

## **Rhayne Vermette (b. 1982): Métis Film Director**

Rhayne Vermette is the winner of the 2016 Manitoba Film Hothouse Award, which recognizes the depth of local film directing talent and is generously funded by the Province of Manitoba. Vermette has created a superb body of short experimental works exploring film collage, found footage, and hand processing. After studying architecture she left to pursue photography and experimental film. In 2013, her film *Tudor Village* won the Jury Prize for Best Prairie Work at the WNDX Festival of Moving Image. Her works have screened at festivals around the world including Barcelona and Melbourne as well as the Chicago Underground Film Festival, Images Film Festival and the European Media Arts Festival. This program includes an overview of her works including her new work UFO which was created for the National Film Board. Vermette is currently writing her first feature length script, an experimental narrative structured on architectural representations and investigations. Vermette is a Michif artist originally from Notre Dame des Lourdes, south-west of Winnipeg.

### **Films:**

**DESK STUDY Vol. 1** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2013 / Canada, 13 secs  
How to make a movie.

**DESK STUDY Vol. 2** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2014 / Canada, 20 secs

**TUDOR VILLAGE COMMERCIAL** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2011, Canada, 1 min  
I've been trying to sublet my place since December, please help!

**TUDOR VILLAGE: A one shot deal** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2012, Canada, 5:15 min  
In pursuit of an eclipse, the citizens of Winnipeg flee the city. Meanwhile, stranded in Tudor Village, the caretaker does his best to interrupt their trajectory & entice everyone to return.

**TAKE MY WORD** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2012, Canada, 49 secs  
A section cut through a transitional editing tool, the dissolve. For Craig Baldwin.

**J.WERIER** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2012, Canada, 4:30 min  
An architectural portrait emerges as a transmutation through various broken projectors. These particular projectors are currently being sold at J. Werier, a Winnipeg warehouse emporium and artifact.

**SCENE MISSING** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2015, Canada, 55 sec. "Is this your first visit here?" "Yes." "Well, this whole thing must seem kinda strange to you, huh? You realize that I can't see you even though you see me. Well that takes a little getting used to.. Oh. Am I looking at your face now? (laughs) It don't matter."

**TURIN** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2015, Canada, 7:11 min  
"You may want to look into Carlo Mollino, he's a bastard much like yourself..." N. Chard, 2009

Fetishized alpine landscapes of 16mm film collage and rayograms generate an obscured portrait of the godlike, Carlo Mollino. Completed in anticipation of a personal pilgrimage to Turin – this film delineates what is at stake for the genius bachelor architect as well as the deplorable, unremittingly heartbroken filmmaker (who adores him so). For E. Lavazza + thank you to H. Phillips.

**U.F.O.** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2016, Canada, 1:30 min, 1:30 min An apparition reveals itself through celluloid and transmits vestiges of a forgotten provenance. Have the onlookers interpreted its signs correctly or was the message misunderstood? Inspired by found sound of two people's discovery of a mysterious event in the sky. *Produced as part of the 11th edition of the NFB's Hothouse apprenticeship.*

**BLACK RECTANGLE** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2013, Canada, 1:30 min "Time has not been kind to Kasimir Malevich's painting, Black Square. In 1915 when the work was first displayed the surface of the square was pristine and pure; now the black paint has cracked revealing the white ground like mortar in crazy paving." This film documents a tedious process of dismantling and reassembling 16 mm found footage. The film collage imitates functions of a curtain, while the recorded optical track describes the film's subsequent destruction during its first projection.

**FULL OF FIRE** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2013, Canada, 2:14 min There are few alternatives for exiles. The homecoming may be postponed to an indeterminate future; one could settle for a replacement; and lastly, there is always madness.

**LES CHASSIS DE LOURDES** / Dir Rhayne Vermette, 2016, Canada, 18 mins, Canadian Premiere!

"...while many architects through their time have sought a 'true house' or a 'true architecture', their truth was something of the past and not so true in the present [...] here architecture is a child of the sea, arose from its substance..." — Gio Ponti At the age of 32, I finally ran away from home. Dramatically, I left with only my cat and copies of all the still and motion images taken by my father (these dating until the mid 1990s when he then passed his camera down to me). And while I unpacked the baggage of this surreal house coincidentally, back home, renovations were in order... Here, an architectural threnody is composed through a various "true stories" and the coupling of factors which exemplify the inherent struggle between the metaphysical and material.



Rhayne Vermette is an artist from Winnipeg. She is the current successor of the MB Cold Storage Co. - Manitoba's premiere decadent repository. The company, under Vermette's influence, is primarily interested in preserving film and photographic content which eternalize Winnipeg's starving artist qualities. Featured Artist: Rhayne Vermette

**Rhayne Vermette**

*Cineflyer's Featured Local Artist for September*

“A little bit about my work – It’s normally rife with architectural insinuations – and most often rooted in the mundane/boring. The work comes about building layers of images in a tangible form, and essentially making ruins of things (destroying or breaking things apart to see the potential within).”

-Rhayne Vermette



Film in Winnipeg has a long and tortured history of being unabashedly introspective and spectacularly surreal. Emerging filmmaker and photographer Rhayne Vermette’s work encompasses both of these Winnipeg traditions.

