

WHERE
THERE'S
SMOKE
THERE'S
FIRE

57

SPRING PREVIEW 2009

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BY
THE
GRACE
OF
GOUDE

IN CELEBRATION OF
HER HOT NEW ALBUM,
GRACE JONES REUNITES
WITH PHOTOGRAPHER
JEAN-PAUL GOUDE
AFTER 25 YEARS!

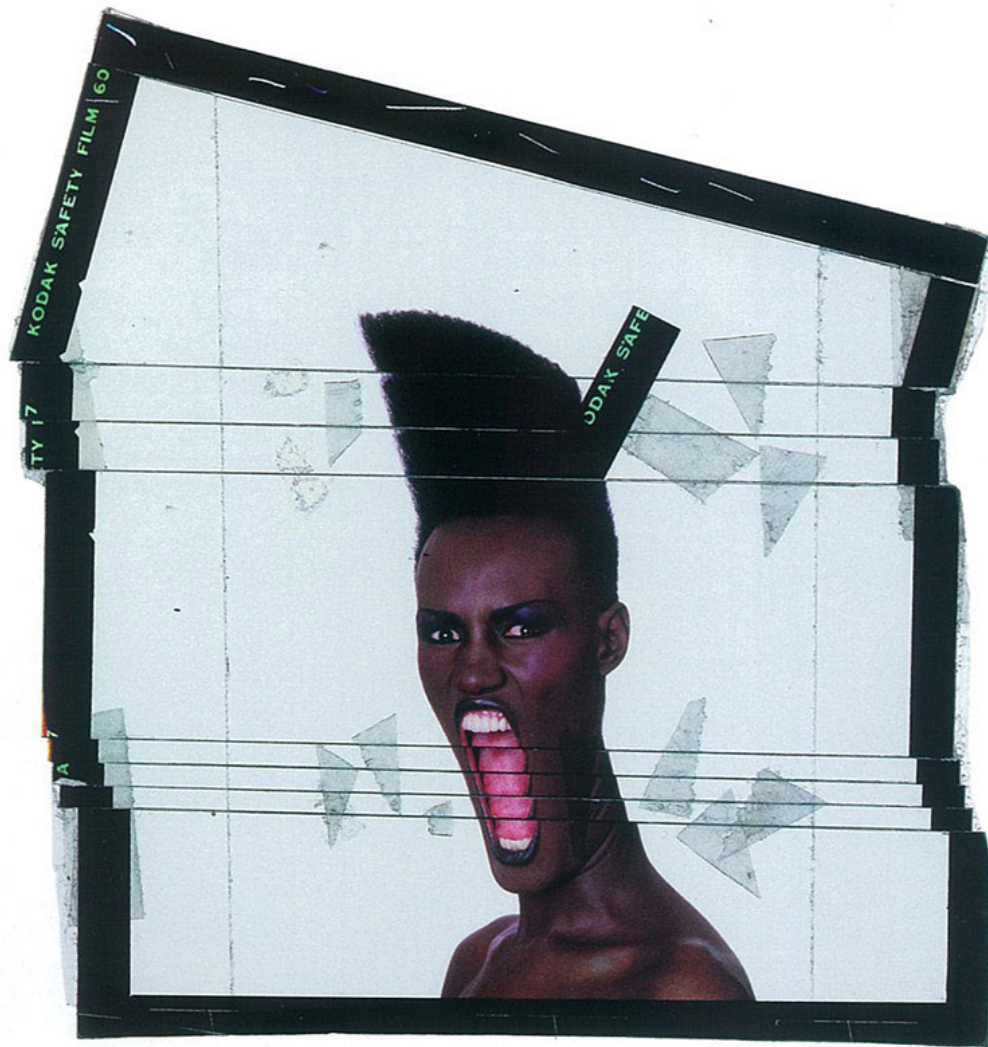
SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL
BOWLER BY PHILIP
TREACY COUTURE

GRACE JONES

BY JEAN-PAUL GOUDE

IN TIME FOR THE RELEASE OF HER FIRST ALBUM IN 20 YEARS, GRACE JONES REUNITES WITH LEGENDARY ART DIRECTOR JEAN-PAUL GOUDE FOR A NEW ICONIC IMAGE AND AN EMOTIONALLY WROUGHT CONVERSATION

