

BETH FLEENOR

clarinets / voice / composition / improvisation
site-specific performative works / installations

Since arriving in Seattle in 1998, clarinetist / vocal percussionist / composer Beth Fleenor has carved a place for herself as an energetic multi-instrumentalist and dynamic generative artist. Her robust sound, organic approach to improvisation, and openness to experimentation in all forms, have fueled a list of collaborations ranging from shows in nightclubs, festivals and concert halls, to performance pieces, recordings, modern dance pieces, sound art and art installations.

Subscribing to the principle that "art is the discipline of being," Fleenor harbors a strong love for variety and all forms of sonic manipulation. Such flexibility has allowed her to move freely through genres including, but not limited to, jazz, rock, classical, contemporary chamber, metal, folk, ambient, surf, and noise.

In 2004, Fleenor commissioned and premiered ten works for clarinet - compositions ranging from standard ensemble configurations and notation, to works that included laptop, found instruments and electronics, prepared instruments and conducted improvisations. A recording of her commission Dubious Diversions, for clarinet and piano, by composer Tom Swafford, is included as part of the audio guide at Seattle Art Museum.

In 2007, Fleenor was awarded an Earshot Golden Ear award for Performance of the Year, as a member of the Monktrail Raymond Scott Project. That same year she launched the sonic module Figeater, a performance-process emphasized ensemble that serves as the primary vehicle for her compositions and performance instigations. In Figeater, the audience and environment are recognized members of the configuration performing and each interaction is met as a collaboration. Figeater was accepted to the 2008 Jack Straw Artist Support Program, in support of the project's performative five-record box-set, Sweet Figeater Surprise (to be released August 2010 on Monktrail Records).

Fleenor is honored to have performed new/commissioned works by composers Robin Holcomb, Denney Goodhew, Wayne Horvitz, Jim Knapp, Bill Patton, Yemin Kim, Paul Moore, Timothy Young, William O. Smith, Eyvind Kang, Gretta Harley, Tiflin, Jeff Huston, Tom Swafford, John Burrow, Johanna Kunin, Flora McGill, Nicole DeLaittre, Matt Coe, Stephen Parris, Brad Hebert, Matthew Richmond, Mark Ostrowski, Izaak Mills and Zachary Watkins, among others.

Currently she can be found performing with Bling, Figeater, Owcharuk 5, Double Yoko, Chick Influenza, and projects of the Monktrail Creative Music Concern. She has also been sited ensuing mayhem with Balkan punk shaman clan Kultur Shock including performances at the Creation of Peace Festival (Russia) and Sayan Ring (Siberia).

"Beth Fleenor transcends labels - a multi-talented, creative force in Seattle."

- City Arts Magazine

"An adventurous clarinetist"

- The Stranger

"Fleenor performs with emotional immediacy and good humor. Her tone is vibrant and full bodied, and her ideas fertile."

- All About Jazz