

April 21, 1994

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### VIVA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 1994 CASH AWARD WINNERS

On April 26, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver, the VIVA Selection Committee announced that Vancouver artists **Chick Rice** and **Mike MacDonald** are the recipients of the 1994 VIVA cash awards. The committee feels that the two chosen artists have both made outstanding long-term commitments to their work as visual artists and a continuing contribution to the development of visual art in this region. The Selection Committee wishes to acknowledge that in spite of limited financial support and recognition, Rice and MacDonald have willingly proceeded with the development and production of their own work and have made a visible and significant contribution to the cultural life of their community.

The VIVA Foundation was created by Doris and Jack Shadbolt in 1988. Previous winners are Carol Itter, Neil Wedman, Carel Moiseiwitsch, Stan Douglas, Terry Ewasiuk, David Ostrem, Persimmon Blackbridge, Gary Pearson, Alvin Balkind, Elspeth Pratt, Henry Tsang and Eric Metcalfe.

**RELEASE DATE: NOT BEFORE APRIL 26, 1994**



## ANNUAL \$10,000 VIVA AWARD WINNERS FOR 1994:

### CHICK RICE

Born 1954

Chick Rice is a photographer who was born in the Portuguese colony of Macau. Her family immigrated to Canada when she was two years old and her family life revolved around the struggle to survive in a foreign, often hostile environment. In retrospect, Chick credits the early feelings of alienation that permeated her upbringing, as the genesis of her acute critical vision. As a child she intuitively turned to photography as a way of expressing herself. Almost before she could read, she was creating her own photographic world using kleenex boxes as pretend cameras. When her brother gave her a real camera, which she still has, she began a lifelong love affair with the medium.

Rice started exhibiting her work while studying Fine Arts at UBC. However, it wasn't until well after graduation from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design, that she decided on a full time career as an artist. Although she was experimented with other media, including sculpture and film making, portraiture continues to be her passion.

### MICHAEL MacDONALD

Born 1941

Mike MacDonald is a video artist from Nova Scotia of Mi'kmaq, Beothuk and European ancestry. He has lived on the Westcoast for 20 years where he makes videos about nuclear and environmental issues and collaborates with Native communities in B.C. He was dubbed "the electronic shaman" by one reviewer, a moniker that he does not reject. MacDonald designs complicated audio-video installations using multiple T.V. monitors, each showing a different image. They are stacked, placed in a single row or arranged in banks several monitors high.

Among his primary concerns are land claim issues and the impact that environmental damage has on Native cultures. For instance one of his video works employs the destruction of traditional Native medicine and food plants as a metaphor for environmental damage that threatens the cultural life of the indigenous Westcoast peoples.

