

Dusty Mikel: Burning Man
Collection CAE1313

Introduction/Abstract

Dusty Mikel's archive includes materials from her time as a member of the Black Rock Rangers, as organizer of the Outback camp, and as a regional representative of Burning Man. Materials include audio interviews with transcripts of Burning Man founders and contributors, Dusty's Ranger costume, documents, and objects.

Biographical Note: Dusty Mikel (aka Kimberley Fisher)

Dusty Mikel has experience in Project Management, Volunteer Management, Community Development, Virtual World Event Management, and Visual Design. She holds a BA in communications design from SUNY Buffalo, and interned with the famed graphic designer Milton Glaser. In 1985 she formed Fisher & Day, Inc., a communications design company, and in 2010 Metamorph, LLC. She has been a regional representative for Burning Man since 2008, when Linden Lab hired her to take over organizing the Burn in Second Life, and has overseen large virtual Burning Man events on Second Life. Over the course of several years she compiled an extensive collection of interviews with Burning Man principals, an archive she donated to the CA+E, which has had them transcribed for use by scholars. Dusty Mikel has been attending Burning Man since 1995, and is the co-organizer of the Outback camp with her husband, Michael Mikel.

Scope and Content

Burning Man is "an annual art event and temporary community based on radical self-expression and self-reliance," according to its website. The festival is held annually during the last week of August on the Black Rock Desert playa one hundred miles north of Reno. Attendance has grown from the low hundreds in the early 1990s to more than 80,000 in 2015.

The roots of the event began with the burning of figures on the summer solstice by sculptor Mary Graubegger, a friend of Larry Harvey's girlfriend, on San Francisco's Baker Beach in 1986. In 1986 Harvey erected a 9-foot tall wooden figure. In 1990 the then 40-foot figure was drawing so many attendees for the burning of "The Man" that police outlawed the event. A separate event had been planned by members of the Cacophony Society on the Black Rock Desert for that year, "Zone Trip #4, A Bad Day at Black Rock," which was billed as a Dadaist and Situationist performance happening. Harvey joined forces with the Cacophony Society and the first burn of the Man was held on the playa in 1990.

As Wikipedia describes it (accessed May 1, 2013): "Michael Mikel, another active Cacophonist, realized that a group unfamiliar with the environment of the dry lake would be helped by knowledgeable persons to ensure they did not get lost in the deep dry lake and risk dehydration and death. He took the name Danger Ranger and created the Black Rock Rangers. Thus the seed of Black Rock City was germinated, as a fellowship, organized by Law and Mikel. Drawing on experience in the sign business and with light sculpture, John Law prepared custom neon tubes for the Man in 1991 so it could be seen as a beacon at night."

Dusty Mikel's archive includes materials from her time as a member of the Black Rock Rangers, as organizer of the Outback camp, and as a regional representative of Burning Man. Because of her unparalleled access to the organization's principals, her interviews with them are a valuable primary source of information. Interviews include Larry Harvey, Michael Mikel, Jerry James, Mary Graubegger, P. Segal, and others. Materials include audio interviews with transcripts, Dusty's Ranger costume, documents, and objects.

Inclusive Dates

1990 – 2014

Bulk Dates

2000 – 2004

Quantity / Extent

1.25 cubic feet

Language

English

Arrangement

Dusty Mikel: Burning Man is organized into six folders, arranged chronologically. The first folder contains collected ephemera from Burning Man, beginning in 1995, which was the first year Dusty Michael attended Burning Man. The next folder contains Dusty's Ranger outfit and Ranger information. The final four folders contain interviews of Burning Man founders and contributors conducted by Dusty between the years of 2002 – 2004.

Related Archive Collections

- CAE1305: *Michael Mikel: Burning Man*
- CAE1408: *Michael Light: 100 Suns at Burning Man*
- CAE1415: *Connie Cahllil: Burning Man Ephemera*
- CAE1503: *William Binzen: Desert Siteworks*

Related Publications

Aqua Burn: a 2002 Burning Man film. Directed by Bill Breithaupt. Novato, CA: Adrenaline Network Studios, 2008. DVD.

Blank, Herrod. *Art Cars.* Douglas AZ: Blank Books, 2002.