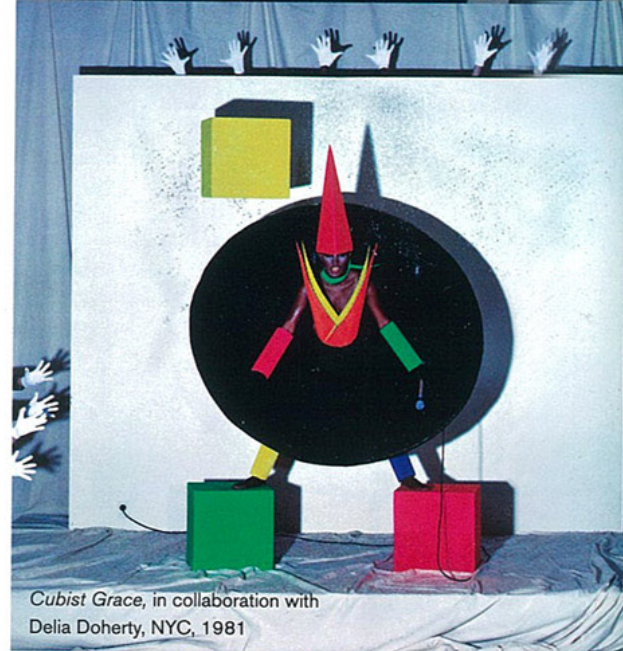




Slave to the Rhythm, NYC, 1986



Blue-black in Black on Brown, NYC, 1981

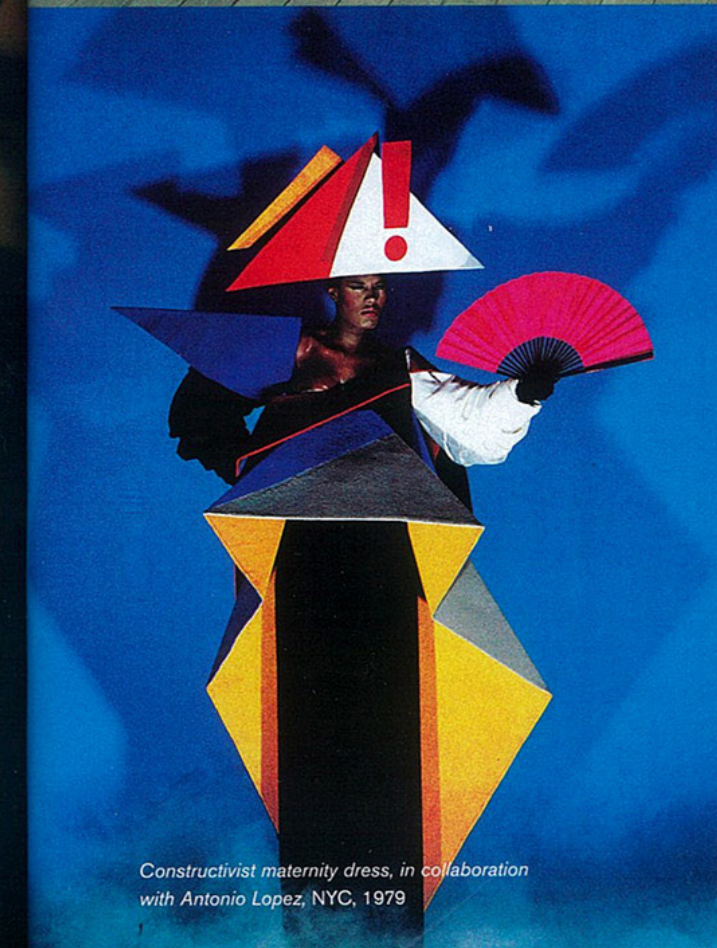


Cubist Grace, in collaboration with Delia Doherty, NYC, 1981

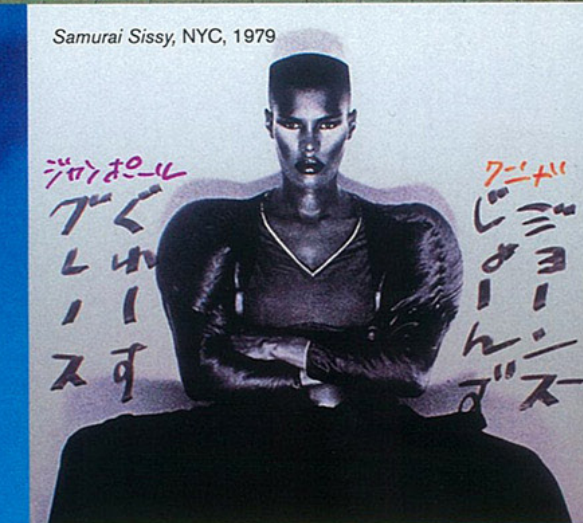
Nigger Arabesque, NYC, 1978



A One Man Show: Grace Multiplied, London, 1982



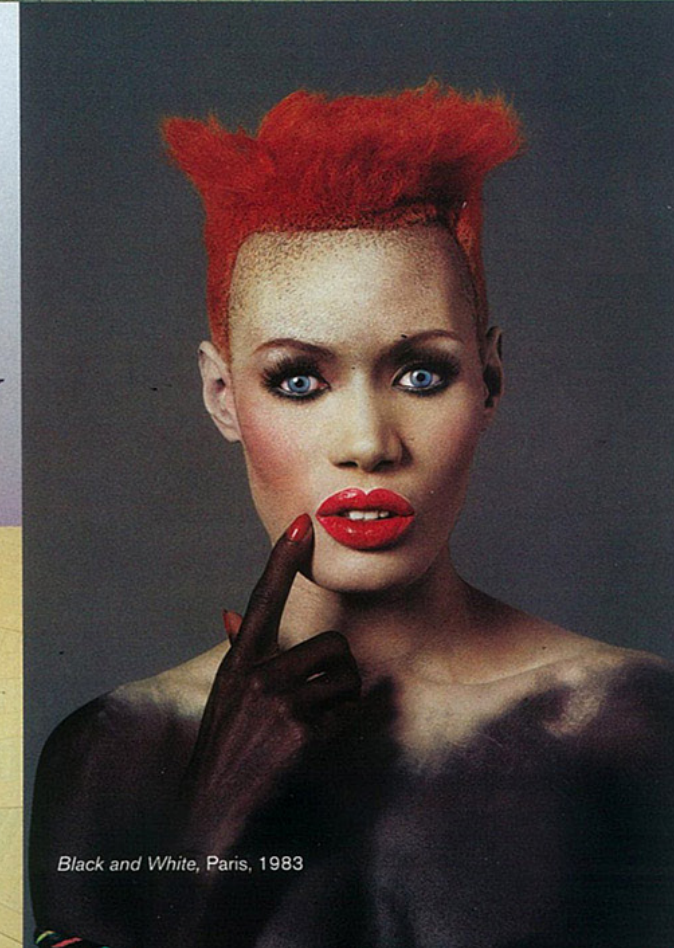
Constructivist maternity dress, in collaboration with Antonio Lopez, NYC, 1979



Samurai Sissy, NYC, 1979



Grace, NYC, 1982



Black and White, Paris, 1983

**JEAN-PAUL GOUDE: DO YOU KNOW THAT
I HAVE BEEN ANGRY AT YOU MANY, MANY TIMES?!**
GRACE JONES: I KNOW, AND I DID IT ON PURPOSE!

JEAN-PAUL GOUDE Would you agree that you have always had a problem with authority?
GRACE JONES Yes, definitely. I was born into a very religious family where everything was about setting the right example for the community and having to obey orders blindly. I felt that everyone was growing up in the world, except me. This is probably one of the reasons why I had such a rebellious attitude towards any form of authority. I also systematically associated authority with masculinity. With one exception: my great grandmother, who I actually saw chase and beat up my great uncle, the bishop of Jamaica. She was 98 at the time and 6 feet tall. Sure the bishop was her son, but still...
JPG What did she beat him with?
GJ A paddle I think, or a broomstick, anything she could grab.
JPG Didn't he laugh?
GJ No, this was very serious! Very dramatic!
JPG How about Master Patrick, your grandfather?
GJ Master P., oh God, he was born the

