**PROFILE OF ARTIST**

MARICEL PARAJE

Painter, Sculptor. She is a versatile artist, using all kinds of materials that she finds around her. Experimented with lines and colours from an early age and taught herself how to paint.

Maricel Paraje was born in Cordoba, Argentina, on August 15th 1977 but soon after moved to Mendoza. Here she attended the School of Architecture at Mendoza University, but left her studies after three years because at the same time she worked in Buenos Aires as a model and a co-host on TV and radio. She settle in Bs. As. As. And there attended Theatre school and took part in several performances.

She spent most of her free time visiting museums and galleries and that inspired her to begin painting. Still architecture affected her art: her first paintings were strongly influenced by her background in technical drawing and were characterized by the use of lines and squares.

After several journeys to Europe, she left Argentina and moved to Italy. She attended various painting courses which focused on the human body, which enabled her to get rid of the geometry and straight lines that were at the core of her paintings. She dedicated herself to experimentation.

She created many private exhibitions in Sardinia but her enthusiasm dropped when she realized that in Sardinia the interest in art and its expressions, especially in contemporary art, was quite low. She stopped painting for a few months until she realised that she couldn’t fight against her nature and went back to her brushes. It was only in 2009 that she decided to introduce her art to the rest of the world.

Her own romantic and existential path along with painting lead her to start using many different forms of thematic expression: from watercolours, oil, to acrylic, from wood sculptures to her latest creations using ceramic and recycling materials, from drawing to writing, to the creation of common use objects such as chairs, lamps and bags.

Throughout this time she worked as an interior designer and created works of art for many shops and restaurants in Olbia, also contributing a poem for the book *'Chinese Horoscope 2009"* written by the argentine writer Ludovic Squirrou. She meet an artistic group called *“sick of”* and they started to create many performances, visuals and a little show in the Olbia street - she worked as a painter, an actress, a production designer, assistant director and assistant costume designer.

Maricel takes part in various contests and exhibits in many art galleries in Sardinia, Rome, Milan and London. At present she lives and works in Olbia, Sardinia (Italy).

**HER WORKS**

***2007 “*THE CHANGE IS IN THE SEARCH*”:*** she expresses much of her life in this exhibition: different expression types, feelings, shapes and colours; everything can be transformed, even unknown things. The power of alchemy exists in every one of us. Everything is within our reach to be used, just give it a shape, **arricchirlo col** colour, give them a meaning. The truth is in our hands. Nothing is a lie, all may be the truth.

An exhibition that expresses her whimsical exuberance of life, offering a positive message and enthusiasm: *"everyone has the opportunity to shape their lives and realize their universe has provided optimism and sincerity of heart."*

Several forms of thematic expression: watercolor, oil, acrylic, wood sculpture, drawing, collage and objects of common use such as chairs, lamps and bags. She applies the use of all these techniques to best represent the different situations that she was going through.

***2008 “FLYING LETTERS”:*** A detailed exhibition with a clear goal, she did not paint moments from her personal life, she realised that her feelings are trapped between the fragments of the canvas and that making money from feelings quite difficult, so she portrayed celebrities and unknown people, united by language and words.

***2009 “HANDS”:*** She came back from her travels in India stimulated by the colours, the depth in the eyes of people, worn hands, the strength and constancy of their wrinkles inspired her to create *"hands".* Several hands working, offering, seeking, struggling day after day to achieve their goals. Acrylic on wood, large and a lot of colour.

***2010 “PORTRAITS”:*** Painting the faces of famous people is a complex challenge. You can't make mistakes portraying a known face. Facing the soul of the person, capturing the real expression, the essence is a challenge. All subjects are realised by hand, and represent informal expressions expressing moods, emotions and conceptual meanings, or simply shapes and forms whose technique is the only editing concern of the artist. Colour is not present on her canvases; she prefers using black and white as the main source of expression. Objects such as newspaper, cloth and common use object used by her leave her own personal touch.

***2011 “AUTHOR’S PRESENCE”:*** Represents Maricel Paraje’s love of certain people from the world of art and entertainment from the twentieth century.Most of the artists represented are no longer living, but for the Argentinian artist it’s as if they had never gone from this life. Together they create an imaginary reality to which they can escape to on a daily basis. She takes her *"friends"* with her whom she collates with during the day. By redesigning their faces she feels alive, exchanging concepts with them provides stimulus and keeps her artistic fire burning.

