

MADONNA HAMEL

As an introduction to this performance artist, I recall the well-known holler, “Ladies and Gentlemen, The Rolling Stones”. So here it is then in my voice, “Ladies and Gentlemen, Ms. Madonna Hamel”. Performance artist, singer, writer, collagist, teller of tales.

The work which introduces her in this publication is flat on the page; her major work is not — is in front of an audience, is live, is Madonna (yes, her given name), is improvised, is scripted, is simple, is embellished, is honest, is screaming, is whispering. No cleancut minimalism here, she is out front risking failure, risking success even, staying small and getting larger.

Issues she addresses come from the heart and the mind: she carries a huge concern for breaking the archetypes. She is speaking and performing to the empowerment of women and to the impact of electronic media on women and female children. She is writing to the insidious methods of exploitation, which include seducing women to adapt to male modes of behaviour in the guise of certain definitions of feminism.

As an artist, she is aware of raising consciousness, especially as regards to children. She is writing, she is yelling, she can talk a blue streak.

— Carole Itter