

This cover for the 1985 album 'Island Life' by Grace Jones features a photograph of the artist by Jean-Paul Goude and design by Greg Porto. Grace Jones is almost naked, her sculpted, lean body balanced in a pose that has echoes of African and classical Greek sculpture while evoking a futuristic human in a domestic space.

In this photograph, Grace Jones' elongated limbs are twisted into a seemingly impossible pose. She stands facing to the left side, balancing on her left foot, her right leg lifted in arabesque behind her. Her knee is bent at 90 degrees, foot flexed. Her head is also turned towards the left, showing her profile, while her torso is twisted to open towards us. Her arms are outstretched, with her left hand just touching her right heel, and her right arm shooting out in front of her, holding a mic that points back towards her mouth, but at a metre's distance. She holds the pose without any apparent strain.

Her hair is closely shaved and her limbs are smooth and toned, forming a series of graceful, curving lines that join the rounded S-shapes formed by her head and shoulders, and then her arched lower back and buttock. Her dark reddish brown skin gleams as if polished, recalling African sculptures made of ebony wood. She wears minimal garments that suggest futuristic sportswear – a red bandeau round her chest, matched by a length of red fabric tubing around her left knee, metallic gold tubing covering her left elbow, and bands of white cloth with turquoise polka dots around her left ankle and right wrist.

She stands on a small rectangle of dark turquoise mat, only just larger than her foot, on narrow wooden floorboards, close to a mottled, pale blue wall. The deep skirting board is painted the same colour as the wall and has several lines of quietly elegant moulding. She casts a slight shadow on the wall, softer echoes of the strong lines of

her arms and legs. A cable hangs from the mic in her right hand down to the floor and along to a continental-style socket in the skirting board. The cable forms an irregular wiggly line, a contrast to the surreal perfection and stillness of the human figure.

The words GRACE JONES ISLAND LIFE are superimposed on the photograph, spelled out across the very top of the cover, in widely spaced, black capital letters in a delicate, sans serif font. A fine white line beneath the text makes it feel as if the title is an architectural feature of the room, a cornice balancing the skirting board, the calm of the island blue and white framing the dynamic poise of the artist.