

**Despite
moments of
clarity, there
is no 'ism' in
this book.**

100 New Artists. Francesca Gavin

**Capturing the
breadth of a
new generation
of international
artists can
be a bit like
sticking pins in
a horse's arse.**

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What attracts you to using electronic media in your sculptures and performances?

In the society I live in, there is an interesting interaction between traditional and modern knowledge. We have a short history of modern technology, but we seem to be very dependent on it. In my society, there is mystery and magic in electronics and modern technology. I'm interested in the tension between modern and traditional. I only learn how to use electronics on the surface. I just understand a few basic ideas and let the rest stay in the dark as a mystery, or even as a divine power.

What kind of comparison are you making between the machine and Javanese society?

I like to describe Javanese culture as a machine: how it works; what the fuel is; who the engineers are; how it is broken, and so on.

Is there a political element to your work?

Particularly in pieces that highlight Indonesian colonial history, such as *Java's Machine: Phantasmagoria*?

It's more anthropological. It's more celebratory than critical. That piece doesn't highlight the colonialism, but more the cultural interaction between Java and other cultures; how the negotiation goes, and what is the result.

How and why have you used sound as an element in your sculptures?

I used to be a musician. The sensibility of sound is still with me. In my installations, I use sound to create a dramatic ambience as well as send a verbal message. In my experience, sounds have a strong power of penetration.

What is your approach to performance?

I made performance pieces at the very beginning of my career. Most of them were music and sound performances. At that time I did it as a playful project, with no deep conceptual background. I was just experimenting with different ways of performing music and sounds. I make very few performances now, to strengthen and widen the message of an existing installation.

What do you find interesting about examining history and progress in your work?

The long history of Java shows how they have managed multicultural interactions and how a new culture has been produced. That kind of interaction is still happening across the world. The Javanese history of modernization is interesting to share because of the genuine way Javanese traditional culture has merged with modern culture. The process is still going on even now.



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1. *New myth for new family*, 2009.
Installation. Dimensions variable.

2. *Java, the war of ghosts*, 2009.
Installation. Dimensions variable.

3. *Java-Amplifi*
Installation. D



Jaw-Amplified, 2008.
Installation. Dimensions variable.