

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

- 2020 – 22 MA Sculpture, Royal Collage of Arts, London
2015-18 First Class BA (Hons) Fine Art, City and Guilds London Art School, London, UK

Awards

- 2020 Selected for the ING Discerning Eye
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 Autografía.
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

Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 Take me somewhere nice, curated by Georgia Stephenson,

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- Lockbund Gallery. Publication release featuring content by Georgia Stephenson, Maria Dolfini, Natalia Janula & Christopher Dorsett.
- 2019 I Tread on the steps you left me, Maria Positano & Gabriel Carucci, The rectory projects, London.
- 2018 Making Meaning, curated by Natalia Gonzalez Martin, Subsidiary Projects, London

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 One by One, Fiumano Clase, Pall Mall, London
- 2021 Start, Start, Rear Window Gallery, curated by Zhixun Ye, Hangzaou, China
The Running Water Water Takes me to a Father Lake, Meisyakan Contemporary Gallery, curated by Zhixun Ye, Ningbo, China
Summer Show, curated by Karen Tronel, Tronel Gallery, London
First Impressions, Safehouse 1 & 2, curated by Liza-Rose Burton & Matilds Silva Fry, London
Brighten up the Night, Yuan Art Museum, curated by Zhixun Ye, Hangzhou, China
Together it Seems, Standpoint Gallery, curated by Emma Kelly & Denise De Cordoba. Organised by The Prick & Stitch Alliance, London
Royal Collage of Arts WIP, online at RCA WIP
- 2020 The Discerning Eye, 2020, proposed by Jo Baring, online
Summer Exhibition, Fiumano Clase, online
The Potion Room, Subsidiary Projects, curated by Georgia Stephenson X Subsidiary Projects, London
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

Group Exhibitions continued

- 2018 The Signature Art Prize, Trinity Art Gallery, London, UK
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

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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

Interviews, Press & Publication

2020 Directory Artist. Floor Magazine
Take me somewhere nice, curated by Georgia Stephenson,
Lockbund Gallery. Publication release featuring content by Georgia
Stephenson, Maria Dolfini, Natalia Janula & Christopher Dorsett.
Long Range Studio Visits, Maria Positano & Nicole Shaver, PADA Studios
In Conversation with Maria Positano, Interview during Covid 19, Assemblage
Magazine by Megan Elliot
Fad Magazine, Features the Potion Room, by Hector Campbell
Assemblage Magazine, Features the Potion Room
Evening Standard, Features Discoveries at Fiumano Clase
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-

Other

2021 Online Panel Discussion, Launce event for Together it Seems, Standpoint
Gallery, London