

THOMAS DUNCAN GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

Towers of Dub (Live Orbient 3.9.93)

February 27 – March 21, 2015

Olga Balema | Tom Humphreys | Win McCarthy | Emanuel Röhss | José Rojas | J Parker Valentine

A: Security.

B: Hello, is that reception, London Weekend Television?

A: No, this is security, reception has gone off duty, sir.

B: Oh I see, uh I am supposed to meet somebody in reception, and I wanted to know if they were there waiting...

A: What is the name of the person you are supposed to meet?

B: Haile Selassie.

A: Haile...

B: Selassie.

A: Is there a Haile Selassie here? ...No.

B: Could you possibly... if he does... he will come in very shortly; would you tell him that Marcus Garvey phoned? And that I will meet him in Babylon an' Ting?

A: Yes, when Marcus comes in...right? And you are supposed to be waiting for him to come in...(muffled sounds and voices)

B: Is that Haile Selassie?

A: No, it wasn't him, it was a cab.

B: He's a black gentleman.

A: But he when he comes in... you're gonna meet him at... where was it? I'll make a note of this...

B: Babylon an' Ting.

A: Ba-by-lon and Ting.

B: That's it.

A: Right you are!

B: Thank you. God Bless You.

“Towers of Dub (Live Orbient 3.9.93)” is an exploration of the material embodiment of passage, illustrating the shift from one mode of existence to another. The passing of time and the inevitable evolution of form—whether a self-reflexive viewpoint or a genuine physical transformation—are at the core of the exhibition’s concerns. Furthering these conceits of line and movement, the exhibition seeks to explore not only passage and progression, but notions of grafting, accumulation, transference and displacement: a gradual flow of one thing into another which results with the latter bearing traces of the former.

The above transcript is a recording of satirist Victor Lewis-Smith phoning London Weekend Television posing as Marcus Garvey attempting to arrange a meeting with Haile Selassie. The recording opens the 1992 track “Towers of Dub” by the British electronic outfit The Orb. Dub is a musical movement often associated with Rastafarianism, of which Haile Selassie is a totemic figure. What is of concern to the exhibition is that a concept that originated in Jamaica that has since migrated to the UK and throughout the world has ultimately been consumed and distorted as a result of the passage of time and bodily movement. Hence the sprawling and constantly evolving live version of the Orb track—which consists of multiple layers of dub, reggae, ambient and techno—is representative of the exhibition’s objectives.

THOMAS DUNCAN GALLERY

6109 MELROSE AVENUE

LOS ANGELES, CA 90038

T: 310.494.1177

W: WWW.THOMASDUNCANGALLERY.COM

E: INFO@THOMASDUNCANGALLERY.COM