

DE PONT MUSEUM

Press Release: Monster Chetwynd at De Pont Museum

MONSTER CHETWYND AT DE PONT MUSEUM



Performance view, *Monster Chetwynd*, 19 October 2019, De Pont Museum, Tilburg.

Monster Chetwynd *Toxic Pillows*

Through 15 March 2020

On view at De Pont Museum is the first extensive solo exhibition that Monster Chetwynd (London 1973) has had in the Netherlands: *Toxic Pillows*. Previously known as Spartacus Chetwynd and Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, the artist has gained a wide reputation for her extrovert performances, for which she creates the costumes and sets herself. For her performances, characterized by improvisation and deliberate amateurism, she often works with a group of friends and family members. Humor is a significant driving force in this. As she herself says, "It is a radical, uplifting political action to prioritize humor."

For her work Chetwynd borrows elements from pop culture and folklore, but also from art history. She describes herself as being "anti-establishment but pro-society." By way of her works she hopes to provide visitors with positive energy that can be used to address social problems, such as the plastic and toxic substances that pollute the environment. These can even be found in the pillows that we sleep on at night -- hence *Toxic Pillows*.

"I make performances and art that lift morale: a natural tonic, a portal to bouyancy and human bonding, unstoppable surges of courage and bravado that seem irresponsible in the face of the current reality," says Chetwynd, "but which are also a useful ingredient if we are to be energised to program change."

The survey at De Pont reveals the diversity of disciplines in which Chetwynd expresses herself: painting and sculpture, theater, music and film. Chetwynd combines them effortlessly.



The small and subtle *Bat Opera* paintings take on added dynamics due to the fact that they can also be read as a storyboard, for instance, while remnants of performances start new lives in autonomous 'paintings'. In the large space, two huge installations enter into a dialogue with each other: the monstrous *Hell Mouth* faces a scholar's serene studio, based on Antonello da Messina's painting *St. Jerome in His Study* (ca. 1475). The exhibition is a hybrid *Gesamtkunstwerk* in which everything intermingles.

Monster Chetwynd - Toxic Pillows through 15 March 2020

Watch [here](#) a video of the making of the Monster Chetwynd's exhibition.

For further information, photo material or interview requests, please contact h.zeedijk@depont.nl

De Pont Museum is open:

Tuesday through Sunday: 11 am – 17 pm

Thursday until 8 pm, free admission after 5 pm.

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