

# María Jose Arceo + Artistic Dossier

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## + Contact

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## + Bio

Maria José Arceo was born in Santiago de Compostela, Spain and moved to London in 1984, where she graduated with BA honours in Fine Art from Camberwell Art School and later with a Postgraduate in Art and Design Education from Goldsmith University.

Permanently based in London, this Spanish artist uses installation, sculpture, photography, and film, to explore close interactions between human manipulation of the natural world and nature's response to these interferences.

From the early stages of her career, Maria's work has shown strong links with both her childhood fascination for archaeology and oceanography. Her passion for water led her to seek human footprints on all kinds of aquatic environments. In one of her first body of works, she used salt crystals to highlight the problems of human-induced desertification and, in particular, the disappearance of the Aral Sea in Central Asia.

In 1994, after participating in a group exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall in London, the artist suffered a traumatic spinal accident and had to undergo treatment of severe physical therapy to regain full use of her legs. Her first solo exhibition entitled 'Circuitous' maps her recovery process and took place in the studio of artist Robyn Denny in London (2007).

Since then, she has participated in numerous art exhibitions, film fairs and festivals. She has also collaborated with architects and scientists in environmental projects related to water. Among these: 'Biomimicry - coral reef ecoMachines \_World Incubators' with ecoLogicStudio and the AA (Architects Association), in Dubai. 'Empooling Landscapes', with the University of East London explored the effects of salt on different construction materials regarding proposals for the design and construction of various structures within the salt marshes of Coto Doña Ana National Park, in Andalusia, Spain.

Beachcombing and mudlarking the Thames for links to past and future, has led her to a new found obsession with the long-term impacts of plastic debris entering both fluvial and marine environments. Her latest line of work utilises discarded plastic objects collected from various locations in the Thames. Her sculptures with these plastics are virtual 'Time capsules' preserved and displayed as visual evidence of the long-term properties of these polymers.

In the middle of 2014 Maria was invited to participate in Gustav Metzger's 'Facing Extinction Conference' at Farnham University, as guest speaker on the 'Global Systems: Food and Water Panel' and as the spokesperson for the ' Biodiversity Panel'. The conference was followed by an interactive exhibition at the Herbert Reed Gallery in Canterbury with an open inaugural speech by Maria, culminating in a two day Marathon of talks at the Serpentine Gallery: 'Gustav Metzger: Remember Nature'.

Later on the same year (November 2014), she was invited to join an international group of 14 women as artist in residence, to cross the Atlantic in a 22-meter sailing research vessel. The purpose of the trip was to collect samples with a trawl net and to investigate the presence of microplastic contaminants on the water's surface. These were first analysed on board and then shared to a wide range of international research projects such as The Marine Litter Watch (UN Environmental Agency); A Safe Planet Campaign (UNEP); Phytoplankton Secchi Disk Project (Plymouth University); Marine Environmental Research Institute MERI (Maine USA); MTM Research Centre (Örebro University, Sweden).

At present, Maria is working on various creative responses derived from these experiences, while continuing her research and artistic production in relation to the long lasting properties of these discarded polymers. She is also working on some large-scale sculptural installations involving wider interaction with the public and cross-curricular collaborations.

## + Qualifications

\_2000 – 2001

### **POST GRADUATE COURSE ART & DESIGN**

Education  
GOLDSMITH UNIVERSITY  
New Cross  
London SE14 6NW

London SE5 8UF

\_1988 – 1989

### **FOUNDATION COURSE CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ART**

Peckham Road,  
London SE5 8UF

\_1989 – 1992

### **BA HONS. FINE ART CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ART**

Peckham Road,

## + Work & Academic Placements

\_2014

### **EXPEDITION\_ ATLANTIC ODDYSSEY**

Artist In Residence  
Sailing on Board Scientific Vessel Sea Dragon  
14 women sampling the Atlantic Ocean for  
Microplastics  
Lanzarote to Martinique

London SE5  
Artist in Residence

\_1999 – 2000

### **HAYWARD GALLERY**

South Bank, London  
Assistant

### **SUSTAINABLE BRANDS CONFERENCE**

Installation & Workshop  
Lancaster Hotel  
London

\_1993 – 1998

### **DEPO – ART SPACE**

Clapham Old Town  
London

### **GUSTAV METZGER**

Facing Extinction Conference  
UCA Farnham  
Guest Speaker & Chair

\_2009 – 2010

### **AA ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION**

London WC1 B  
Visiting Lecturer /Collaborating Artist  
AA Inter 10 Unit\_EcologicStudio

\_2006

### **UEL UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON**

Visiting Lecturer /Collaborating Artist  
'Empooling Landscapes'\_Jan Liebe & Hilda  
Cebrian Architects

\_2001 – 2007

### **AMR TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE**

## + Exhibitions & Events

\_2016

### **POLYMERS ARE FOREVER**

Specious Extropy  
Group Show curated by Jack Parrot  
Salisbury Art Centre  
Salisbury

\_2015

### **PLASTIC SEAS**

ARTCOP21 + SpainNOW  
Screening, performance and Cancer Research  
Fundraising  
The Hospital Club  
London

