

**Vernita Nemec aka N'Cognita** regards her artmaking as a way of “organizing her thoughts, fears and fantasies” through translating her inner realities into installations, performances, photographs, collages and poetry. With paper, torn edges, found objects and images, she incorporates collage and monoprinting to create a visual autobiography. Addressing issues of relationship, loss and self-actualization, **N'Cognita's** fragmented imagery, though seemingly disconnected, is imbued with complexities and nuances that reflect those of our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives. The artist has exhibited internationally in Budapest, Hungary; Mexico City; Berlin, Germany; Dublin, Ireland and Moscow, Russia as well as at numerous galleries & museums in the U.S.

She created her first installation artworks in the mid-70's, transferring fragments of notes, ideas and the detritus of her artmaking from the walls of her studio to the walls of the gallery like a giant sketch. She continues creating installations both as site-specific works and as backdrops for performance artworks. A sense of autobiography has permeated Nemec's art since her first feminist performance in 1978 when she swept the corner at Spring & Wooster Streets in Soho where she still lives and works. Since, she has performed at the Women's Building in Los Angeles, La Mama, Franklin Furnace and other venues.

In addition to Feminist themes, recycling has become an important thread running through her creative & curatorial energy. Besides creating & exhibiting her own art, Nemec has been organizing and independently curating exhibitions of art made from recycled materials called “Art from Detritus”.

Originally inspired by seeing her mother draw and make grocery lists on the backs of envelopes, the artist began “The Endless Junkmail Scroll” as a way of creatively “recycling” all that junkmail that tries to induce us borrow money, open charge accounts or accept services we have no need for, adding fragments of paint, words, drawings & photographs to the surface of the security envelopes that serve as the basic structure. Begun nearly a decade ago conceptually, the junkmail collage is now over 400 feet in length and growing still.

She has been active in the art world as a visual/performance artist and curator since the late 1960's when she co-curated “X-12”, the first feminist art show of the period, and worked with such political art organizations as *Artworkers Coalition (AWC)*, *Women Artists in Revolution (WAR)*, *Artists Meeting for Cultural Change*. In the 90's, Nemec served as Director of *Artists Talk On Art*, interviewing many art world luminaries, & as independent curator at the Henry Street Settlement for the Arts. She is currently the Director of Viridian Artists, a contemporary art gallery in Chelsea and on the Board of Directors of Soho 20, a feminist gallery also in Chelsea NYC. She continues to curate independently and create art objects and performance artworks.

She occasionally uses the name N'Cognita, to honor unknown artists.