

Resume

MICHAELE

JORDANA BERMAN

jordana@peakmedia.ca



Michaela Jordana Berman is a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores the convergence of painting, photography, performance art, music, video & technology in digital media.

A photorealist painter, her work is in collections including The National Gallery of Canada and Art Bank. Michaela lived in the high Arctic to be near the mythical whales she depicted in her **Oceans of Blood** series of monumental paintings.

Carnivore, Michaela's iconic photographic exhibition held at The Isaacs Gallery, portrays life within the ice-age hunting society she experienced on the frozen tundra and sea ice of the Arctic Ocean - where elemental powers still dominate man.

Her performance art work, **The Rites of Nuliajuk**, marked the beginning of her exploration into persona, her use of alternate realities as tools for narrative, and her subsequent evolution into performance art. Continuing her exploration into the power of persona, Michaela created the award winning Canadian new wave group **The Poles** - with composer Douglas Pringle, naming the group after their journey to the North Pole.

With **The PeakMedia Collective**, Michaela has produced large-scale installations including: **Winter Sky**, the 24,000 sq. ft. immersive video fresco of animation, 3D motion graphics, and light projections - transforming the entire vaulted canopy of Sherway Gardens into a spectacle of winter skies; and **The Media Tree**, a site-specific, 96-screen, 3-story installation of thematic video painting at Casino Niagara.

As a professor, Michaela has taught Painting, Experimental Art, Video, Drawing and GameWorlds. Her work using art and pioneering assistive technology with special needs students culminated in the television productions, **Moving with The Light** and the award winning **Face to Face**.

CYBORG: The Human Condition, Michaela's newest and on-going body of large-scale photographic digital paintings, continues her life-long interest in producing work as narrative, evolving futuristic persona to draw parallels between the primordial origins of the human species and our evolution as present-day entities in cyberspace.

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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS 1976-2011:

- **The Isaacs Gallery**, Toronto: *Oceans of Blood*, Solo exhibit - large-scale photorealist paintings of whales. Curated by Avrom Isaacs
- **National Gallery of Canada**, Ottawa: *I Cry Tears of Blood*, Exhibition & purchase of painting for collection. Curated by Jean Sutherland Boggs
- **The Isaacs Gallery**, Toronto: *Carnivore*, Solo exhibit of color photographs taken on the Arctic ice floes off Baffin Island: and sculpture installation. Curated by Av Isaacs
- **Harbourfront Art Gallery**, Toronto: *The Dolphin and The Whale*, Toronto Woman's Show. Curated by Joan Murray
- **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Forum show**. Montreal: *Oceans of Blood*, Group show. Curated by Pierre Theberge
- **McLaughlin Gallery**, Oshawa: *The Rites of Nuliajuk*. Curated by Joan Murray
- **Art Gallery of Hamilton**, Hamilton: *Oceans of Blood*, Group show. Curated by Glen Cumming
- **Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery** Group show
- **York University**, Toronto: *Oceans of Blood* drawing, Fine Arts Faculty Show
- **Brampton Art Gallery**, Bramalea: *Carnivore*, Solo exhibition
- **The Power Plant Art Gallery**, Toronto : *Storming Heaven*- performance art & transmedia installation commissioned by The Power Plant Art Gallery with a 27' proscenium painting, installations, multimedia projections & music. Curated by Ihor Holubizky for The DuMaurier Theatre
- **Idée Gallery**, Toronto: Group exhibitions
- **Artist's Studio**, Toronto: *Mourning*, Solo exhibit of painted portraits
- **The Beach Institute**, Toronto: *Carved in Stone*, solo photography exhibition for permanent collection
- **The Drawers**, Headbones Gallery, Toronto: *Retribution* - large-scale digital painting_ Epson fine art print and drawing
- **Headbones Gallery**, Toronto April 2010: *CYBORG: The Human Condition*, solo exhibition of digital photo paintings_ Epson fine art prints and selected works from the *Oceans of Blood* painting series.
- **Toronto International Art Fair**, digital prints and photorealistic painting.

COLLECTIONS

- The National Gallery of Canada
- Canada Council Art Bank
- Robert McLaughlin Gallery
- First City Trust Collection
- Consolidated Building Corporation
- Banff School of Fine Arts
- Rogers Communications Art Collection
- University of Windsor
- Private and Corporate Collections

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TEACHING

- **2008:** Program Coordinator and Professor of The Game Design & Development and Animation Programs :
Centennial College, School of Communications Media + Design.
Taught *The Social History of Art and Design*;
Developed syllabus & taught *Narrative Design: Visual Storytelling*
- **2006–2007:** Professor: Game Design & Development, University of Ontario Institute of Technology.
Taught GameWorld and Drawing for Animators
- **1990- 2000: The North York Board of Education:** The A.C.E. Project: Arts, Culture and Environment with Jon Mergler
- **1985-1994: Ontario Arts Council "Artists in Education"** 30 video and painting projects.
- **1977 University of Guelph:** Fine Arts Department: Painting Instructor.
- **1976 Three Schools of Art:** Toronto: Painting Instructor.
- **1976 York University,** Toronto. Fine Arts Department: Experimental Art & Video Instructor.

