

# MAGASIN III



## PRESS RELEASE

### *The Nature of Particles*

Jake & Dinos Chapman and Francisco Goya

Curator: Tessa Praun

February 26 – June 5, 2016

With drawing, sculpture and film that often combine scenes of violence with absurd or humorous elements, Jake and Dinos Chapman deliver powerful statements on society, politics and religion. Deeply engaged in contemporary issues of morality, the Chapman brothers are intent on putting the viewer in a state of complete moral panic.

Time and again, the Chapman brothers have returned to depictions of war by the Spanish artist Francisco Goya (1746-1828). Through a generous loan from Sweden's Nationalmuseum, twenty plates from Goya's original edition of etchings will now enter in direct dialogue with the Chapman brothers' works. *The Nature of Particles* showcases two artistic oeuvres—one historic and one contemporary—as a means of underlining the topicality and complexity that the works represent.

Tessa Praun, exhibition curator:

*I believe most of us are frightened by evil, yet at the same time, humanity is the source of all wars and has an obvious propensity for war, violence and the grotesque. The exhibition presents an encounter between two groundbreaking artistic oeuvres. Though they are separated by 200 years, these artists touch upon the darkest sides of humanity—and are often met with radically different responses.*

Presented in the exhibition is a selection of recent works by the Chapman brothers, as well as a new, site-specific installation with poetry and taxidermied crows. A central work is *The Sum of All Evil* (2012–2013), in which four dioramas depict an intense landscape inhabited by thousands of miniature figures. An inferno of atrocities incessantly rages on—a nightmare behind glass, at once both repulsive and fascinating. Positioned here and there throughout the exhibition space are life-sized figures clad in white Ku Klux Klan outfits. They stand contemplating the artworks, wearing smiley badges on their chests and thick rainbow colored socks and Birkenstock sandals on their feet—strong symbols that stand for very different ideologies. These figures are also feature in the cinema installation *Kino Klub* (2013), where

one can see *Fucking Hell*, a montage of films the Chapman brothers have created since the early 1990s.

### **An Extension of *Like A Prayer***

The idea for the exhibition *The Nature of Particles* stems from the exhibition *Like A Prayer*, currently on view in two adjacent rooms. Featured here is *Disasters of War* (1999), one of many Chapman brothers' works based on Goya's depictions of war. In these 83 etchings they have both made additions to Goya's motifs and made their own freestanding etchings including contemporary symbols of violence, elements of childish humor and surrealist impulses.

### **A Collaboration with Sweden's Nationalmuseum**

A generous loan from the collections of Nationalmuseum forms the hub of the exhibition: twenty plates from Goya's *Los Desastres de la Guerra* (ca 1810-1823) engage in direct dialogue with works by the Chapman brothers. Goya's suite of etchings depicts the atrocities inflicted upon the Spanish people by Napoleon's invading army, but also the subsequent revenge exacted. The images are often described as the first unromanticized depictions of war. Comprised of 80 etchings, the suite was first published in 1863, a full 35 years after Goya's death.

### **About the Artists**

Brothers Jake and Dinos Chapman graduated from the Royal College of Art, London in 1990 and have been collaborating since. The artists achieved notoriety in the mid-1990s, when their sculptures were included in the Young British Artists showcase exhibitions *Brilliant!* and *Sensation*. In 2003, the brothers Chapman were nominated for the Turner Prize. The exhibition *Jake and Dinos Chapman, John Currin* was held at Magasin III in 2007. For a full biography please see next page.

Francisco Goya (Francisco de Goya y Lucientes) was born in 1746 in Fuendetodos/Zaragoza, Spain, and died in 1828 in Bordeaux, France.