Vermette’s work has been making the rounds in 2011 on a local level and more recently outside of Manitoba. Vermette recently travelled to Montreal’s Fantasia Film Festival with her film *R Seymore Goes North*, in addition to having openings at Winnipeg’s [Ace Art Gallery](#) and a self-orchestrated photography exhibit on the 4th floor of the legendary punk-rock dive, *The Albert*. Vermette also played at WNDX 2010.



Whether her film or photography is concerned, Vermette's aesthetic is driven by collage. Her long exposure photos are projected into the abandoned hotel rooms they were taken in, and re-photographed with an expressionistic quality that grows from the mouldy floorboards like spirits roaming these old rooms.

Her films are mostly surreal collages made of constructed sets and figures, painstakingly animated in frame-by-frame stop motion. Bucking this trend, *R Seymore Goes North* was live action filmed digitally, then printed onto paper. Then each one of these prints were frame-by-frame collaged and stitched back together by hand and digitally.

Despite shooting entirely on video, Vermette commands a very old-school filmic aesthetic often complete with Maddin-esque silent film titles. Vermette says that she is "heavily interested in the excavation of surreal possibilities within the insipid".

And in true Winnipeg introspective form, Vermette's latest work focuses on the mundane suburban neighbourhood that she grudgingly calls her home: Fort Richmond.

Vermette is currently underway on a new project which she hopes to merge her stop motion methods with actual film and a whole lot of illustrated dead rabbits, a la Diana Thorneycroft sans animal cruelty.

## Rhayne vermette

**Rhayne Vermette** | *Stockpiling Ed's Houses*  
2016 | collage | 12.5 x 17.5 in

Stockpiling Ed's House exemplifies the interests inherent to the highly respected work of Rhayne Vermette. Using collage on paper, Vermette draws on her interests in architecture, experimental composition and found footage. Known mostly for film, Vermette's work has been screened internationally in the United States, France, and throughout Canada.

Rhayne Vermette is Winnipeg-based artist who works primarily in film. Her experimental work explores film, collage, found footage, and hand processing. Vermette began her studies in architecture, but left to pursue photography and experimental film. Her work has been screened internationally, including the Chicago Underground Film Festival; Images Film Festival; and the European Media Arts Festival. Her film catalogue includes *Tudor Village* (2012), *Black Rectangle* (2014), *Turin* (2015), *Les Châssis de Lourdes* (2016), and *UFO* (2016), which was created for the National Film Board. Vermette is the current successor of the MB Cold Storage Co, a repository that is primarily interested in preserving film and photographic content that eternalize Winnipeg's starving artist qualities. Vermette is the recipient of the 2016 Manitoba Film Hothouse Award.

## Winnipeg auteur Rhayne Vermette is one to watch

Deborah Remus  
October 23, 2013 [0](#)

After having her work screened at film festivals in North America, Europe and Australia over the last two years, local filmmaker Rhayne Vermette is helping Winnipeg to keep its reputation as a hotbed for experimental film.

The 31 year-old says she started showing an interest in filmmaking when she was studying architecture at the University of Manitoba.

“I just started doing stop motion animation with the models I was making for class and that’s basically how I got into it,” Vermette says. “I took a leave of absence in the last year of my masters [degree] to focus on my film projects and I haven’t gone back, though I might still one day.”

Vermette released her first film in 2009 and the next year she followed it up with *R. Seymore Goes North*, which she made for the Winnipeg Film Group’s 48 Hour Film Contest.

“Looking back, that film is pretty menial, but they [Winnipeg Film Group] liked it and were interested in distributing it, which was the first time I really started thinking about getting my work out there,” she says.

Since then, Vermette has released around nine films. Among them, one piece that’s garnered lots of attention is *Tudor Village: A One Shot Deal*. Released in 2012, the film collages together found footage, animation and 16mm footage.

In the picture, Vermette creates a narrative surrounding the Tudor Village rental complex that exists in the south end of Winnipeg, not too far away from the University of Manitoba.

So far the film has been screened at 13 festivals, some of which are based as far away as Barcelona, Spain and Melbourne, Australia.

In September, *Tudor Village* even won the Jury Prize for Best Prairie Work at WNDX, Winnipeg’s annual experimental film festival.

Recently, Vermette made her music video debut when she put together a clip for “They Said” by The Lytics, a song off the Winnipeg hip hop group’s latest album *They Told Me*.

“We did it on one of the coldest days of the month and most of the footage was shot from the back of a truck in the North End,” she recalls.

Aside from making movies, Vermette is interested in photography and last month she assembled an exhibit called *Methods*, which was shown at the FRAME Arts Warehouse during Nuit Blanche.


“It was mostly just me playing with analog toy cameras,” she says. “The whole conceptual approach to assembling the exhibition was trying to make use of broken, improper portraits of these architectural artifacts found amongst Manitoba.”

Vermette plans to keep on creating. She’s been working on a 10-minute documentary called *Rob What*, which features possibly the most constant fixture in the Winnipeg arts scene in the last decade, local actor/DJ/musician Rob Vilar.

Vermette says the doc will be released in early 2014 through MTS TV’s *Stories from Home*.

“It’s sort of about him [Vilar],” she says. “But there’s more of an unconventional approach and he’s mostly used as a lens.”

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