

## Margarida Sardinha Bio

Margarida Sardinha is an independent artist & director born in Lisbon, Portugal - 1978, who studied, lived and worked in London for ten years. She attended Fine Art Combined Media studies at Central Saint Martins College of Art and at Chelsea College of Art and Design. Her cross-media practice comprises site-specific installation, experimental film and animation, performance, text, sound, video, photography and symbolic study drawings, which are by definition geometric-kinetic and abstract neoformalist works. Their main focus is the conceptuality of geometrical optical illusions a propos the spiritual in art, thus, making concept parallels within literature, philosophy, comparative religion, science, film and art. Using these perceptions she searches for spiritual/psychological stages of consciousness and relates them with cycles of individual or universal growth. She re-accesses the deconstruction of dogmas from a geometric-archetypal stand in which the relation between immutability and mutability is constantly challenged and reviewed through dynamic symmetry. Archetypal geometry, relative symmetries, symbology and colour being the basis of the work are explored in a semiotically liminocentric process of building, photographing and animating these "signs" that are understood as imprinted/innate forms of consciousness which enable us to see, hear and speak aesthetically, emotionally, logically, spiritually and politically.

Hence, her work exposes the metaphysical concern with religion and how it can be conveyed in a global consumerist, post-Nietzschean and post-Marxist society thus reflecting analogically but not arithmetically upon the fractal progression of geometric symbols recursively complementary to much of worldwide science, communications and human behaviour. She conveys the illusionary duality of dogma and change by exploring the mind generated relationship between "sign" and "symbol" through constant repetition, thus mapping a hyperaxis mental "atemporal line" based on the treatise of optics and prosody which reflect psychokinetic ideas regarding consciousness at any given period. By translating the emotional potential of human essence and making it an equivalent with the concepts of symbolic cognition, sensorial and mental projection – epiphenomenon – she attempts to explain the irrepressible tendency of the mind to assemble random and manmade marks and translate these into intelligible data. These "mind lines" hyperaxis oscillate between the atemporal-divine and temporal-human founded on memory and belief where the perceptions acquired by the five senses become meta-impressions when worked upon by the faculty of imagination, thus being incidental self-referential images which become the mirror of proto-intellectual knowledge. Illusion being the result of the interaction between instinct, perception and thought while knowledge derives from its deconstruction is hence rendered as a poetic-symbolic-continuums formed by the emergence of an "acausal" unconsciously hermetic and/or mystical consciousness. She thus introduces different streams of consciousness and perspectives, which are inherent in each person centred on individual and collective cultural interpretations in a variety of illusionary and paradoxical liminocentric modules. They reveal the polarised schisms intrinsic to the assimilation and accommodation of the conscious and unconscious human physical behaviour and its mental maturity; this dialectical, spiritual and religious dichotomy of consciousness versus unconscious describes an incidental synchronistic movement towards unification and integration of all interior selves that seem directed for aleatoric dispersal and still they inevitably connect as a whole.

### Main artistic, conceptual & spiritual influences

Art - John Latham, LeWitt, Turrell, Howard Hodgkin, Joseph Kosuth, Kapoor, Tacita Dean, Rovner, Mondrian, Kandinsky, Klee, Matisse, Spencer Finch, Ellsworth Kelly  
Film & Video - Terrence Malick, Godard, Kubrick, Oskar Fischinger, Everett Smith, James & John Whitney, Bill Viola, Nam June Paik, Stan Braukage, Tarkosvki, Pipiloti Rist  
Literature - Fernando Pessoa, Virginia Woolf, Marcel Proust, Goethe, W. B. Yeats, Italo Calvino, Albert Camus, J. L. Borges, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Umberto Eco  
Philosophy - Plato, Kant, Henri Bergson, Theodor Adorno, Carl Jung, Roland Barthes, Gilles Deleuze  
Science - Euclid, Einstein, Isaac Newton, Matila Ghyka, Benoit Mandelbrot, Keith Critchlow, Henri Poincaré, Roger Penrose, Douglas Hofstadter  
Religion - (besides various sacred scriptures) Robert Fludd, Ananda Coomaraswamy, Sri Aurobindo, J. Krishnamurti, Rudolf Steiner, Shri Ramakrishna, Sri Shankaracharya

