

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, 1985/86), OTC, OCT

RESIDENCIES

- 2025** **Date TBD.** *Grotta Artist in Residence*, Aracena, Spain
- 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 transdisciplinary artist whose work emerges from a synthesis of science, history, sociology and storytelling. Her laboratories range from her yard in suburbia to the world's coastlines and edge spaces. Her work evolves from her fascination with the duality of humanity's deep connection to time and place, and the collective longing to understand what exists beyond our lived experiences. By observing and translating the rhythms and patterns she observes in the natural world, her works bring the overlooked and unseen 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

2024 **Ongoing.** *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- Art Class and Workshop Instructor,

2016 Various venues, Sarnia, ON

COLLEGE ART INSTRUCTOR

1997- Watercolour I, II, III, IV Instructor,
2001 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