THE PEAKMEDIA COLLECTIVE: Artist and Creative Director

Selected Site Specific Installations and Multiplatform Projects :

- **Winter Sky:** a 24,000 sq.ft. **site specific transmedia video fresco and light installation**, Sherway Gardens, Toronto
- **The Media Tree:** a *site specific transmedia*, 96 plasma screen ambient **video painting installation**, Casino Niagara
- **Artists in Electronic Residence, (AIEbrush) : transmedia web production** - Interactive online art education for Industry Canada
- **Safety Expo: transmedia web production-** Insurance Bureau of Canada, Multimedia Public Awareness
- **Bad Bugs: transmedia web production-** Online Video Medical Symposium
- **Face to Face : Video Production**
Wrote and co-produced television documentary **Face to Face** based on my work with special needs teenagers who form a video crew to meet and interview the public. Produced with support of Global Television, MTSB and Telefilm Canada, **Face to Face** won the silver medal at The New York Film and Television Festival. Broadcast internationally.
- **Moving with the Light: Video Production**
Co-produced television documentary **Moving with the Light** : Color, light, and sound are utilized to open up new channels of communication with autistic teens. Produced with support from Global Television, MTSB, OMDC & Telefilm Canada.
- **Hunter: Video Production** : Shown at The Isaacs Gallery.
Produced a video portrait of Kadloo, an Inuit hunter, recorded in Pond Inlet, Baffin Island, Arctic.
- **Holding Kandy: Video Production** - Shown at The Isaacs Gallery. Produced this video portrait of a day in the life of Kandy, a Killer Whale flown from the B.C. coast to Marineland in Ontario.
- **Storming Heaven: A site transmedia Performance work**
Composed and produced this multimedia performance art work with new music, visual art, sculptural installations and new media, commissioned by The Power Plant Art Gallery, Toronto and presented at The DuMaurier Theatre, Toronto and The University of North Carolina's Stewart Theatre in Raleigh.
- **The Rites of Nulijuk: A site specific multimedia Performance Art work**
Produced this multimedia performance art work, based on my journey to the Arctic with composer Douglas Pringle. - Commissioned by The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa. **The Rites of Nulijuk** Included performance, electronica music by Douglas Pringle, sculptural installation, 4 tons of ice and multimedia, with Inuit guest artist Norman Ekoomiak: Presented at • The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Curated by Joan Murray. Presented by Av Isaacs with support from The Ontario Arts Council at Innis College Theater, University of Toronto • CEAC Gallery • The University of Waterloo.
- **The Poles: site specific transmedia Performance works**
Lyricist and voice for New Wave/Performance Art group named The Poles after journeying with Douglas Pringle to the crystalline Canadian Polar Arctic. Performances at selected galleries, universities and theatres including • Innis College • A Space • The Ontario College of Art • The Music Gallery • CEAC Gallery • The C.N. Tower • Toronto Workshop Productions • Crash & Burn • CBGB's • Hurrah N.Y. • Max's Kansas City • Wallace Avenue Film Studio

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RECORDINGS

- **1978 C.N. Tower:** *lyricist & voice*; for Nimbus 9 Records, Toronto
- **1979 John Cale sessions:** *lyricist & voice*; produced by John Cale, Spy Records, Big Apple Studio, N.Y.
- **1980 Michaele Jordana:** *lyricist and voice* for album; Attic/CBS Records, Toronto
- **1986 Face to Face and Sanctuary:** *lyricist and voice*; original music for Global television specials
- **1994 Carved in Stone:** *lyricist & voice*; original music for Peak Productions

AWARDS

- Isbister Award
- Canada Council Grants
- Ontario Arts Council Grants
- The CASBY Award; JUNO Award Nomination
- Silver Medal Award, New York International Film and Television Festival
- The Award for Outstanding International Achievement, from The Culture and Animals Foundation, Duke University, NC