## Margarida Sardinha Résumé

Margarida Sardinha is the director of Master Mercy Matrix (2013), London Memory multi+city (2013) and HyperLightness ad absurdum (2011) experimental film that won the laurels of Best Experimental Film at the Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival, Great Lakes Film Festival, Creative Arts Film Festival & Bridge Fest (Vancouver) and Best Spiritual & Religious Film at the Directors Circle Film Festival; it further won an Honourable Mention at the 23<sup>rd</sup> New Orleans Film Festival and the Awards of Merit by the Lucerne International Film Festival, The Indie, The Accolade and Rochester International Film Festival. The film was 2012 Official Selection of over 20 film festivals worldwide such as: Revelation Perth International Film Festival, San Francisco Frozen Film Festival (nominated for Best Experimental Film), 10<sup>th</sup> In the Palace International Short Film Festival, Take Two Film Festival in New York, MIA@TheArmory, Beam Festival, 5<sup>th</sup> Columbia Gorge International Film Festival, MIX on Transmedia Writing and Digital Creativity, 7<sup>th</sup> International Streaming Festival, Denver Underground Film Festival, New Jersey Film Festival, Rockland Shorts International Series, Gold Lion Film Festival, Magmart Film & Video Festival... She has also exhibited her site-specific installation work both in museums, galleries and biennales in London, Lisbon and New York with the most important being: the solo show "Darkness Reflexions" at the Fernando Pessoa Museum comprising three site-specific installations "As Above, so Below...", "The Gods have not died...", "Darkness Reflexions" and "Darkness Reflexions Sketchbook" an 80 page exhibition catalogue; selected for "Pan-Demonium" at AC Institute [Direct Chapel] with "HyperSelf Light Dance"; selected for Red Bull Music Academy Showcase with "They had a whole army sitting on their door step (...) Gil Vicente and "I detest your views but am prepared to die for your right to express them (Voltaire)"; selected for Bienal Jovens Valoures 2009 at Galeria Vieira da Silva with "The Master". Margarida was also one of the founders of the London based art group pARTart and the curator of the group's exhibition "London Recycled" at the Menier Chocolate Factory comprising 22 new works by the group's artists comprising ten diverse artistic disciplines and eleven different background nationalities exploring London's multiculturalism and multidisciplinary pluralism; through the show and its collateral promotional and fundraising events where she performed Vjing at several London's East End venues along with the performances of invited emerging music bands and other members of the group live pieces, she created over one year the necessary conditions for these artists to produce new work re-accessing their respective individual cyclic experience of London's living making it a collective mirror of the city's arts scenery. She won the Prize of Jovens Criadores (Young Creators Prize) awarded by the Portuguese Cultural Ministry and the Grupo Artes e Ideias in 1999.

## Margarida Sardinha CV

Estrada Nacional 8 no.15 Carrascal  
2665-009 Azueira - Portugal  
www.margaridasardinha.com

Born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1978 in Lisbon - Portugal

Chelsea College of Art and Design

1997-2000 – BA Honours Degree in Fine Art Media, London - United Kingdom

L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Cergy

1999 January-April – Academic Exchange Program in Paris - France

Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design

1996-1997 – Foundation Course with Merit (BTEC), London - United Kingdom

Personal tuition in Art History and Fine Art Practice

by Professor Fernando Corte-Real, 1991-1996 Torres Vedras - Portugal

### Filmography with Festivals Screenings & Awards

HyperLightness ad absurdum – Experimental short film animation – 2011

#### 2012 Official Selection

Winner of Best Experimental Film, Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival, Hollywood, USA

Winner of Best Religious & Spiritual Film, Directors Circle Short Film Festival, USA

Winner of Best Experimental Film, Great Lakes Film Festival, Erie, USA

Winner of Best Experimental Film, Creative Arts Film Festival, USA

Winner of Best Experimental Film, Bridge Fest, Vancouver, Canada

Winner of Honourable Mention, 23<sup>rd</sup> New Orleans Film Festival, USA

Award of Merit Lucerne International Film Festival, Lucerne, Switzerland

Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Perth, Australia

San Francisco Frozen Film Festival, San Francisco CA, USA

7<sup>th</sup> International Streaming Festival, Hague, Holland

10<sup>th</sup> In the Palace International Short Film Festival, Varna, Bulgaria

Take Two by Salon du Ciel in New York NY, USA

MIA@TheArmory, Pasadena, CA, USA

Beam Festival, London, United Kingdom

5<sup>th</sup> Columbia Gorge International Film Festival, Vancouver, USA

MIX Open Call on Transmedia Writing and Digital Creativity, Corsham, United Kingdom

