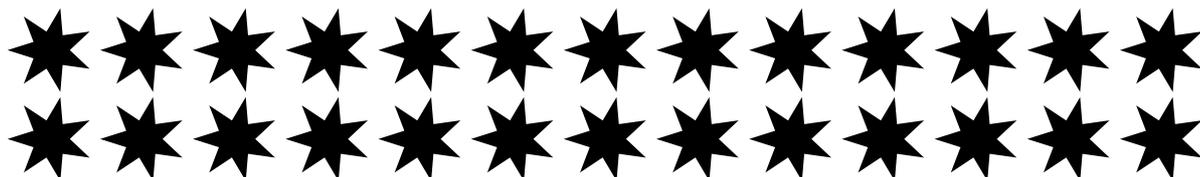


Mercer Union

37 Lisgar Street Toronto
ON M6J 3T3 Canada
T 416 536 1519
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www.mercerunion.org

To: <mail@sparwasserhq.de>
> From: Natalie De Vito <natalie@mercunion.org>
> Subject: 40 videos
> Date: Fri, 12 Sep 2003 12:39:16 -0700
> -----
> Dear Sparwasser HQ,
>
> thanks so much for the invitation to participate in old habits die hard.
> we'd like to participate and will forward info as soon as possible.
> see you in berlin, we'll be at art forum.
> best,
> natalie
>
> _____
> Natalie De Vito
> Administrative + Platform Director
> Mercer Union, A Centre for Contemporary Art
> 37 Lisgar Street Toronto ON M6J 3T3 Canada
> T 416 536 1519 F 416 536 2955 www.mercerunion.org
>>
> Mercer Union >> contemporary art centred
>
>



Mercer Union

Mandate / Vision

Mercer Union is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to the existence of contemporary art. Conceptually and aesthetically engaging art acts as a catalyst for a new conversation, and we insist on providing the place for its production and exhibition. We pursue our primary concerns through critical activities such as exhibitions, lectures, screenings, performances, publications, events and special projects. In addition, our Platform programme enables us to respond to a wide range of non-exhibition-based artistic activities.

Brief History

Established and incorporated in 1979, Mercer Union began as an artist-run centre through the collective efforts of artists who believed in alternative art production and presentation. Throughout our twenty-four year history, we have maintained ambitious programming, exhibiting national and international artists and presenting cultural professionals both in formative and established stages of their careers.

Artistic Policy and Role

We support the professional development of artists and provide a place to stimulate discussions between national and international artists. One of our main objectives is to support the creation and development of new and site-specific work, and often premiering international artists' work alongside that of local artists.

We maintain an open call for submissions for artists working in all media. The Board and Co-Directors also assume an active role in programming, soliciting projects and curating group exhibitions in order to maintain an overall cohesion and perspective from year to year.

Constituency

Located in downtown Toronto, we recognize that our primary audience is made of local art producers. Our objective is to inform our local and international audiences and stimulate artistic practice by producing and presenting challenging work and by creating ways for our local audience to participate on an international level, while promoting Canadian art and artists internationally.

“WORK”

Kika Thorne, 1999

WORK

by Kika Thorne.

Music by Peaches.

Starring Shary Boyle.

1999

10 mins.

Digital video, colour, stereo.

10 scenes, a minute each, this splitscreen video is a day in the life. It's about the work we do to make the work we love. Natural lighting, real people, 2 cameras, long static takes. Each double-shot is set according to architectural constraints. Non actors invent their lines. There is no character definition. just a personal resonance to the predefined subject matter, location, moment. The real script is body language. Casting according to intimacy. After Shary Boyle agreed to play the focal role, (non) actors were chosen from her circle of familiars. Friends and co-workers are played by close friends, their language and ease developed. The strangers; boss and lover, are played by real strangers, - as such all degrees of intimacy are visible. As most takes were about 30 minutes long, I looked for the best minute from each scene. There are 10 cuts in the video (excepting the credits). Peaches composed beats in her bedroom while watching our video selections. Shary, Peaches and I became friends. The day the tape was finished we went camping.