Bowditch, Rachel. *On the Edge of Utopia: Performance and Ritual at Burning Man.* New York, N.Y.: Seagull Books, 2010.

Bruder, Jessica. *Burning Book: Two Decades of Burning Man.* New York, N.Y.: Simon Spotlight Entertainment, 2007.

Burn Baby Burn: a film about the 2001 Burning Man Festival. San Francisco, CA: s. i., 2001. DVD.

Burn on the Bayou. Directed by Matt Leonard. San Francisco, CA: Black Rock City LLC, 2008. DVD.

Burn: The Burning Man Arts Festival. Directed by David Sector. San Francisco, CA: The Movie Sector LLC, 2000. DVD.

Burning Man 1998. Directed by Jim Babichuck. San Francisco, CA: Black Rock City LLC, 1998. DVD.

Burning Man: Beyond Black Rock. Directed by Damon Brown. Austin, TX: Gone Off Deep Productions LLC, 2006. DVD.

The Burning Man Festival. Directed by Joe Winston. Chicago, IL: Ow Myeye Productions, 2001. DVD.

The Burning Man Project: Renewal Cut. Directed by Bill Breithaupt. Novato, CA: s.i., 2000. DVD.

Burning Man: Where's the Fire? Directed by Fernando Velasquez. Los Angeles, CA: Seventh Arts Releasing, 1999. DVD.

Cash, Julian. *The People of Burning Man: Portraits of Revolutionary Spirits*. United States: ThePeopleOfBurningMan.com, 2011.

Chen, Katherine K. *Enabling Creative Chaos: The Organization Behind the Burning Man Event*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Christians, Karen. *Jewelry of Burning Man*. California: Self-published, 2015.

Cohen, Scott. *The Life Cube Project: The Journey from Burning Man to Downtown Las Vegas*. Santa Rosa, CA: Global Interprint, 2014.

Confessions of a Burning Man: Experience the Journey. Directed by Paul Barnett and Unsu Lee. San Francisco, CA: Windline Films LLC, 2006. DVD.

Das Burning Man Projekt. Directed by Johannes Beckermann. Praha, Czech Republic: Art Cam Film Fernseh Production, 1996. DVD.

Diehl, Ronny. *Burning Man: The American Frontier Revisted in Acoustic Space*. Berlin, Germany: Grin Verlag, 2010.

Doherty, Brian. *This is Burning Man: The Rise of a New American Underground*. Dallas TX: BenBella Books, 2006.

Dust Devils. Directed by Dearbhla Glynn, Woodbury, MN: Purple Productions, 2003. DVD.

Evans, Kevin, Carrie Galbraith, and John Law. *Tales of the San Francisco Cacophony Society*. San Francisco CA: Last Gasp Publishing, 2013.

Falco, Edward. *Burning Man: Stories*. Dallas, TX: Southern Methodist University Press, 2011.

Fall of Man: Burning Man 99. Santa Barbara, CA: East Beach Productions, 2001. DVD.

Five Themes of Burning Man. Directed by Mark McGothigan. Oakland, CA: Steam Power Video, 2002. DVD.

Folding Time. Directed by Robert Henrikson. Hana, HI: Panmagic.com, 2003. DVD.

Folding Time and Space at Burning Man. Directed by Robert Henrikson. Hana, HI: Panmagic.com, 2004. DVD.

Folding Time and Space at Burning Man 2. Directed by Robert Henrikson. Hana, HI: Panmagic.com, 2005. DVD.

Fox, William L. *Playa Works: The Myth of the Empty*. Reno, NV: University of Nevada Press, 2002.

Fox, William L. *The Black Rock Desert*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2002.

Gifting It: A Burning Embrace of Gift Economy. Directed by Renea Roberts. Cerrillos, NM: R3 Productions, Inc. 2002. DVD.

Gilmore, Lee. *Theater in a Crowded Fire: Ritual and Spirituality at Burning Man*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2010.

Gilmore, Lee, and Mark Van Proyen, eds. *AfterBurn: Reflections on Burning Man*. Albuquerque, N.M.: University of New Mexico Press, 2005.

Glade, Philippe. *Black Rock City: The Ephemeral Architecture of Burning Man*. San Francisco CA: Real Paper Books, 2011.

Goin, Peter. *Black Rock*. Reno, NV: University of Nevada Press, 2005.

