

## 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 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 ways for focusing attention on the body in its relation to time and place. Michelle is interested in **ritual**, the cycles / tides of nature, and the **relationship of body to land / site / environment**. She is particularly interested in how duration and practice together may uncover mythologies of the deep body. Her research is informed by **Jungian principles**, and by aspects of shamanism.

Since 2006 Michelle has been performing in both established and alternative art venues in the UK and Europe. Her performance work also occurs in nature and in sites that are not designated art spaces. Michelle is interested in how performance can be an act of communion, and can bring about a process of **transformation**.

Michelle is currently based in London, UK.