One of the aims of this exhibition is to demonstrate how uniting various forms of representation can recreate the chaos of modern life. Man doesn’t have time to stop, reflect and express the world around him using only a brush. With today’s hectic pace, will man forget his past? This unknown is what most worries the Argentinian artist.

She continues to predominantly use white and black colours, but has started to add other colours to her canvases. The faces have an elongated look and she also inserts other materials such as fabric, paper and many other objects, as can be noticed in her other exhibitions. Her sculptures are made using recycled and ceramic materials. In this show you can see the multi-faceted artist, in addition to the paintings and sculptures she experiments with the mapping of the exhibition space together with the help of “Punkomat Project”, 3-D objects, lights, and sounds that come from the paintings to best represent the personages that she creates.

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**1995**

- She has her diploma at Institute **“Virgen del Carmen de Cuyo”,** Mendoza, Argentina.

- She studies at the “**University of Architecture in Mendoza”.**

**1998**

- Host for the tv show **“Charming”** by Gabriel Cansi and Estella Martin on a local tv in Mendoza.

- At the end of 1998 she moved to Buenos Aires to co-host **“El Rayo”.**

- She worked in Buenos Aires as model for **“Dotto Models”** agency.

**2000**

- Co-host on the radio show **“Freak“** with Hoby Defino.

- She started to write the book **“Nothing is a lie”**, a personal and introspective diary on her life experiences and the human existence.

- She began to student at school of theatre.

- She realized a small partecipation as actress on a tv show called ”**Summer 97”** in Buenos Aires and she began two new proyect, for the theater an for tv.

**2002**

- First body painting training course, Cervia, Italy.

**2003**

- The second training course, with different painting thecniques, Milano Marittima, Italy.

**2005**

- She worked as interior designer for the famous **“Country Club”** disco, summer and winter season. Porto Rotondo, Sardinia.

**2006**

- designer and director of **“Kargo Design”** Porto Rotondo. (or Design and layout for Kargo Design)

**2007**

- First private exhibition “**The variations is in the resarch”** kargo Design.

- Construction designer **“M Club”** Porto Rotondo.

- Construction designer **“75”,** olbia. (Or Interior Design)

- Bathrooms interior designer **“Hotel Martini”** Olbia.

**2008**

- Second private exhibition **“letters flying”** Kargo Design

- Participation at the competition **“terna prize’ 08”**.

**2009**

- Under my nick “ snake”, she wrote on the book **“Horoscopo Chino 2009”,** the great argentinian writer Ludovica Squirrou.

- designer of “**Alcadia**” clothes shop, Olbia.

- May 2009; art exhibition at “**Harry’s bar”** Porto Rotondo.

- June 18, 2009; event **“First exhibitions of the art”** at Kargo Design, organized by Maria Teo Filatto and Maricel. Eleven artist, photographers, ceramists, sculptors, designer, architects all togheter to show their own creations.

- July 15, 2009; permanent summer exhibition of the new collection **”Hand”** Hotel Baja, Cannigione, Sardenia.

**2010**

- Private show **“Portraits”** at the HotelMercure, Olbia.

- Several artistic performances on the Olbia’s street titled **“Sick of”** a little artist group.

- Participation at the competition **“Celeste Prize’ 10”** Italy.

- Participation at the competition **“Terna Prize’ 10”** Italy.

- September 27 - October 9: collective show **“Co-existence”**, at the Rosso Cinabro Gallery, Roma.

- Participation at the competition **“3RD Ward”,** London

**2011**

- Collective show **“Arte sui Navigli”,** Il Borgo Gallery, Milano.

- Takes up her theatre studies and participates in **"short"** and **"the feast of women”** by Euripide.

- Participation at the competition **“Artist Wanted”,** London.

- Collective show at the **“Brick Lane Gallery” -**15-28 March, London.

- Private exhibition **“Authors’s presence”** Museo Archeologico di Olbia, - 1-28 August, Sardinia.