

MA Visual Performance

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Michelle Horacek was born in Nova Scotia, Canada. Her family is from Prague, Czech Republic. After completing a degree in **English Literature and Theatre Studies** at the *University of King's College*, Halifax, she trained as a **classical actress** at *The National Theatre School of Canada* in Montréal, and *DAMU National Theatre School* in Prague. Between 1994-2004 Michelle worked extensively in **devised theatre** in Halifax, Toronto, Prague and New York. She engaged in various collaborations with dancers, theatre artists, video artists and sound artists to create multi dimensional works combining classical texts/stories from the theatre canon with poetry, sound, dance, video, and clown. The methodology behind these works was influenced by traditional Japanese dance and experimental theatre techniques derived from Odin Teatret, Jerzy Grotowski, and Lecoq. Highlights from Michelle's theatre career include work with Meredith Monk in New York, and Noh Theatre training in Japan. From 1992-1999 Michelle was engaged in making and performing a repertoire of devised theatre works with *Milkman Theatre Group*. In 2000 Michelle began to work with **digital video**. Her video work is archived with *V-Tape* in Toronto.

In 2006 Michelle completed her MA in **Visual Performance and Time-based Art Practices** at *Dartington College of Arts* in Devon, England. In her current practice she investigates **durational performance** and **site-specific performance** as formulas for focusing attention on the body in its relation to time and place.

Michelle is interested in ritual, and the cycles / tides of nature, and so the empowerment of the female body that comes through an investigation of these. She is particularly interested in how long duration and practice may reveal an archetypal mythology in the deep body. Her research is informed by **Jungian principles**, and by aspects of **Shamanism**. Michelle works with the **relationship of body to land**, both rural and urban, and she has a particular interest in sacred sites.

Recent highlights in her performance practice include making work at *The National Review of Live Art* in Glasgow, and a residency term with Franko B in Macerata, Italy.

Michelle is based in London.