### **Program and Audio Guide**

Artist talk: Thursday, February 25, 5 pm at Radihuset in Stockholm. Curator Tessa Praun will have a conversation with artist Jake Chapman. Seating is limited. To register your interest, please contact Communications Manager Jennifer Lindblad.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Magasin III has created an audio guide with stories and comments by Tessa Praun, Jake Chapman and Karin Sidén, Museum Director of Prince Eugen's Waldemarsudde. The audio guide can be downloaded or streamed at [magasin3.com](http://magasin3.com) (from 26 February 2016).

#### **For press inquiries, please contact:**

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## Full biography – Jake and Dinos Chapman

Jake & Dinos Chapman make iconoclastic sculpture, prints and installations that examine, with searing wit and energy, contemporary politics, religion and morality.

Working together since their graduation from the Royal College of Art in 1990, the Chapmans first received critical acclaim in 1991 for a diorama sculpture entitled 'Disasters of War' created out of remodelled plastic figurines enacting scenes from Goya's 'Disasters of War' etchings. Later they took a single scene from the work and meticulously transformed it into *Great Deeds Against the Dead* (1994), a life-size tableau of reworked fibreglass mannequins depicting three castrated and mutilated soldiers tied to a tree.

Arguably their most ambitious work was *Hell* (1999), an immense tabletop tableau, peopled with over 30,000 remodelled, 2-inch-high figures, many in Nazi uniform and performing egregious acts of cruelty. The work combined historical, religious and mythic narratives to present an apocalyptic snapshot of the twentieth-century. Tragically this work was destroyed in the MOMART fire in 2004 and the Chapmans rebuked by saying they would make another, more ambitious in scale and detail - the result of which was *Fucking Hell* (2008). The interim saw 'The Chapman Family Collection' (2002), comprised of a group of sculptures that bring to mind the loot from a Victorian explorer's trophy bag, yet also portraying characters from McDonald's. The conflation of the exotic fetish and the cheap fast-food giveaway, imperialism and globalisation, created a powerful sense of dislocation. 'Like A Dog Returns To Its Vomit' (2005), was an exhibition of the Chapmans' graphic works, a large collection of etchings and drawings displayed on two walls and arranged in the shape of dogs. Many of the works were reinterpretations of Goya etchings, including the 'Disasters Of War' and the 'Los Caprichos' series. Using the Tate Collection's erotomaniac sculpture *Little Death Machine* (Castrated) (1993) as their point of departure, the Chapmans created 'When Humans Walked the Earth' (2008) an installation of ten improbable machines, cast in bronze and now ossified, emulating aspects of human behaviour with a trademark subversive wit.

Jake Chapman was born in 1966 in Cheltenham, Dinos Chapman in 1962 in London. They have exhibited extensively, including solo shows at Brandts Museum, Odense (2015); Serpentine Sackler Gallery (2013); DHC Montreal (2013); Pinchuk Art Centre (2013); the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg (2012), Museo Pino Pascali, Polignano a Mare, Italy (2010); Hastings Museum, UK (2009); Kestner Gesellschaft Hannover (2008); Tate Britain, London (2007); Tate Liverpool (2006); Kunsthaus Bregenz (2005); Museum Kunst Palast Düsseldorf (2003); Modern Art Oxford (2003); and PS1 Contemporary Art Center, New York (2000). Group exhibitions have included the 1st Kiev Biennale (2012), the 4th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (2011); 17<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney (2010); Meadows Museum, Texas (2010); 'Rude Britannia', Tate Britain (2010); Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn (2010); National Center of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2009); Kunstverein Hamburg (2009); British Museum, London (2009); Palais des Beaux Arts de Lille (2008); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2008); ICA, London (2008); 'Summer Exhibition', Annenberg Courtyard, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2007); ARS 06, Museum of Contemporary Art KIASMA, Helsinki (2006) and Turner Prize, Tate Britain (2003).

Other selected group exhibitions include Musee Bourdelle, Paris (2015); 4th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (2011); 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010); Kunstverein, Hamburg (2009) and Kiasma, Helsinki (2006). In 2003, the brothers Chapman were nominated for the Turner Prize.