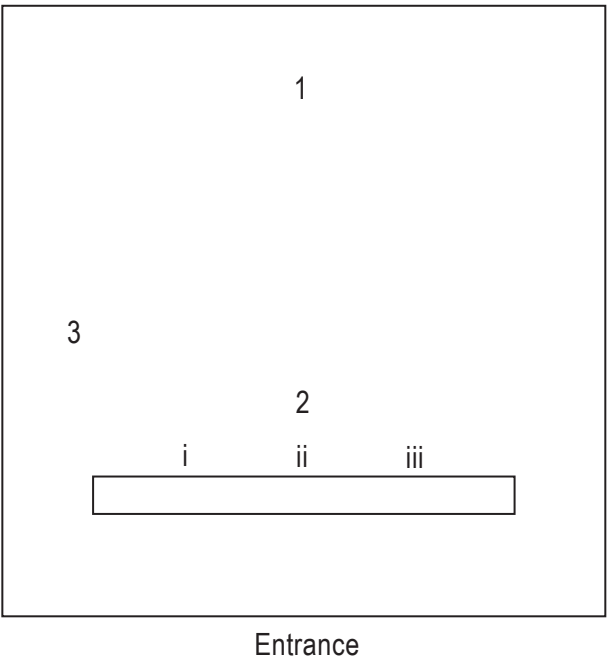
On view in NO. 5, Chetwynd's film work *Home Made Tasers* draws on documentary footage while adding layers of sound, image and suggestive rhythmic editing, exploring the decisively different experiences and possibilities of recorded material in relation to live performance. Also on display, three instructional videos by Chetwynd direct collectors and museum staff in how to conserve, repair and even re-perform this piece. More than mere step-by-step manuals and yet not actual artworks, these joyful 'art school as cooking show' videos provide a rare peek into the artist's methodology and material understanding. A witty argument for reframing artistic autonomy in performance, Chetwynd makes audiences and museum staff complicit in her work, ensuring the distributed social agency of her performances to be part of their future use.

PRAXES AT BERGEN ASSEMBLY

Bergen Assembly is a triennial for artistic production and research. In 2016 Bergen Assembly presents a program following three, differently timed curatorial propositions: Tarek Atoui, *freethought*, and PRAXES. Within this context, PRAXES presents a whole year of events, publications, and exhibitions, created in collaboration with numerous Bergen venues and communities. The epicenters of this investigation are two unassociated artistic practices, those of Lynda Benglis and Marvin Gaye Chetwynd.

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FLOORPLAN



- 1. *Home Made Tasers: New Museum*, 2011
HD video, 16:27min
- 2. i *Home Made Tasers*, 2011, Instruction video 1. Install and repairs.
HD video, 13:44min
- ii *Home Made Tasers*, 2011, Instruction video 2. Making and repairs.
HD video, 43:47min
- iii *Home Made Tasers*, 2011, Instruction video 2. Movement workshop.
HD video, 1:04:17min
- 3. *Jabba the Hutt*, 2003
Latex, cloth

All works by Marvin Gaye Chetwynd. Courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, London.

MARVIN GAYE CHETWYND: EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

February 6	Iron Age Pasta Necklace Workshop, Landmark
February 25–December 9	... Are u Bats? 1, Bergen City Hall
April 29–May 22	The Elixia App (Episode One), USF Verftet
September 2–4	The Cell Group (Episode Two), St. Jørgen's shelter
September 2–25	Cocaine and Caviar, Kunstgarasjen
October 28–December 18	Jabba, I'm Back! Come Back Tour, book now!, Bergen Kunsthall
November 18–19	it's not a bald spot it's a solar panel for a sex machine (Episode Three), Bergen Academy of Art & Design