

For over two decades, the members of My Barbarian—Malik Gaines (b. 1973), Jade Gordon (b. 1975), and Alexandro Segade (b. 1973)—have used performance to theatricalize the contours and entanglements of class, gender, race, and sexuality. Distinguished by their humorous and accessible style, the collective adapts a range of sources, including modern plays, historical texts, mythology, ritual, and media narratives, into structures for performances and related works across different mediums. The resulting projects build on and reimagine the wide-ranging creative lineages that inform My Barbarian’s work, such as queer and feminist theory, conceptualism, performance, institutional critique, social movements, pop culture, and political, musical, and community-based theater.

This twenty-year survey is presented in two parts: an exhibition and a series of live performances. The exhibition—created in close collaboration with the artists and drawing from the group’s extensive archive—stages their work through performances for the camera, video documentation, music, sculptures, paintings, drawings, masks, textiles, costumes, and puppets. The performances reconceive iconic shows from My Barbarian’s history in response to contemporary contexts and exemplify the array of theatrical styles and formal strategies the collective has explored.

Performance Schedule

Transparency 2021

November 5, 2021

Songbook

December 18, 2021

Double Future

February 24–26, 2022



Scan the QR code or visit whitney.org/MyBarbarian to access the labels for the works inside the gallery.

A transcript and sound description can be accessed at whitney.org/Guide.

My Barbarian is sponsored by

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