

MARY ABMA

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CANADA

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RELATED SKILLS

Educator, Speaker, Art Education and Community
Art Consultant
BA, BEd (University of Western ON, 1985/86),
OTC, OCT

RECENT EDUCATION: COURSES / CLASSES

- 2021** July 23: *Pinhole Photography and Caffenol Workshop*, Melanie King
- 2020** Dec. 12: *Photoshop Expanded Skills & Tools for Printmakers*, Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists (SNAP)
- 2020** August: *InDesign for Printmakers*, SNAP
- 2020** Sept. 17: *Get Exposed to Cyanotypes!* Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2022** July 11-22: *Symbiosis*, Ayatana Research Residency Online
- 2021** July 5-16: *Swarm*, Ayatana Research Residency Online
- 2020** August 17-28: *Biophilia*, Ayatana Research Residency Online
- 2020** July 6-17: *Germinate*, Ayatana Research Residency Online,

BIO

Profile: Bright's Grove, Ontario resident Mary Abma is a science-based, transdisciplinary artist whose laboratories range from her yard in suburbia to the streets and forests of larger, diverse communities we inhabit and construct. Through the lens of her work, she offers points of entry into the ecosystems that weave all living beings together and sustain life. She acknowledges human destructiveness and responds by translating the rhythms and patterns that she observes in the so-called "natural world" into works that challenge the notion of boundaries and separation. A qualified teacher, Abma specializes in facilitating community-engaged artworks.

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2017** April 28 - May 14: *Signposts and Traces: Ash Tree Memorial Trail*, Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery, Sarnia, ON
- 2014** Sept 5 - Jan 4 2015: *Our Own Back Yard*, with Lyndal Osbourne, Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery, Sarnia, ON
- 2013** July 6 - Aug. 25: *Flora and Fauna*, with Amy Swartz, Durham Art Gallery, Durham, ON
- 2013** Mar 16 - May 12: *In My Own Back Yard*, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford, ON
- 2012** Jan 6 - Feb 18: *In My Own Back Yard*, Center Art Gallery, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, USA
- 2011** Sept. 24 - Nov. 26: *In My Own Back Yard*, Redeemer University College Art Gallery, Ancaster, ON,
- 2008** Feb. 1 - March 1: *Peregrinatio*, Gallery Lambton, Sarnia, ON

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020** February: *Connexions*, Gallery in the Grove, Bright's Grove, ON
- 2014** Oct. 3 - Nov. 1: *Earth, Fire, and Water*, The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts, Sarnia, ON
- 2007** June 1-3: *A New Breed*, LovArt Gallery/Grace Brothers Gallery, Sarnia,
- 2007** September 14-30: *Tuktu Prayers*, Yellowhead Museum, Jasper, Alberta,

SELECT COMMUNITY-ENGAGED ART PROJECTS

- 2022** *Restorative Practice to Transform Patterns of Destructive Behaviour*, a team-based, multi-pronged public engagement project directed at changing abusive and toxic culture that underlies gender-based domestic violence in our community, with Women's Interval Home, Sarnia, ON
- 2022** June: *Picnic Table Project*, Community collaboration with students and seniors on the theme of diversity commissioned by the City of Sarnia
- 2021** *The Fence Project*: A multi-pronged public engagement project focusing on domestic violence for the Women's Interval Home, Sarnia, ON
- 2020** *We Live Here: Wellington Flats Mural*, an interdisciplinary investigation into place with a group of teens working with seniors from Wellington Flats (affordable housing), Vision '74, Sarnia, ON
- 2017** April 29: *Ash Tree Memorial Gathering*, Community Performance with members of Aamjiwnaang First Nation and musicians, poets, and environmentalists from Sarnia, ON, Canatara Park and Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery, Sarnia, ON

SELECT TEACHING / WORKSHOPS

2016-2022 Art Teacher, Grades 6, 7, 8, Sarnia
Christian School, Sarnia, ON

Facilitated Student Projects:

- Picnic Table Project, City of Sarnia (2022)
- We Live Here, Wellington Flats Mural, Sarnia (2020-2021)
- Outdoor Mural, Sarnia Christian School (2018-2019)
- Driftwood Mural, Sarnia Christian School (2016-2017)
- Genesis, Wall Art Assemblage, Sarnia Christian School (2016)

1995-2016 Art Class and Workshop Instructor,
Sarnia, ON

COLLEGE ART INSTRUCTOR

1997-2001 Watercolour I, II, III, IV Instructor,
Lambton College, Sarnia, ON

RELATED EXPERIENCE JUROR

2022 Jan. 7: "The Floyd Gibson
Members' Show, The Lawrence
House Centre for the Arts,
Sarnia, ON

2015 Oct. 9: Petrolia Juried Art
Show, Victoria Playhouse,
Petrolia, ON

2003 May: Lambton County
Secondary School Art
Exhibition,
Gallery Lambton, Sarnia, ON

OUTDOOR INSTALLATIONS

2017 April 29 - 2020: *Signposts and Traces: Ash Tree Memorial Trail*, Canatara
Park, Sarnia, ON

2015 June 14-21: *Ash Story*, On-site installation in Hampton Park, Ottawa.
With Peggy DeVries and Marcia Lea

PERFORMANCES

2021 Jan 9: "Ode to a Schoolyard Tree", *Be-Coming Tree Performance*, a
Global Live Art Event via Zoom

2017 April 29: *Signposts and Traces: Eulogizing the Ash Trees*, Canatara Park,
Sarnia, ON

SELECT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2022 March 20: "The Fence Project: Names Can Deeply Wound Me", *The
Lawrence House Centre for the Arts*, Sarnia, ON, with Jennifer
Vansteenkiste from the Women's Interval Home, Sarnia

2022 March 21: "The Fence Project", artist talk and presentation of
community-engaged artwork as part of the open house hosted
by The Sarnia-Lambton Alliance Against Hate and Diversity Ed,
Sarnia, ON

2021 Nov. 14: "Re-Wilding: A Way of Life", *Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship*, Sarnia

2017 April 27: "Signposts and Traces: The Lost Ash of Canatara", *Arts
and Ideas, Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery*

2015 Oct. 2: Paper Presentation: "Art-Science Collaborations in
Contemporary Art Practice – An Artist's Perspective", *Verge
Conference: Arts & Environment*, Langley, BC

2015 June 14: "Ash Stories: Tales of Loss and Mourning", *Davis Art
School*, Ottawa, ON

2013 April 21: Artist Talk with Phil Jenkins: "In My Own Back Yard",
Glenhyrst Art Gallery, Brantford, ON

2012 Feb. 3: "In My Own Back Yard", *Art Department, Calvin College*

2011 Nov. 3: Lecture: "Footprints on the Land", *Redeemer University*,
Ancaster, ON

2011 Oct. 27: "Engaging Contemporary Art in the Curriculum" *OCSTA
Teacher's Convention*, Ancaster, ON

2011 Oct. 7: Seminar: "In My Own Back Yard: Inside an Art/Science
Collaboration", *Calvin College Biology Department*, Grand
Rapids, MI

2011 April 6: "In My Own Back Yard: Inside an Art/Science
Collaboration", *Sydenham Field Naturalists*, Wallaceburg, ON