

**WHO WAS WHO
WAS WHO
IN
CONTEMPORARY
CANADIAN ART**

**Designing a Hybrid
Artists' Biographical Dictionary
of Pseudonyms,
Personas,
and Alter Egos**

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Objectives

- To introduce the subject and context that inspired my research;
- To outline the dictionary's design structure and scope;
- To raise some issues and challenges related to this endeavour;
- To discuss the dictionary as a research creation project
– as an artist's book.

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1

Vincent Trasov / Mr. Peanut

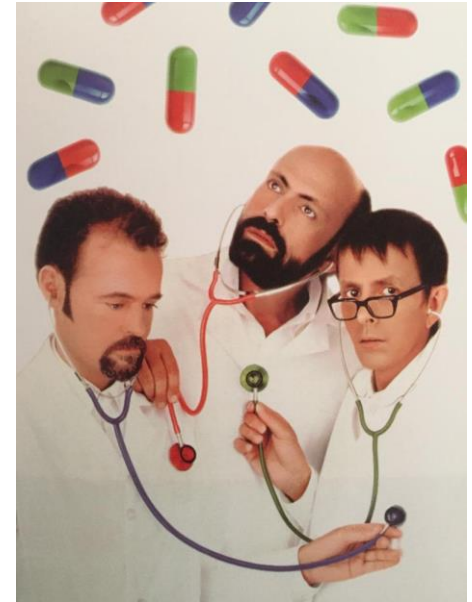
Gary Lee-Nova / Art Rat

Robert Fones / Candy Man (KAN-D-MAN)



2

Anna Banana
(b. Anna Lee long)



3

General Idea

Michael Tims / AA Bronson

Slobodan Saia-Levy / Jorge Zontal

Ron Gabe / Felix Partz



4

Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)



4

Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)

Marcel Duchamp / Rose Sélavy



5

memorandum

to *Dana Atchley*
from *Marcel Dot*

Jan. 1, 1971.

when you are away send post cards to

**NOTHING
BY MOUTH**

*Image Bank, 4454 west 2nd.
Vancouver 8 B.C.*

Michael Morris / Marcel Dot



7

Eric Metcalfe / Dr. Brute

/ Ruby the Fop

8



Much has already been written about the haut camp style of West Coast performance as it existed in the 70's with the personas of Mr. Peanut (Vincent Trasov who ran for mayor of Vancouver in 1974), Dr. and Lady Brute (Eric Metcalfe and Kate Craig), Glenn Lewis as Hitler and a whole host of characters who brought to life their fetishes and on occasion transgressive characters.

These and other tendencies which were disruptive of some minimal and thereafter conceptual foundations of performance were internally criticized first for not being true performance, and secondly and irrationally for being too much within the gravitational field of mass culture.

-- Clive Robertson



10

Camille Turner / Miss Canadiana



11

Kent Monkman / Miss Chief Eagle Testickle

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TURNER, CAMILLE

Camille Turner (Kingston, Jamaica 1960 -) moved to Canada in 1969 and lived in Sarnia, ON before settling in Hamilton, ON. She completed a diploma in Art Fundamentals from Sheridan College, and graduated from OCAD University with an AOCA diploma. She also holds a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University, and is pursuing a doctorate in this program.

Turner created **Miss Canadiana*** in 2002, and has made use of this persona in both her performance and photographic practices including the *Hometown Queen* series of photographs. On the subject of this body of work, Turner writes that “I created the Hometown Queen series to re-write my personal history and to pay homage to my complicated relationship with Hamilton, my hometown” (Turner).

In addition to her work as Miss Canadiana, Turner draws attention to Black History

through community-based walks and audio guided tours in numerous cities. In 1996, the artist founded Year Zero One with Michael Alstad, and founded Outerregion in 2010.

Other name(s)

Miss Canadiana*

Discipline(s)

New media
Performance
Photography
Walking practice

Sources consulted

Artex te artist file 410 – TURNER, CAMILLE

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Jacques, Michelle. “Camille Turner: There’s Nothing New Under the Sun, But There Are New Suns.” *More Caught in the Act: An Anthology of Performance Art by Canadian Women*, edited by Johanna Householder and Tanya Mars. Artex te and YYZ Books, 2016, pp. 366-374.

Turner, Camille. “Miss Canadiana.” Camille Turner, <http://camilleturner.com/project/miss-canadiana>. Accessed 6 Oct. 2018.



MISS CANADIANA

Camille Turner* created the persona of Miss Canadiana on July 1 (Canada Day) 2002. Miss Canadiana appears in public and in photographs as the winner of a beauty contest. Her head is adorned with a crown, she wears an elegant red dress, and she sports the colours of the Nation's flag with her red and white Miss Canadiana sash.

Alison Cooley notes that this persona “[...] performs at public events in order to question white beauty standards, and to reassert the presence of Blackness within the story of what it means to be Canadian” (Cooley 2016).

Michelle Jacques describes the origins of Turner's persona: “Miss Canadiana was inspired by Turner's experience in a shopping mall in North Bay, Ontario in 2002, where she had stopped to pick up supplies for a camping trip. Her presence in the

mall elicited stares from the other shoppers, although she was simply doing what thousands of Southern Ontario travellers had done before her” (Jacques 367).

Sources consulted

Artexite artist file 410 – TURNER, CAMILLE

Cooley, Alison. “Camille Turner.” *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 14 January 2016, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/camille-turner>. Accessed 6 Oct. 2018.

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DRAFT ENTRY FOR AN
ALTERNATE IDENTITY

articles

Artexte's blog: a place for exchange, experimentation and sharing of ideas related to research in contemporary art.

Discovery

In Conversation

Field Notes

Behind the Scenes



November 17, 2018

A conversation with John Latour

John Latour's research focuses on artists using pseudonyms or alter egos in their work. Who was who was who in Canadian contemporary art?

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Scope

Subject, theme and time period

- Canadian visual artists, and their use of alternate identities in their work
- 1960 - 2015
- Selective in nature

Audience and format

- General art and academic reader in mind
- Unlimited edition print publication & digital document
- Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives (CC-BY-NC-ND)
- e-artexte.ca

Data collection

- Bibliographic research
- Questionnaire?

Issues and challenges

- Terminology
- Questions of signification and representation
- Scope creep

Terminology

- Pseudonym:** refers to a fictional name used by an artist that is created textually or through attribution. Some artists have created fictional artists for themselves, and have credited specific bodies of work to them. In these cases, the fictional artist are essentially pseudonyms.
- Persona:** term used to describe a fictitious identity that an artist creates through the act of performance.
- Alter ego:** term used to describe a fictional identity that is constructed textually as a pseudonym, and performatively as a persona.
- Alternate identity:** catchall term used to refer to pseudonyms, personas and alter egos.

Signification and representation

Some questions:

- How does and artist create a fictional identity – and why?
- What are the potential biases inherent in using a biographical approach to represent artists and their practices?
- What are my own limits in the documentary process?

Scope creep

Time period

- ~~1965~~ 1960 – 2015
- Win Hedore / Ted Godwin, Kenneth Lochhead, Ronald Bloore

Subject matter

- Visual artists including performance artists
- Not performing artists (actors, musicians, DJs), nor graffiti artists

Research creation

Who Was Who Was Who in Contemporary Canadian Art is a hybrid publication – a thematic, artists' biographical dictionary and a work of research creation (in the form of an artist's book)

Research creation: cross between academic research & studio practice

Artist's book: a work of art conceived of as such by an artist; made by them or produced under their supervision; and that makes reference to the idea of a book in some way, shape, or form

Images

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Conclusion

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