

Maria Positano
Italian, B. 1995



Italian artist Maria Positano creates sculptures which reflect upon the way that we process our surroundings and experiences. She manipulates and controls materials such as bronze, clay, wood and copper, revealing their fundamental and structural core. Viewers are invited to engage with these objects both as something familiar (in their materiality) yet also uncanny (in their unexpected appearance).

Positano often uses her own body to explore its orientation in relation to the work, which is observed as a magnetic field that attracts or repels, favours performance or codifies interactions. By placing herself directly within the work she refers to the notion of the artist/maker as a shaman-like figure, physically revealing themselves, yet never quite giving everything away.

Her relationship to her own practice, to some extent, leads to self- discovery. As a result, it encourages the viewer to look both at and through the work.

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Education

2015-18 First Class BA (Hons) Fine Art, City and Guilds London Art School, London, UK

Awards

2019 Finalist, the Bankley Gallery Open Call Prize
Shortlisted, the ACS Studio Prize
Finalist, The Signature Art Prize

2018 Finalist, The Ingram Collection Purchase Prize, London, UK
Winner, The City and Guilds London Art School Sculpture Prize
Selected, the Clyde and Co Art Award Scheme
Shortlisted, the Acme City & Guilds of London Art School Studio Award
Shortlisted, the Clyde and Co Blank Canvas Award, 2018

2017 Winner of The Merlin Entertainments' Madame Tussauds Project Fund Award
Shortlisted, The Fishmongers' Company Beckwith Sculpture Scholarship and Travel Award
Shortlisted, The Idun Ravndal Travel Award
Shortlisted, the Artists' Collecting Society Award

Commissions

2018 Outdoor Mural, awarded public commission for Haringey Arts, London, UK

2017 Illustrations on paper for book publication, for Editorial Autografiá.
Outdoor Mural on wood panel, awarded public commission for Haringey Arts, London, UK

2015 Digital design for online product for Pandamonium Creative Agency, Napoli, IT
Indoor Mural 'La liberta' e' uno stato mentale' for residential area, Napoli, IT

Residencies

2019 PADA Studios. 1-month Residency, Barreiro, Portugal
RUC – Rural Residency for Contemporary Art. Short Residency, Val Camonica, Italy

2017 University. Short exchange residency in partnership with City & Guilds of London Art School. Organized by artist Helen Frik; in collaboration with Rijksmuseum Twenthe. Enschede, NL

2015 Istituto Suor Orsola Benincasa. Artist in residence at Incontri 'A scuola D'arte' Naples. Presentation of the work with following Q&A. April 2015. Naples, Italy

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Group Exhibitions

- 2020 Discoveries: The Biting Point, Fiumano Clase, London, UK
- 2019 PADA Studios end of residency exhibition, PADA Studios, Barreiro, Portugal
- Bankley Gallery Open Call Shortlist Exhibition, The Bankley Gallery & Studios, Manchester, UK
- The Feeling's Mutual, Sculpture Park, The Rectory Projects, London, UK
- ODDS, Toma Project Space, The Royals Shopping Centre, Southend, UK
- Rawlinson & Hunter, (until September 2020), London, UK
- I Tread on the steps You Left me, a two person show, The Rectory Projects, London, UK
- The Take Courage, Gallery Re – Launch Party, The Take Courage Gallery, London, UK
- The Signature Art Prize, Trinity Art Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair, London, UK
- Young Contemporary Talent Purchase Prize, The Cello Factory, London, UK
- The Clyde and Co. Art Award, Clyde and Co, London. UK
- BA Degree Show, City and Guilds London Art School, London, UK
- Dimensions, Menier Gallery, London, UK
- UNFRAMED, Arena Business Centre, London, UK
- One Need Not Be a Chamber, Exposed Art Project, London, UK
- 2016 Interim Show, The Crypt Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 Interim Show, Old Diorama Arts Centre, London, UK
- Intermediaries', Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Enschede, NL
- C'Arte, Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli, Napoli, IT
- Mostra Collettiva G30, SpazioUnderG, Napoli, IT

Press

- 2020 Directory Artist. Floor Magazine
- 2019 Interview by Isabel Sachs. Issue 20. Floor Magazine
- 2018 Degree Shows 2018: a kitsch juxtaposition and an amazing installation. a.n The Artists Information Company
- Introducing Maria Positano. Artpiq, Katharina Wenzel-Vollenbroich