

Zandi Dandizette

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BIOGRAPHY

Zandi Dandizette is a interdisciplinary New Media installation artist and curator living and practicing in Vancouver, BC who originates from Portland, OR. They graduated from Emily Carr University of Art + Design with a Bachelor of Media Arts (2014). Demonstrating unwavering support for the arts in British Columbia, Zandi is the Founder and Director of the James Black Gallery (2014), Programs and Membership Coordinator for CARFAC, BC (2018) and member of the Board of Directors for VIVO Media Arts Centre (2018 — 2020).

Housed in a historic heritage building (c. 1889) in the heart of Vancouver's arts and culture community, The James Black Gallery is a non-profit artist-run space dedicated to providing an affordable studio for local artists to experiment, host events and exhibit. Members from the James Black Gallery studio collective exhibit an expansive range of material, including experimental visual, performance, digital, sound, sculptural, installation and social-engagement practices. Through Zandi's directorship and curatorial projects, JBG hosts monthly events, workshops and guest residencies that support diverse cultural practices, experimentation, and collaboration between emerging and professional practices, that foster globalized relationships between local and international practitioners. Zandi's professional practices with CARFAC BC (c 1968) promotes opportunities for emerging and professional artists across British Columbia through the CARFAC community. Zandi is also a member of the Board of Directors for VIVO Media Arts Centre (c 1973) and has built a partnership with the BC Potters Guild (c 1955) with the JBG.

Zandi Dandizette likens their medium as space whether 2D or 3D. They use colour, queerness, gender, shape, and line to explore discourse around identity, through immersive interactions via the binary, liminality, and fractal existence. These building blocks are researched thoroughly to encompass specificity. They view it as a base code, and every medium that they learn is a tool to explore this identity-centric world building. Zandi most notably creates projection paintings and immersive installations, which have been displayed at VIVO, Richmond Digital Carnival WATER, Vancouver Arts and Leisure, Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Association, and YVR Public Disco. Their curations explore the bridging of digital and physical realms to cross-pollinate mediums and space between conversational circles.

Their art is inspired by artists such as Pip n Pop, Karim Rashid, Strangethink, Bex Ilsley, Signe Pierce, and Trisha Middleton. Zandi works with ideological tropes that are built in, rather than referencing contemporary Intellectual Properties and empowering corporate and national soft power. Two major symbols used by Zandi is the cave and the cliff. The trope of the cave or grotto is explored via the ideas of transitional space and rebirth as referenced in works such as Plato's Cave or in popular animated films such as The Lost City of Atlantis or El Dorado. Similarly, the precipice or cliff are suggesting the edge of something new likened to

discovery of self or identity. Zandi utilized colors like blue, pink, and purple, and shapes like circles, squares, and triangles for their binary and hierarchical aspects.

Over the past ten years, Zandi's expansive collection of works — animation, interactive installations, digital and visual artworks — have been shown across Canada, the United States, Iran, and the United Kingdom, at TeerArt (Tehran, Iran 2018), EF18 (Sydney, Australia 2018), Interstitial Defect, JBG (Vancouver, BC, 2018), Print Ready, Dynamo Arts Association (Vancouver, BC, 2017/18), Vicarious - Is This It? (London, UK, 2017), Richmond Digital Carnival New Media Arts WATER (Richmond, BC, 2016), and Wired Café & Bare Bones Café (Portland, OR). Zandi has also been interviewed by the Huffington Post, Al Jazeera, and publications local to Vancouver, Austin, and Portland. They have also made web projects such as Party.Church, VJ for CURRENT Electronic Feminism Symposium, performed in Dorian Electra's VIP music video, and week-long Instagram Residencies for Regina Dunlop Gallery and Peripheral Review Mag. Zandi Dandizette has spoken at THRIVE Mini Talks, The Open Science Network, and Or Gallery's Curatorial Retreat. They have a digital story featured through Grunt Gallery on a site specific digital screen in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant.

Zandi's experimental processes and curatorial projects bridge digital and visual practices situated within contemporary discussions in gender identity, engage with transformations in liminal space and facilitate community-engagement. Their curatorial projects have included more than thirty artists from nine different countries, ranging from emerging, local to international stature, including: SKINS (VIVO, Vancouver, BC, 2014), and curation of exhibitions at the James Black Gallery, Polyphonics (2014), Topographics (2015), Antics (2015), Structure (2015, IRL;URL (2016), ROVEYVR(2016/17/18), Halo World(VIVO, Vancouver, BC, 2016), and QUICKIE(2018).