

## **Grunt**

#116 - 350 East 2 Avenue

Vancouver, BC

Phone: 604 875 9516

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, Noon-5pm

Founded in 1984, the Grunt Gallery is a non-profit artist run center that has become a fixture in the Vancouver arts community. The original gallery space, in a storefront on East 6<sup>th</sup>, materialized from discussions held by a group of artists regarding marginalized artists and art practices in Vancouver. With the initial mandate of promoting and supporting “other art” The Grunt Gallery opened its doors to a wide variety of exhibitions in all mediums and eventually broadened its programming to many of areas of artistic production including poetry, theatre, music, and performance art. This open door policy of sorts has shaped the role Grunt has played in the Vancouver art scene as kind of a community center for the arts, but also a gallery. Glenn Alteen, the program director, is one of the founding members of Grunt hence a large part of how it has kept true to its roots, so to speak, as other artist run centers in Vancouver have adopted more formal approaches to gallery operations. From a small storefront with a simple mission to a mid-sized, multidisciplinary arts organization, the Gallery contains a white walled show space, a new “Media Lab”, as well as operator office space and a kitchen.

With about 30 active years as a gallery focused on local art Grunt has an extensive archival program and through the development of their new media lab, they work to digitize this history to make it accessible via their website. Along with their online archiving they also promote and facilitate events and projects such as artist talks, their digital archive project and the Blue Cabin project which I am involved in.

The Grunt Gallery has established mechanical structure for processes regarding artists and curatorial submissions, events and community projects. Grunt accepts submissions through email, with a page on their website ([www.grunt.ca](http://www.grunt.ca)) providing a detailed description of what they can provide as well as what you need to bring to the table if you are submitting. The Gallery’s programming includes visual and media art exhibitions, installations, screenings, performances and projects. Deadline for submissions is July 15 every year and instead of a single curator there is a committee consisting of curators, programming staff, board members and artists. Upon acceptance the gallery provides you with a budget (outlined on the Website). The Gallery board produces an annual report each year outlining achievements and future areas of focus as well as a financial summary detailing where money is coming from and where it’s going. This team effort seems to keep it

Grunt has a cool thing going on. As an artist or arts professional it’s an ideal organization for art involved in social issues, experimental shows and programs and projects involving community. They are invested in history as much as the future of art in Vancouver and have a lot of resources available to the public should you be so curious.

