



Biography

Andrea Macdonald (b.1978, Reading, UK)
Lives and works in the North East of England

Andrea Macdonald studied at the School of Fine Art at Newcastle University, graduating in 2002.

She has remained in the region, developing and informing her practice in a number of guises as artist, archivist, creative facilitator, collaborator and technician in the arts and heritage sectors. Andrea is currently an associate producer at the independent community media company, **Bridge + Tunnel Productions**.

Awards include the *John Christie Award* (1999), *Arts Council England – Grants for the Arts* (2006), *Northern Cultural Skills Partnership - Mentoring Programme* with David A Bailey (2006) and *Professional Development Fund* (2007).

In 2007, Andrea received her first commission from *Roots Initiative*, a project run by **identity on tyne** to mark the **bicentenary of the abolition of transatlantic slavery**, and the part the North East played in this significant moment in history.

Earlier this year she also embarked on a research trip to the Caribbean with writer, friend and long-term collaborator, Sheree Mack. Inspired by the mas-camps of carnival, exposure to the contemporary Caribbean arts scene, and the desire for collaboration across continents, they created MAS-SAMple on their return.

MAS-SAMple is a combined arts initiative engaging the Caribbean Diaspora, issue-based arts and global audiences alike. The first project from this initiative will be launched in summer 2008.

Statement

1981, my earliest memory is sitting in the hallway of a different kind of house in a different kind of landscape, hot.

Caressing a doll with a red flannel hat, I waited, patiently...

A family holiday in 1998 was in itself a remarkable moment. It had been seventeen years since I had visited Barbados with my mother and sister, and now we were about to embark on the *return journey* once again.

Little did I know that during this visit we were to travel to Gazettes, Barbados to meet Mrs Brown, my great-grandmother and matriarch of my dispersed and splintered Caribbean family. I was not even aware of her existence or the fact that this reunion would trigger a deep-rooted examination of my roots and routes.

I am developing several themes in my work that focus on notions of this entangled heritage including the *domestic* space, the legacy of the island as an *industrial site*¹, journals of *travel and love*, and the language of *tourism*. I excavate archives and personal narratives to expose the troubling and fragmented legacies of British and European colonialism, which I reposition and re-imagine.

¹ A description of the Caribbean islands by artist, Chris Cozier during the lecture, *Photography and The Caribbean Diaspora*, Goldsmiths College October 2006