

# LUNGLEY

Brian Dawn Chalkley  
The Pictorial Space of Poetic Horror

13/05 - 11/06/22

Private view Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 coinciding with London Gallery Weekend

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*Reflecting on what was once possible* (2022)  
Pencil, ink and embroidery on cotton pillow case, 73 cm x 75 cm.

Brian Dawn Chalkley (b. 1948, London. Lives and works in London) is a visual, performance artist and storyteller. Formative in the trans community since the early 90's, the artist is known for their performances as *Dawn* a leading role in London's underground trans clubbing scene in the 1980s and '90s, a time when it was deemed unacceptable and perverse.

Now in their 70s, Brian Dawn Chalkley has been exploring gender, sexuality and identity for more than four decades, first in private and then in their art. In 1996 Brian embraced "Dawn", his alter ego, into his public art practice, too. Ever since, this movement between "Brian" and "Dawn" has fuelled an odyssey into what it means to perform gender, and to form and reform identities, going far beyond the modernist tendencies of his earlier years, and continuing to build a body of work that uses narrative and costume to construct and deconstruct aspects of their personality and personae.

Brian Dawn is best known for hosting the Salon, an event for performers and performances in which orthodox moral, social, and artistic boundaries are challenged by the representation of unconventional behaviour and the use of experimental forms. The people they meet and the places they go are the subject of his work, memories from the artist's own life and childhood are present, although laced with violence and horror.

But there is a chasm between the details of the stories, the narrative itself, and the meaning behind both. While we are invited to speculate on, and discover more about, these scenarios, they ultimately refuse to give more than these stark, dream-like symbols, and so refuse any true resolution.

Brian Dawn's past collaborations with artists and academics such as Jack Halberstam, Charles Atlas, Brian Catlin, Dawn Mellor and Tony Grisoni, to name a few, continue to shape the way trans artists working are framed today.

*The Pictorial Space of Poetic Horror*, includes key works from 2005 up to the present day. The exhibition highlights a variety of concerns including gender, sexual identity, cultural history and memory that continue to preoccupy the artist's practice today.

**Brian Dawn Chalkley** (b. 1948 in UK) lives and works in London. Recent exhibitions, *Missing*, 2021, [solo] Chelsea Arts Club, London; *The Untold Depth of Savagery*, 2020, [solo] Lungley Gallery, London; *Tales from the Colony Rooms: Art and Bohemia*, 2020, Dellaspossa, London; *Missing*, 2018, [solo] Lungley Gallery, London; In 2017, Brian Dawn Chalkley was invited to take part in a Residency in Taipei, which culminated in an exhibition of new work that went on show at MOCA Taipei.