same day as you, you know!

JPG The 8th of December? Well, I'm not a woman beater.

GJ Of course you're not! You don't have to.

JPG Do you consider that someone raising his voice at you is an act of aggression that deserves retaliation?

GJ Yelling between people in love is normal. I still always say that you're the only man who made me buckle at my knees.

JPG Me? Doing what?

GJ Just coming up to see you. I remember how I used to climb these stairs, my heart pounding.

JPG Oh, come on. You mean my studio at Union Square?

GJ Yeah, I'd go up the elevator and as I reached the stairs that led to your studio, my legs would go weaker and weaker—a strange sensation.

JPG But it didn't have anything to do with fear, did it?

GJ I don't know. No, it wasn't fear. It just had to do with the intensity of the feeling—a very intense feeling.

JPG How would you describe it?

GJ Well, first my breath would get a little...hyperventilated. I would stop halfway up the stairs and think, Let me get my composure back. The door is about to open and I don't want to be seen in such a state. And as I'd make my entrance, I'd try to mask my feelings.

JPG Do you always hide your emotions?

GJ I always had to mask my emotions. I could never show that I missed my mom or my dad, especially when they moved to America. My grandparents were tough. I was not allowed to receive letters that had not been read before. Everything was controlled, everything!

JPG Would you say that your rebellion towards your family's authority extended to your relationship with the men in your life?

