

MARY ABMA

TRANSDISCIPLINARY ARTIST



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P.O. Box 188, Bright's Grove, ON



www.maryabma.com

RELATED SKILLS

- Educator
- Speaker
- Art Education and Community Art Consultant

EDUCATION

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

RESIDENCIES

- 2026 Apr 13 - 24.** *Metamorph: Biophilium Research Residency*
- 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 Sept 4 - Oct 2.** *Self-directed residency in Western Newfoundland*
- 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 65 students in grades 6-8 & seniors to produce 1 mural & 6 signs 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

- 2026** **Apr 13 - 24** *TA for Biophilium Residency: Metamorph*
- 2025** **Margins and Mosaics:** Art/Ecology retreats with naturalist, Larry Cornelis: SW Ontario
- 2025** **Jan 31** *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
- Various Dates.** *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

- 2026** **April 23.** *Plankton Parlour and other Peculiarities,* Biophilium Metamorph Online Residency
- 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. 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

