INVITATION OPENING PARTY SWEET HARMONY

Het HEM opens Sweet Harmony – Out of the Underground
an exhibition about rave culture in the Netherlands and beyond

Opening: 2 September 19.30h

Sweet Harmony – Out of the Underground brings together more than 40 artists and collectives in the underground shooting range of Het HEM. With newly commissioned and iconic artworks, this exhibition captures the intensity of rave and its social and political resonance. When we climb through a chain-link fence into an abandoned warehouse or gather far outside the city to dance through the dawn, we step into a radical alternative to contemporary society. This can be an entirely hedonistic act, amped up by drugs, knaldrang and epic sound systems. But it's also a political one: rave as temporary autonomous zone, an intentional space for unmediated human interaction in opposition to expected social behavior.
Sweet Harmony – Out of the Underground shows works by artists who come from rave culture or are inspired by it in their practice. Their artistic expressions touch upon the spiritual and mythical aspects of rave and rave as a space for (queer) play and resistance. While highlighting the artistic heritage of the Amsterdam nightclub RoXY and the Gabber halls of Rotterdam, the exhibition exposes the simultaneous emergence of rave culture in various cities worldwide. Not in the least within our hometown Zaandam, where nightclub De Waakzaamheid and party-venue Hemkade 48 played a significant role in the development of Dutch acid-house and gabber throughout the '90s.