

DIANE TORR, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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CATEGORY: PERFORMANCE ART

PROPOSED TITLE: ELEMENTAL GENDER

This work is about the metamorphosis of the sexual imagination. The alchemical androgyne; the bisexual shaman; when men get "pregnant" at carnival time - these are cultural expressions of a longing for unity. The blending of male and female continues to be a compelling force in the exploration of sexual identity.

Diane Torr is a performance artist who has been showing work in New York since 1976. She has collaborated with many artists, as well as doing solo work. She was a member of the performance group, DISBAND, from 1978-80. Her work is presented in Europe and the U.S.

Lizzie Olesker has performed with the Sleaze Buckets, Modern Times Theatre, The Shuttle, Otrabanda Company, and Workers Stage among others. Her written work for Barbara Allen, Joseph Chaikin, Otrabanda Company, and Charas has been performed at the Kitchen, P.S.122, La Mama, Union Halls, picket lines and public schools.

ELEMENTAL GENDER

The transformation of sexual identity and the confusion it causes has been a dramatic theme throughout history. The taboos involved in being a female are subtle. When a woman portrays a man, she endeavours to explore the nature of male identity. In becoming male, she can look again at the nature of female sexuality. How is the relationship between male and female exhibited in a single personality? When a man portrays a woman, he is exploring the femaleness in his <sup>self</sup> ~~self~~. How often have we seen a transvestite assuming merely the stereotypical in his gestural expression of the female? I would like to take this portrayal further. ELEMENTAL GENDER is an exploration of gender behavior and an investigation into the creation of a new person - the woman is the man who personifies the woman. I shall be making reference to historical and cultural data that acknowledges the need for male/female union within the individual.

This work is part of a series of performance works I have done on gender and sexual identity. These include:

"GIRLS WILL BE BOYS WILL BE QUEENS" with Lizzie Olesker and Chris Koenig (premiered April 1986 at BACA DOWNTOWN)

"AMOEBIC EVOLUTION" (premiered June 1982 at MUDD CLUB)

"AROUSING RECONSTRUCTIONS" with Bradley Wester (premiered January 1982 at SYMPHONY SPACE).