



# Merle Addison

Artwork and Performance Documentation: grunt archives abstract

# Merle Addison

*Merle Addison is a graduate of the Experimental Arts Department of the Ontario College of Art. He received his official artistic license there but has been scribbling and making things as long as he can remember. Back then he thought the best job to have would be a TV news announcer. They worked 15 minutes a day and got to keep the pencils and paper. He started working with grunt in 1988 and has been doing so ever since.*

*He is best known for his photographic documentation of performance art but his personal work utilizes any medium that you can use to make a scribble, from photo processes to soapstone on fine sandpaper to his favourite, a pencil on paper.*

*His performance art photos were taken in the kind of small spaces where the intimacy of the space allowed a close up of the artist's piece. His drawings and abstract photo pieces are more of his own journey, that personal experience that defines us.*

## Exhibitions

### [análekta](#)

April 7-May 8 2016

Curated by Glenn Alteen

### [Still](#)

October 5-23 1999

Curated by Archer Pechawis

### [Flowers](#) (with Brice Canyon)

April 11-29 1995

Curated by Glenn Alteen

### [Fast Forward](#) (with Barbara Seamon, Bill Rennie, Dawn Richards, Kempton Dexter, Graham, Joseph Haag, Larissa Lai, and Pat Beaton)

October 4-22 1994

### [Snapshots and Manipulations](#)

March 20-31 1990

### [Open Heart](#) (5th Annual Members Show)

January 4-14 1989

## Performance

### [Quiddity](#)

February 22 2003

## Selected Performance Documentation

*Merle Addison first came to grunt in 1985, soon after we started. He worked as a member of the volunteer collective that ran grunt at the time. He worked in administration and communication in the late 1980s. His greatest contribution was his documentation of our performance program from 1990 to 2010. From 1990 - 2005, using black and white photography, Addison would create amazing documentation in difficult settings in low light creating an amazing archive of Vancouver Performance over the period. During the LIVE Performance Biennials from 1999 - 2005 Addison documented over 150 performances.*

- Glenn Alteen, grunt gallery Program Director 1984-2020



Andrew Wilson, *Gives Death Life*, September 16, 1990. From the [Vancouver Performance Art Series](#), September 6-16 1990.



Margaret Dragu, *My Secret Kitchen*, September 12, 1991. From [Vancouver Performance Poets](#), September 6-16 1991.



Sandra Lockwood in *Masque of the Red Death*, October 30-November 30 1991.



Dana Claxton, *Tree of Consumption*, September 18, 1992. From the [First Nations Performance Series](#), September 10-30 1992. Also featured in [Still](#).



Denise Lonewalker, *Dancing for our Ancestors*, September 10, 1993. From [Queer City/Two Spirit Series](#), September 8-24 1993.



Aiyyana Maracle, *Strange Fruit*, September 24, 1994. From [PLAY](#), September 24 - October 1, 1994.



Haruko Okano and Oliv, *Facets of Human Sexuality* (with Aiyyana Maracle and Steven Anthony), June 2, 1995. From the Transgendered Cabaret, [Halfbred](#) May 16 - June 3 1995.



Taste This (Zoe Eakel, Anna Camilleri, Ivan E. Coyote, Lynx Dean), *Too Close to Fire*, November 5, 1999. From [LIVE at the End of the Century](#) October 1 - November 6 1999.



*Mondo Artie*, written by Glenn Lewis, October 13, 2001. From the [LIVE Biennial of Performance Art 2001](#), October 13 - November 30, 2001.



*Reservoir* by Rebecca Belmore, October 20, 2001. From the [LIVE Biennial of Performance Art 2001](#), October 13 - November 30, 2001.



James Luna, opening keynote address from [Indian Acts: Aboriginal Performance Art Conference](#), November 29 - December 1, 2002.





Jamie McMurray, *Barbed Wire*, October 25, 2003. From the [LIVE Biennial of Performance Art 2003](#), October 18 - November 29 2003.

All images taken by Merle Addison.

Title page contact sheet from *ReACTion* by Paul Wong, November 4, 1999.

All linked collections are works in progress. If you would like to see more of any material digitized or have research questions please email Dan Pon, grunt Archives Manager, [dan@grunt.ca](mailto:dan@grunt.ca)

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