

ABOUT



Multi-talented Michael Tweed has a diverse portfolio and résumé. He employs various mediums yet with a constant focus on and investigation of pre-conceptual perception and its attendant ramifications on cultural, social and ethical interactions.

Strongly rooted in philosophical insight, Michael's work and thought is informed by both Western philosophy, especially that of phenomenology, and an active engagement with Eastern thought and aesthetics.

Recent examples of his work as a visual artist include the solo exhibition *Enjoining Silence* and the installation *Beyond the Map* which he created in collaboration with Viennese artist Jutta Strohmaier. Among his other visual projects are *Over in Silence* which is a series of mixed media paintings in six volumes incorporating text from Ludwig Wittgenstein's

Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus. His main visual project over the last decade however has been an extended and on-going series of minimal abstractions investigating subtle states of consciousness and perception.

Michael also employs photography in an attempt to apply these same artistic and philosophical considerations in the context of images drawn from his immediate environment. This has resulted in various series which further clarify his unique aesthetic perspective. These photographic works range from the highly abstract to interiors and landscapes, yet all convey a strong sense of serenity and reflection.

As a video artist Michael's work includes *Comfort Hold* which is a dialogue between video and audio tape. In this work Michael finds himself interrogated by a voice, whether that of another or his own is never clear. The interrogation is punctuated in a timely and poetic manner by stretches of static and still-life tableaus. Recent work includes *Brief Bird* which he created in collaboration with Los Angeles artist John Bellucci.

Michael has written extensively including poetry, art theory, art criticism (see his curatorial statements and remarks at www.FRAIL.ca), theatre, literary theory, short novels, and collections of philosophical fragments. He was also a founder and editor of the influential Canadian literary journal *Conspiracy of Silence*.

Over the years Michael has also done numerous performances and readings; as well as made various audio recordings. These include two commissions for Radio Amnesty (*Land of the Black Sun* and *Song of the Missing Parent*), and *Glittering Dead* which incorporates a rather abstract multi-layering of vocal tracks to create a haunting electro-acoustic composition.

Photo credit: Min Roman

RESUMÉ

Selected Projects

- 2006 *Beyond the Map*, Durham Art Gallery, collaboration with Viennese artist Jutta Strohmaier, curated by Ilse Gassinger
- 2006 *Eyescream IV: Paint the Town READ*, Toronto, photography exhibition, curated by Sharon Harris
- 2006 *Enjoining Silence*, Durham Art Gallery, solo exhibition
- 2005 *Pratt Institute*, Brooklyn, reading w/Franck André Jamme
- 2005 *Rubin Museum*, NYC, reading (book tour for *Blazing Splendor*)
- 2005 *Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church*, NYC, reading w/Franck André Jamme
- 2005 *Coffeehouse*, Toronto, featured performer
- 2005 *Frail.ca*, online art exhibition, curator/designer
- 2005 Awarded *Best Creative Photograph*, *The Gates Photography Contest*, NYC
- 2003 *Coffeehouse*, Toronto featured performer
- 1992-2001 travels widely including trips to India, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia
- 1990 *Aids Hotline*, PSA (tv) writer/director
- 1989 *Anna's Easter*, tv movie, actor (Jesus of Nazareth)
- 1988-1993 resides in Paris, France
- 1987-91 *Conspiracy of Silence* (literary journal) founding editor
- 1987 *Sing the Body Electric* (producer & performer), Lee's Palace, Toronto
- 1987 various readings and performances, Los Angeles, California
- 1987 spends five months doing artistic research throughout the U.S.
- 1986-7 *Land of the Black Sun & Song of the Missing Parent*, Radio Amnesty, writer/performer
- 1986 *Company Theatre* (actor)
- 1986 *1-2-3* (improv performance ensemble), Poor Alex Theatre, Toronto; The Rivoli, Toronto; CBC Radio One; performer
- 1984-87 numerous readings and performances, including regular spots at The Café Theatre, Toronto

Selected Bibliography

- forthcoming *Fragments towards an Aesthetics of Failure*
- 2006 *Untitled poem* in *Psychic Rotunda Six*, Toronto
- 2005 *Enwrap* Pensum Press
- 2003 *Two Eyes Staring* included in *The Common Sky: Canadian Writers Against the War*, (Three Squares Press, Toronto)
- 2002 *The Inconsolable*, Pensum Press
- 2002 *Each an Altar*, Pensum Press
- 2001 *Delicate and White*, Pensum Press
- 2001 *If a Colour*, Pensum Press
- 2000 *Aglow*, Pensum Press
- 2000 *Wings Spread*, Pensum Press
- 2000 *Even the Swallows*, Pensum Press
- 2000 *Teshuva*, Pensum Press
- 2000 *Sinking into the Light*, Pensum Press
- 1999 *Weal*, Pensum Press
- 1999 *Sketch*, Pensum Press
- 1997 *Where Then*, Parler Seul
- 1997 *That Within*, Parler Seul
- 1996 *Ocelli* Parler Seul
- 1995 *Apteria (w/ John Barlow)*, Parler Seul
- 1992 *Spirit of Eden: the architecture of desire*, Parler Seul
- 1986 *Still Remains*, Black Sheep Publications
- 1985 *Caught in a Web of Crystal*, Black Sheep Publications

RESUMÉ (cont'd)

Selected Translations

- 2008 (forthcoming) *New European Poetry* (Graywolf Press)
- 2007 *In Silence* by Claude Margat (Three Skies Press)
- 2007 *Little Soul* by Valérie-Catherine Richez (Black Square Editions, NYC)
- 2006 *Another Silent Attack* by Franck André Jamme (Black Square Editions, NYC)
- 2006 *Mantra Box* by Franck André Jamme (Ragage Editions)
- 2004 *This Nowhere Where* by Valérie-Catherine Richez (Black Square Editions, NYC)
- 2004 *Yale Anthology of Twentieth Century French Poetry* (Yale University Press)
- 2000 *Madeleine* by Ghérasim Luca, (Éditions Unes, Draguignon, France)
- 2000 *Filling Station* issue 19, new French poetry feature
- 2000 *Extracts from the Life of a Beetle* by Franck André Jamme (Black Square Editions, NYC)
- 2000 *Online French Poetry Festival*, (sponsored by Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S.)
- 1999 *The Poverty of Being* by Bram van Velde (Pensum Press)