

Monster Chetwynd
«Profusion Protrusion»
09.06.23–17.09.23

In the Vaulted Cellar of the Cabaret Voltaire, entered through an open maw, and transporting guests to other worlds, stands one of the monstrous heads of Monster Chetwynd. Inside this head is a small exhibition, a prelude to Chetwynd's artistic occupation of the Artists' Bar from August 25, 2023 to the end of July 2024. Chetwynd's works, be they exuberant performances or painterly installations, brim with optimistic absurdity and profound comedy; they are comprehensible to all yet rich in cultural references. With the do-it-yourself character, the processivity, and the humor, Chetwynd's art connects to the heritage of Dada.

At the center of the exhibition "Profusion Protrusion" is *// Tetto*, which moved from Frankfurt's SCHIRN to the Cabaret Voltaire, the venue where Dada originated. The gigantic mask was first shown in Bergen in 2017, where it was worn by performers sing-screaming ecological songs. Such re-stagings are programmatic in Chetwynd's work. Many of her works, made from simple materials such as cardboard and fabric, are recycled, and modified further as well as incorporated into altered contexts on site. Always inherent in the work is collective development, whether in the process of making, or in the performative actions that flank the exhibition.

Chetwynd draws her inspiration from a variety of sources, including film and television, literature, music, antiquity, art history, and philosophy. *// Tetto* refers to different cultural eras and their genres: The stone masks of ancient Rome come to mind, as does the Christian motif of the "hell mouth." The "gate to hell" was already found as a passage or entrance, for example, in the Italian sculpture garden "Sacro Bosco" from the 16th century. However, *// Tetto* also testifies to years of investigation into the iconography of faces and masks, which can be seen in absurd overlaps, for example in the film *Zardoz* (1974) by John Boorman, where antiquity and sci-fi meet. Or in the film *Satyricon* by Federico Fellini (1969), with its roots in the scurrilous text written in the time of Nero. The sculpture also pays tribute to early Christian plays, when the theater was dormant, sets were built, and stories were reenacted outside of churches. The paintings of Giotto are thought to depict the scenery. Additionally, "hell mouths" painted on wood from this era have been preserved and serve as a major source of inspiration for Monster Chetwynd.

Both in the exhibition in the Vaulted Cellar and in the Artists' Bar, Monster Chetwynd is interested in the mask-like and the carnivalesque. In Chetwynd's work, humour and the grotesque are used as consciousness-expanding devices. In particular, the masks inside *// Tetto* bear witness to this exploration and are snapshots of the working process for the upcoming show in the bar.

Monster Chetwynd (*1973, London) lives and works in Zurich. She obtained a bachelor's degree in social anthropology and history from University College London in 1994 and a master's degree in painting from the Royal College of Art in 2004. She has performed and exhibited internationally, including at SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT (2023); Konsthall C, Stockholm (2021); De Pont, Tilburg, Netherlands (2019); Villa Arson, Nice (2019); Tate Britain, London (2018); CCA Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow (2016); Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen (2016); and Bonner Kunstverein (2016). In 2012, she became the first performance artist to be nominated for the Turner Prize. Playing with expectations and norms in art is also reflected in the artist's name: formerly known as Spartacus and Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, she has been known as Monster since 2018.

Glossary of the individual exhibits

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Il Tetto</i>, 2017
 wood, cardboard, papier-mâché, textiles, latex
 250 x 250 x 355 cm</p> | <p>9
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Free Energy Mask</i>, 2021
 latex, paper card, paint
 25 cm height, 10 cm depth</p> |
| <p>2
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Green Ceramic Eyes</i>, 2023
 glazed ceramic
 each 5 cm diameter, 5 cm depth</p> | <p>10
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Doggy Heaven Mask</i>, 2022
 paint, latex, card, paper
 100 x 100 x 20 cm</p> |
| <p>3
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Edition/Yellow</i>, 2023
 painted ceramic, slip mold
 20 cm diameter, 15 cm depth</p> | <p>11
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Orange Ceramic Face</i>, 2023
 ceramic
 50 x 40 x 10 cm</p> |
| <p>4
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Ceramic Mouth/Obsidion</i>, 2023
 glazed ceramic
 15 cm diameter, 1 cm depth</p> | <p>12
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Cardboard Lips</i>, 2023
 cardboard
 40 x 90 x 20 cm</p> |
| <p>5
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Papermaché/make Alice in Wonderland</i>, 2022
 card, papier-mâché
 50 cm diameter, 20 cm depth</p> | <p>13
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Ceramic Frame and Lips</i>, 2023
 glazed ceramic
 70 cm diameter, 25 cm depth</p> |
| <p>6
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Big Doggy Mask</i>, 2023
 cardboard
 90 cm diameter, 60 cm depth</p> | <p>14
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Ceramic Mouth/Honeydue</i>, 2023
 clay, light glaze
 15 cm diameter, 1 cm depth</p> |
| <p>7
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Pig</i>, 2019
 paper, card, latex
 30 cm diameter, 25 cm depth</p> | |
| <p>8
 Monster Chetwynd
 <i>Clay Mouth Eyes and Nose</i>, 2023
 clay
 eyes: 10 cm diameter; mouth: 10 x 15 cm</p> | |

Gewölbekeller/Vaulted Cellar