GJ I think so, yes. And I think that is what contributed to my masculinization. I deliberately challenged men's roles. In fact, I survived by taking on both roles. By the way, I also think that men need to be penetrated.

JPG I beg your pardon?

GJ At least once in their lifetime.

JPG Why?

GJ Because then they would understand what it is like to receive. It's my own theory, which I think could help take some of the aggression out of the world.

JPG But isn't the nature of man to give, or should I say to provide?

GJ Of course not. It's the nature of man to give and receive—to be man and woman, all in one.

JPG But you're not about to become a man, are you?

GJ No, but some men think I'm a man...

JPG What men?

GJ [Laughs] Look, I'm not your average woman. I know that! I try to live with myself and figure myself out. I have terrible relation-

ships because of my temper and some men actually want to kill me because they think I have more balls than they do. To most men, it's intolerable. For years, I've had to consciously try to balance, even repress, that side of me in order to make a relationship work. It's quite scary to realize that if one's behavior doesn't actually change, one will probably end up alone.

JPG Does it worry you?

GJ Not really. I simply must decide to accept it.

JPG Do you know that I have been angry at you many, many times?!

GJ I know, and I did it on purpose! I can't explain it... It's almost as though I was trying to take the risk to make people angry. Like in Las Vegas, when you know that even though this is the last of your money, you put everything on the line.

JPG But why do that?

GJ To get a reaction. A clear reaction.

JPG But a clear reaction to aggression has to be anger.

GJ Not necessarily, if in the height of an argument you can control yourself and go to sleep on your rage, what's wrong with calling back in the morning and begging for forgiveness? What's wrong with, Oh my God, I'm so sorry? It's in my nature. I don't like to hold things in.

JPG So you create havoc at the risk of destroying your own accomplishment?

GJ I know, but I prefer to be truthful.

JPG How do you see the future?

GJ I just want to be okay, you know, happy. I don't know what the future holds but if I should end up living to be 100, I'd rather be by myself than live in a rotten situation. Besides, living alone can be fun. One can enjoy simple things, like looking at the sunrise or the sunset, taking pictures, writing, even gardening... If I was stuck in a bed, I'd want a view. I'd want to see lights change, rain, snow, the seasons.

JPG Do you see yourself growing old alone?

GJ Alone, maybe, but not lonely. This is why I'm so attracted to spirituality. Not the religious side of it—religion is at the root of too many evils. As years go by, I tend to be more and more attracted to nature—to its beauty and to its violence. I mean, it helps me understand things. I watched my father die. I actually helped him die. I wrote a song: "You Died a Beautiful Death, Dad."

JPG What did your father die from?

GJ He was given some very strong medicine that his system couldn't take. My dad didn't live like me, you know. Sometimes you need to take some poison to survive, like a vaccine. My dad's system was too pure. He was a minister who didn't drink or smoke. Yet, this medicine poisoned his liver, and in a week he was gone. I'm positive that the medicine he took killed him. He was 84. I couldn't believe he was dead. I thought to myself, No, you can't close his eyes, he's still looking at you. His eyes were dark but circled with blue, very bizarre. They looked like contact lenses. My dad and his family have these eyes because their ancestors came from the Maroon tribe of Jamaica. I didn't inherit them. Neither did [our son] Paulo.

JPG Was your dad upset at your career in show business and at your irrational behavior?

GJ At first, yes, he definitely was. My dad was a very private person. He didn't speak much, which is unusual for a minister.

JPG I heard he once told you that you were the incarnation of the devil.

GJ No, that was my grand uncle, the bishop of Jamaica—the one who wrote a letter to my mum calling me the devil.

JPG What did you think of that?

GJ Well, I didn't go to his funeral. That's what I think of that!

JPG Do you think that you are the incarnation of the devil?

GJ Of course not!

JPG Are you an angel?

GJ Of course not! I've got my own relationship with God. God knows me; he knows my heart. We are friends. I really strive to be a better person.

JPG Hallelujah!

GJ Amen.

JPG Praise the lord.

GJ [Speaking in tongues] A-shallahlahlah!

Grace Jones's *Hurricane* is out in spring 2009

Swarovski Crystal Bowler
Philip Treacy Couture
Jacket Yohji Yamamoto
Gloves vintage

On eyes and lips,
M.A.C Pigment in platinum
and M.A.C Pro Lipstick in sin

Makeup Terry Barber
for M.A.C Pro
Hair Laurent Philippon using
Bumble and bumble (Calliste)

Photo assistants Philippe Baumann
and Franck Joyeux
Stylist assistants Vanessa Lina
and Jina Song
Location Studios de l'Olivier, Paris
Production Belleville Hills
Retouching Janvier