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "From X-ray Robots to Painted Cyborgs" The Toronto Star by Peter Goddard April 8. 2010
- Michaele Jordana Berman- "CYBORG: The Human Condition", Commentary by Julie Oakes, Rich Fog Micro Publishing
- "Sights of Resistance" Approaches to Canadian Visual Culture by Robert J. Belton
- "Joyce Weiland: "Artist on Fire" by Jane Lind
- "Whales: A Celebration" edited by Greg Gatenby
- "Whales in James Bay". A publication of pen & ink drawings, published by Open Studio, Toronto.
- Soolagug, Pond Inlet, Nunavut
- Toronto Star, "Provocative Whale Paintings Point out Artist's Obsession", by Gary Michael Dault
- The Globe and Mail, "An Artist Takes The Measure of Man", by James Purdie
- "It's Just Like The Sky If Everything Were Perfect", National Post, by Ben Shingler, 2007
- "The Manifesto of Ritual Performance", CEAC Art Gallery Magazine edited by Amerigo Marras
- "Forum76". The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts catalogue
- "Artists with their Work", Art Gallery of Ontario, compiled by Karyn Allen
- Artmagazine/35: Joan Murray talks to Michaele Berman, Joan Murray
- Saturday Night Magazine: "If We Can't Save The Whales Maybe We Can't Save Ourselves" by Robert Fulford
- Ontario Review: "The Primal Vision Of Michaele Berman", by Ruth Ratner
- Art in America, March-April 1977 Amy Goldin Page 43
- MacLean's: "For the Record", April 7 1980 by David Livingstone:
- Today Magazine: The Toronto Star "Jordana's Visions", by Judy Steed.
- Canadian Living's Expression: "Videos for the Disabled", by N.Sandrin
- Toronto Star: "Eskimo Myth Meets Rock on Innis College Stage", by Peter Goddard
- "Small Village" The Isaacs Gallery in Toronto: 1956 – 1991 Making the Frame, by Ihor Holubizky
- "Extended Play_Art Remixing Music_The Best of a Hopeless Situation", by Ihor Holubizky
- Variety, "New Act", by Fred Kirby
- New York Rocker, "The Poles-The Breakthrough Evolution", by George Dean Higton
- The City, Volume 2 37

Resume

MICHAELE

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- Entertainment Weekly, by Lenny Stoute
- Montreal Star, "Northern Madness", February 11, 1978 by Matt Radz
- The Weekend Citizen, "From Art to Sonic Boom Rock". By Mark Fawcett
- Toronto Sun, "Poles Apart", by Wilder Penfield
- Shades, "Ice Age Heat Wave", by George Dean Higton
- The New Edition, University of Toronto, "Jordana Survives Polar Ice Age", by Dale MacLean
- Hamilton, "Spectator Visitor from Another Planet" by Greg McMillan
- The Ontarion, "The Poles Vault Into Guelph", by William Burrill
- Liberation Paris, "The Poles" by Olivier Cossard
- The Toronto Star., "Art Tales Aim at 1981 Fads" by Lisa Bowen
- Music Express, "Towering Inferno", by Elliot Lefko
- Flipside, It's a National Breakout" by James Murecich
- Kitchener-Waterloo Record, "Female Alters Image of New Wave", by John Kelly
- Playback "Caring Artists", by Natalie Edwards
- Shades Magazine, "We Were never the Same", by George Dean Higton
- Record Week "Nimbus 9 Signs Poles"
- Medium 11, "CN Tower Romance", by David Walters
- Toronto Star, "New Wave Rolls Winner", by Krystyna Hunt
- Spectator Magazine, Raleigh NC, "Animal Attraction" by Jeanie Doliner
- Toronto Star Today Magazine Nov. 14.1981 by Peter Goddard
- Entertainment News, by Davina Stone
- Eye 22, "Micheale Jordana", by Cameron G. Carpenter
- RPM, The Poles- "Insights Into The Mechanics of Civilization" by Peter Donato
- Times-Colonist, by Isaac Williams
- The Ontarion, "The Poles Are a Band to Watch", by Martin F. Williams
- Arts Canada: Joe Bodolai
- Now Magazine, "QuayWorks Clash with Categories", by Daryl Jung
- Chatelaine, "The Gaunt Look", by Peter Goddard
- Canadian Composer : "Coming to Terms With New Wave" by Richard Flohill
- Canadian Musician, "Micheale Jordana", by Kathryn Mills
- Maclean's, "People" Dec,16,1985
- The Mirror, "Storming Heaven" by Christine Koserski
- The Toronto Star. Bright Lights-Micheale Jordana: "Artist Airbrushes a World of Imperfect Reality" By Christopher Hume
- Spectator Magazine, "Animal Attraction" by Jeannie Doliner
- The News and Observer/ The Raleigh Times, "In Action for Art, Animals", by Matthew Davis
- The Toronto Star, "Songs of Toronto" by David Bidini
- The Toronto Star, "Rock n roll Mamas", by Greg Quill
- Variety, "Face to Face" by Devo

EDUCATION : Bachelor of Fine Arts Honors Degree from The University of Manitoba School of Fine Arts.

<http://www.michealejordanaberman.com/>

<http://www.peakmedia.ca/>

http://www.peakmedia.ca/peak_sub_collectivemicheale.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micheale_Jordana