



**Dick Averns, *Liberty Avenue... Ambivalence Blvd – Feel the Bern*, 2016**

Digital print from video still: performance art at Bernie Sanders' "A Future to Believe In" rally for NY Presidential Primary Election. Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY. Collection of the artist.



**Dick Avern, *Ambivalence Blvd... United We Stand* (installation detail), 2001-2016**

Digital print from E-6: performance art in response to 9/11. Subway Stn, New York City. T-Shirt purchased outside The Bern's rally, April 2016. Reverse of shirt is blank. Collection of the artist.





**Dick Averns, *Ambivalence Blvd... Trump Road Show* (installation detail), 2016**

Digital print from DSLR. Performance art outside “Trump Make America Great Again!” rally for NY Presidential Primary Election. Syracuse, NY. T-Shirt purchased outside The Donald’s rally, April 2016. Reverse of shirt reads “Trump That Bitch.” Collection of the artist.

### Artist Statement

*Ambivalence Blvd* navigates access to contested political and societal territories. Not just a mobile street sign but state of mind, *Ambivalence Blvd* is promenaded, installed and screened throughout the public domain, lending itself to redirecting the thoughts and feelings of passing audiences.

Rooted in contested values or worth, ambivalence is variously misconstrued as indecision, ambiguity or even worse, apathy. But at its core is engagement with oppositional thoughts or feelings in one mind or body, toward another body or situation: a potential means for negotiation and reconciliation. Conceived in 1999 *Ambivalence Blvd* was first installed as public art in 2000, thence performed in NYC shortly after 9/11.

Both humorous yet serious, *Ambivalence Blvd* has an international track record including the 2016 US Presidential Primary in NY, 2010 G8 summit, parliament buildings, embassies, Buckingham Palace, and multiple screenings. Notable exhibitions include solo shows at the Art Gallery of Calgary and Vernon Public Art Gallery, and group projects including *Art and Activism* at YYZ and *The Brick and Mortar International Film and Video Festival* curated by Denise Markonish.

*Ambivalence Blvd* appears in the major publication *Made in Calgary: An Exploration of Art from 1960 to the 2000s*, published this spring by the Glenbow Museum. Akimbo TV is airing selected performative vignettes, uploaded throughout 2016.