### **FESTIVAL MAR DE MARES**

Somos Mar  
Group Show  
A Coruña  
Galicia

### **EAN V – 5<sup>TH</sup> ENCOUNTER OF EMERGING ARTISTS**

Cidade da Cultura de Galicia  
Curated by Rafael Doctor  
Santiago de Compostela  
Galicia

### **POLYMERS ARE FOREVER**

Specious Extropy  
gallerELL NY  
Group Show curated by Jack Parrot  
Online

### **LA BIENNALE di VENEZIA 56**

The Fall of Rebel Angels  
Group Show curated by Vanya Balogh  
Riva Dei Sette Martiri  
Venice

### **LUBOMIROV-EASTON**

Limited Editions (LED)  
Group Show  
Deptford  
London

\_2014

### **EXXPEDITION\_ ATLANTIC ODDYSSEY**

Artist In Residence  
Sailing onboard Scientific Vessel Sea Dragon  
14 women sampling the Atlantic Ocean for  
Microplastics  
Lanzarote to Martinique

### **SUSTAINABLE BRANDS CONFERENCE**

Installation Workshop  
Lancaster Hotel  
London

### **BIG DEAL MARVELLOUS MIX-UPS X1**

Group Show  
Loud & Western, Fulham  
London

### **LINE & VALUE PART ONE**

Group Show curated by Cedric Christie  
Updown Gallery  
Ramsgate

### **A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT#1**

CUBIC Installation  
Canary Wharf, London

### **CHINESE OPEN – YEAR OF THE HORSE**

Group Show  
Q Park, Chinatown  
London

\_2013

### **VITIS VINIFERA**

Group Show Aleksic & Mortimer  
London

### **SpainNOW!**

Open Studio  
London

### **BIG DEAL No.5**

Group Show – Frieze Fringe  
Q Park, Cavendish Square  
London

**CHINESE OPEN – YEAR OF THE SNAKE**

Group Show  
Q Park, Chinatown  
London

\_2012

**EL TREN BLINDADO –  
Y LA ERA PARIENDO UN CORAZON**

Video artwork  
Group Show curated by David Brock & Vanya Balogh  
Espacio de Proyectos Sant Pere  
SCREEN Barcelona Loop Festival  
Barcelona

\_2011

**EMERGENCE OF CHAOS**

**SEXY 100**

Group Show curated by STIMULUS  
8-9 Spring Place  
Kentish Town  
London

**ENTELECHIA**

CGP Summer OPEN  
Group Show  
London

**THE FUGITIVE FUTURIST**

Video artwork  
Group Show RE-LOOP Edinburgh Fringe  
Festival  
Edinburgh

**THE FUGITIVE FUTURIST**

Video artwork  
Group Show LOOP FESTIVAL  
Espacio de Proyectos Sant Pere  
Barcelona

**CONCRETUM-ANAMNESIS  
AND METAMORPHIC STEPS**

Group Show Installation  
Dilston Grove CGP Gallery  
London

**THE WORLD DUBAI MARINELIFE**

**INCUBATORS**

Book Launch/ecoMachines  
Collaboration with ecoLogicStudio architects  
M. Poletto & C. Pasquero  
AA Architects Association

\_2010

**SPECIOUS EXTROPY & THAMES WALK**

Video artwork Sculpture  
Group Show  
London

\_2009

**DUBAI MARINE LIFE INCUBATORS**

Installation & Roundtable Debate  
Collaboration with EcologicStudio architects &  
AA Inter 10  
Shelter Gallery  
Dubai

\_2007

**CIRCUITOUS**

Solo show  
Robyn Denny's Studio SE1  
London

\_2000

**ALETAS**

Installation  
Praia de Foxos  
Pontevedra

\_1999

**CONFRONTING FEAR**

Installation  
Decima Art Space, SE1  
London

\_1994

**DESDE LONDRES**

Joint Exhibition  
Royal Festival Hall  
London

\_1993

**FACES**

Photographic Installation  
Crouch End Arts School.  
Collaboration with Nick Wall  
London

\_1992

**METRO**

Photographic Installation  
OLIMPIADA CULTURAL Barcelona  
Collaboration with MRJ Rundell  
Sponsored by CANON,  
VISA Card, T.M.B. Metro Barcelona  
& The British council  
Barcelona

\_1991

**BERLIN WALL INSTALLATION**

Comission by Mckinsey & co  
St James Street  
London

\_1990

**VISTAS**

Installation  
BARCELONA BIENALE "Primavera Fotografica"  
Collaboration with MRJ Rundell  
Sponsored by CANON & the British Council  
Barcelona

**VISTAS**

Traveling Installation  
Collaboration with MRJ Rundell.  
Finisterra (Spain), Santiago de Compostela  
(Spain), Valenza do Minho (Portugal),  
Ebora (Portugal), Sevilla (Spain),  
Ronda (Spain), Barcelona (Spain)

**ARMAZON**

Performance Installation  
Camberwell SW4  
London

**ARMAZON**

Permanent Installation  
Jordan Grand Prix Headquarters  
Silverston