Guy, NK. *Art of Burning Man*. Köln, Germany: Taschen, 2015.

Huang, Vincent. *Burning Man*. Japan: Self-published, 2001.

Jones, Steven T. *The Tribes of Burning Man: How an Experimental City in the Desert is Shaping the New American Counterculture*. San Francisco CA: Consortium of Collective Consciousness, 2011.

Kreuter, Holly. *Drama in the Desert: The Sights and Sounds of Burning Man*. San Francisco CA: Raised Barn Press, 2002.

Krukowski, Samantha, ed. *Playa Dust: Collected Stories from Burning Man*. London: Black Dog Publishing Limited, 2014.

Kuehn, Karen. *Cargo Cult*. ROGUE Publishing, 2014.

Nash, A. Leo. *Burning Man: Art in the Desert*. New York, N.Y.: Harry N. Abrams, 2007.

Neurotic Burns: Johnny Does Burning Man. Produced by John Mendel, Curt LaFurney, Brian Stuart Hanish. Hollywood, CA: Upside Down Tv, 2006. DVD.

Pendell, Dale. *Inspired Madness: The Gifts of Burning Man*. Berkeley, CA: Frog Books, 2006.

Post, George P. *Dancing with the Playa Messiah: Neon, Fire & Dust: A 21-Year Burning Man Photo Album*. Richmond, CA: Dragon Fotografix, 2012.

Raiser, Jennifer. *Burning Man: Art on Fire*. New York, NY: Race Point Publishing, 2014.

Roberts, Adrian, ed. *Burning Man Live: 13 years of Piss Clear, Black Rock City's Alternative Newspaper*. San Francisco, CA: RE/Search Publications, 2009.

Sensation: A Trip to Burning Man. Directed by Laurent Le Gall. San Rafael, CA: Free Run Pictures, 2003. DVD.

Spark: A Burning Man Story. Directed by Steven Brown & Jessie Deeter. Woodside, CA: Spark Pictures, 2014. DVD.

Spinelli, Frank. *Burning Man: Into a 21st Century Utopia*. Littlehorn Press: 2014.

Traub, Barbara. *Desert to Dream: A Decade of Burning Man Photography*. San Francisco, CA: Immedium, 2006.

Uchronia Community. *Uchronia Community: Message Out of the Future*. Belgium: Uchronia Community, 2006.

A Voyage of Growth and Discovery. Produced by Mike Kelley and Michael Smith. N.S.W., Australia: ArtPix, 2011. DVD.

Wieners, Brad, ed. *Burning Man*. San Francisco CA: Distributed to the trade by Publishers Group West, 1997.

Container Listing:

CAE1313: Folders 1-6, 1995 – 2014

CAE Box 102

- 1 Collected Burning Man Ephemera, 1995 – 2014
- 2 Dusty Mikel's Ranger Materials, 2000 – 2003
- 3 Dusty Mikel Interviews, 2002
- 4 Dusty Mikel Interviews and Book Project Materials, 1 of 2, 2003
- 5 Dusty Mikel Interviews, 2 of 2, 2003
- 6 Dusty Mikel Interviews, 2004

CAE1313: Additional Materials

CAE Box 79: Objects

- 1#3 Star-Glo Cards, Artist Proof #1, 2003

CAE Box 99: Objects

- 2#1b Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, skirt, 1990 – 2003
2#1e Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, sash, 1990 – 2003
2#1h Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, googles, 1990 – 2003
2#1j Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, whip, 1990 – 2003

CAE Box 103: Objects

2#1i Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, boots, 1990 – 2010

CAE Box 37: Large Objects

1#2 Trumpet, 1995

CAE Box 108: Large Objects

2#1a Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, shirt, 1990 – 2003

2#1g Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, hat, 1990 – 2003

CAE Box 109: Large Objects

2#1c Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, overskirt, 1990 – 2003

CAE Box 77: Small Objects

1#4 Camel, Necklace, 2014

CAE Stand-Alone Box

2#1d Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, belt, 1990 – 2003

2#1f Dusty Mikel Ranger Costume, Formal, keychain, 1990 – 2003

CAE S-Box 18

4#10 Dusty Mikel's Book Chapter Sample Layout, 2003

4#11 Dusty Mikel's Book Timeline, 2003