



## 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*<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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