Denver Underground Film Festival, Denver, USA

New Jersey Film Festival, New Jersey, USA

VMS Short Film Channel Broadcast Nominated Best Short Film of 2012, USA

IndieFlix Marketplace, Seattle, USA

Rockland Shorts, Rockland, USA

Gold Lion Film Festival, Manzini, Swaziland

Magmart Film & Video Festival in Naples, Italy

Indie Award of Merit Winner in La Jolla CA, USA

Accolade Award of Merit Winner in CA, USA

Merit Certificate from Rochester International Film Festival NY, USA

### Solo or individually organised Exhibitions and respective works

London Memory

“London Memory” \*digital animation and installation

2009 – Galeria Pedro Serrenho - Lisbon - Portugal

London Recycled

Curator of the exhibition comprising new works by 22 London based artists from different artistic disciplines and nationalities exploring London's multiculturalism and multidisciplinary pluralism

“Decoded Consciousness” \*projection of a digital animation

“Coded Consciousness” (documentation) \*digital animation

2004 – The Menier Chocolate Factory - London - United Kingdom

Darkness Reflexions

“As Above, so Below...” \*site-specific installation

“The Gods have not died...” \*site-specific 3D photographic installation

“Darkness Reflexions” \*installation with four slide projection animations

“Darkness Reflexions Sketchbook” \*80 page exhibition catalogue

2003 – Casa Museu Fernando Pessoa - Lisbon – Portugal

## Selected Group Exhibitions, Awards and respective works

“The Master” \*digital animation

2010 – Bienal Jovens Valoures 2009 (Young Values Biennale), Galeria Vieira da Silva - Loures - Portugal

“HyperSelf Light Dance” \*digital animation

2009 – Pan-Demonium, AC Institute [Direct Chapel]

Show curated by Bricolage Kitchen aka Gillian Whiteley - New York - United States

2004 – Vjing at several East London venues promoting the partArt Artist’s Collective and the London Recycled exhibition  
London, United Kingdom

“Coded Consciousness” \*digital animation projection installation

2003 – SPACE Studios OPEN, The Triangle - London - United Kingdom

“They had a whole army sitting on their door step (...) Gil Vicente and “I detest your views but am prepared to die for your right to express them (Voltaire)” \*site-specific light installation

2002 – Red Bull Music Academy Showcase, Bethnal Green Town Hall

Exhibition curated by Mei Hui Liu

2001 – Artists in Exile, Riverside Studios

Exhibition supported by the Arts Council on the National Refugee Week - London - United Kingdom

“Kaleidoscopic View” \*photographic site-specific windows installation

2001 – Network A.D.

Candid Arts Trust Gallery - London - United Kingdom

“Picking up the Stars...” \*live performance with light balloons

2000 – e-show, e-Loft - London - United Kingdom

“Enchanted Column” \*site-specific light installation

2000 – Frame

Candid Arts Trust Gallery - London - United Kingdom

“Feed Me...” \*two hour duo live performance with Astrid Powlovski

2000 – Feed Me..., Saint Bar - London - United Kingdom

“Stand on My Shoes, See Things as I See Them...” \* windows site-specific photographic installation

“I Am Gonna Get You! and You’ll Never Reach Me!” \*live and video projection performance

2000 – Chelsea College of Art and Design Degree Show - London - United Kingdom

“Projected Movement” \*light installation

1999 – Winner of Jovens Criadores 1999 (Young Creators Prize)

Prize Awarded by the Portuguese Cultural Ministry and the Grupo Artes e Ideias - Braga - Portugal

## Official Distributers

Collectif du Jeune Cinema - [www.cjcinema.org](http://www.cjcinema.org)

Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre - [www.cfmhc.org](http://www.cfmhc.org)

## Selected Publications and Reviews

HyperLightness ad absurdum Interview - 2012

Part I - <http://pioneerproductions.blogspot.pt/2012/03/exloring-hyperlightness-ad-absurdum.html>

Part II - <http://pioneerproductions.blogspot.pt/2012/03/dialogue-with-margarida-sandina-on.html>

Part III - <http://pioneerproductions.blogspot.pt/2012/03/dialogue-with-margarida-sardinha-on.html>

HyperLightness ad absurdum – Trailer

<http://www.imdb.com/video/wab/vi1053269529/>

<http://www.magmart.it/videos.php?i=757>

*Ten Minutes with Artist Philosopher Margarida Sardinha* - 2011

<http://pioneerproductions.blogspot.pt/2010/12/tenminutes-with-artist-philosopher.html>

*Catalogue of London Recycled Exhibition* curated by Margarida Sardinha and organized by partArt Artist’s Collective founded by Margarida Sardinha and Celina Blaisse, November 2004

*Darkness Reflexions Sketchbook* by Margarida Sardinha – 2003, published by Casa Museu Fernando Pessoa and Câmara Municipal de Lisboa, 2003 – ISBN 972-8323-26-3

*Review in Progress* in mAGAZINE Artes, Issue no.13 – December 2003