

MARY ABMA

T R A N S D I S C I P L I N A R Y A R T I S T



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www.maryabma.com

RELATED SKILLS

- Educator
- Speaker
- Art Education and Community Art Consultant

EDUCATION

- BA, BEd (University of Western ON), OTC, OCT

RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Nov 24-Dec 7.** *Grotta Artist in Residence*, Aracena, Spain
Sept 2-Oct 8. *Self-directed residency* in Western Newfoundland sponsored by Atlantic Healthy Oceans Initiative
- 2024 July 1-Aug. 26.** *Re-Wild*, Biophilium Research Residency
- 2023 Sept. 5-Oct. 15.** *Gros Morne Artist in Residence*, The Rooms and Gros Morne National Park
- 2022 July 11-22.** *Symbiosis*, Ayatana Research Residency
July 5-16. *Swarm*, Ayatana Research Residency
- 2021 August 17-28.** *Biophilia*, Ayatana Research Residency
- 2020 July 6-17.** *Germinate*, Ayatana Research Residency

BIO

Mary Abma is a science-based, transdisciplinary artist. Her laboratories range from her yard in suburbia to the world's coastlines and wrack lines. 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 the complexity of human interactions with the natural world and responds by translating the rhythms and patterns that she observes into artworks which bring that which is often overlooked and elusive into view. A qualified teacher, she specializes in facilitating community-engaged artworks.

SELECT 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
- 2008 Feb. 1 - March 1.** *Peregrinatio*, Gallery Lambton, Sarnia, ON

SELECT COMMUNITY-ENGAGED ART PROJECTS

- 2024** *Great Lakes Mural Project*, worked with 60 students in grades 6-8 and seniors to produce 6 murals for Vision Nursing Home.
- 2023** *We All Have A Story*, restorative practice embodied through mosaic making, Women's Interval Home, Sarnia, ON
- 2022 June.** *Picnic Table Project*, Community collaboration with students and seniors. Theme: 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
- 2019-2020** *We Live Here: Wellington Flats Mural*, an interdisciplinary investigation into place with a group of teens working with seniors from affordable housing, Vision '74, Sarnia, ON
- 2017 April 29.** *Ash Tree Memorial Gathering*, Community Performance with musicians, poets, and environmentalists from Sarnia, ON and Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Canatara Park and JNAAG, Sarnia, ON

TEACHING / WORKSHOPS

2025 Jan 31, Jun 6. *Restorative Practice Through Mosaic Making* Lambton Kent District School Board, PD Days for Educators

2024 Various Dates. *Restorative Practice Through Mosaic Making* Lambton Kent District School Board, PD Days for Educators

Oct. 10. *Mosaic making workshop*, Lambton County Library

Ongoing. *We All Have A Story:* workshops and community mosaic with Women's Interval Home, Sarnia

July-August. TA for Biophilium Residency, Re-Wild.

March-June. *Great Lakes Murals* workshops with students and seniors, Vision Nursing Home, Sarnia

2023 Oct. 4, 5. Lumen-making workshop with students from Bonne Bay Academy, grades 4-9, Woody Point, NL

March-December. *We All Have A Story:* workshops and community mosaic with Women's Interval Home, Sarnia

2016-2022 Facilitated Student Projects with students in grades 6-8:

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

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

COLLEGE ART INSTRUCTOR

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

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

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

SELECT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2025 June 19. *Learning Curves and Laboratories: Adventures of a Transdisciplinary Artist*, Women's Art Association of Canada (online)

2024 July 15. *Re-Lawning*, presentation at Biophilium's Re-Wild research residency

2023 May 4. *Mourning Ash*, Biophilium's Death Club for Artists

Sept. 29. Artist Talk, Galliot Studios, Woody Point, NL

2022 March 20. *The Fence Project: Names Can Deeply Wound Me*, The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts, 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

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

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

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

