

## Artist's Bio

Morrison Lyman is a Chicago artist, performer, and photographer, and teacher. Raised in a small Midwestern farm community by a single mother artist, Morrison was taught the value and necessity of self-expression at a very early age. She has since developed this need to express into art that comments on and explores such issues as gender, body image, class, relationships, and fractured identity.

Morrison's photography and sculpture pieces have been shown throughout Chicago for 4 years. Her artwork has also been showcased in both Indiana and Oregon. She was fortunate to have worked with photographers James Nakagawa and Jeff Wolin while completing her B.F.A in photography at Indiana University. In addition to participating in organized exhibits, Morrison enjoys showing her work alternatively, bringing it out of the gallery and into the streets.

As a 3 year member of the Chicago Kings drag king troupe, Morrison has performed in drag acts throughout Chicago, and has traveled with the troupe to perform as far away as Washington DC and Minneapolis. Her gender-bending acts have expanded to include different types of performance art on the stage. Morrison also trained with the stiltwalker G. Scott Brown, and performed puppetry and circus arts with Chicago's own Redmoon Theater. Morrison has been involved in many movement-inspired performance art pieces, based on her training in Capoeira (a Brazilian martial-art/ dance movement form), Butoh (an ancient Japanese movement style), and hip-hop dance. Some places/ events she's performed in include: Tic Toc Performance Art festival, the Junk Show, Rachel Thorne Germond's production of 10 Marilyns, the International Drag King Conference, GenderPac, and LinkUp.

As a teacher, she has taught various photography classes and workshops to youth and adults alike, puppetry and theater arts to youth, and English as a Second Language to adults.

Morrison is a member of the Chicago queer scene as an activist, an advocate, a community contributor, and a recognized artist. Her growing interest in social justice and social change led her to the Americorps program Public Allies, where she is now a class member.