



CV

Margherita Isola (1, 1977)
lives and works on an itinerant basis,
currently in Barcelona.

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Artist and performer of Mediterranean origin, trained in contemporary dance, since 2007 she works as a visual artist mixing different practices and media: textile art, embroidery, performance, dance, collage, installation, public art and community works. Isola addresses issues related to feminism, migration, colonialism, capitalization of Gaia, interspeciesism, in order to rethink new forms of coexistence and interconnection which put life at the core of our society.

Her work, often traversed by autobiographical tensions and by the shadows of Western culture, understands the artistic creation as micro-political process, a therapy, a subjective and collective experience which allows us to rename our being-in-the-world. In synergy with her artistic practice, she has gained experience in social field and as a body therapist.

GRANTS and AWARDS

- *Artistic Research grant at La Escocesa*, Barcelona, 2021
- Community Art Awards *UNZIP*-Barcelona, 2021
- Awards *Premis Barcelona 2020*- Barcelona City Council
- Artistic Residence at *Hangar*- Lisboa- 2018
- Artistic Residence at *FAAP*- São Paulo- 2017
- Artist in Residence at *Centro Coreografico Rio de Janeiro*- 2016
- *Art Contest*, Contemporary Art prize for Young Artists, Brussels, 2010

SOLO SHOWS

- 2-7-2022 - 8-1-2023, *Huerta Hertz*, temporary artwork at the Historical Botanical Garden of Barcelona
- 4-08-2021. 29-08-2021, *Revolucionary Herbarium*, solo show at National Museum of Natural History and Science, Lisbon
- 6.3.2020 - 3.4. 2020 , *Lucha como un brezo*, solo show, Tangent Project Galery, Barcelona
- 31.1.2019 - 31.3.2019, *Untitled Migrant*, solo show, Museum of Lace &Fashion, Brussels
- 1.9.2016 - 1.10. 2016, *Hamlet in Harar*, solo show, Galeria ICG, Niteroi, Brasil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 4.02.2022 - 18.03.2022, *Fluchtpunkt/Vanishing Point*, collective exhibition at Tangent Project gallery, Barcelona
- 26.11.2020 - 2.4.2021, *Plaga*, Centre d'Estudis i Documentació, Museo MACBA, Barcelona
- 7.11.2020 - 27.11.2020, *Pacha Manas*, collaborative project by Marina Alegre and Margherita Isola, Goethe Institut, São Paulo
- 1.9.2018 - 20.10. 2018, *Contextile-Contemporary Textile Art Biennial*, Guimaraes, Portugal
- 30.10.201 - 2.12.2017, *Aqui bem ao Sul*, collective exhibition in the frame of BienalSur, FAAP, São Paulo

– *Shape Open Exhibition Tour:*

3.10.2013 - 20.10.2013, Nunnery Gallery, London

12.3.2014 - 29.3.2014, Lewisham Arthouse, London

- 27.4.2013 - 8.6.2013- *Arte, uma politica subversiva- Homenagem à Zuzu Angel*, TAL- Tech Art Lab, Antica Fabbrica Bhering, Rio de Janeiro

- 1.7.2010 - 30.7. 2010, *International Biennial of Young Art*, Moscow

- 7.5.2009 - 25.7.2009, *Dress code*, ISELP, Brussels

- 12.3.2009 - 9.4.2009, *Rotte Metropolitane*, Villa Romana, Florence

- 6.10.200 - 4.11.2007, *Identities- Guerrilla Girls and Young Italian Artists*, MACN, Monsummano Terme, Italy

PERFORMANCE

- *Tour Pacha Manas*- Reading performance:

27-1-2023, Fundación Entredós, Madrid

21-12-2022, Funarte, São Paulo

8-12-2022, Goethe Institut, São Paulo

- 2020, *Contact Drawings*, WAC Festival, Barcelona

- 10.5.2017 - 14.5.2017, *Half of a house*, collaborative performing art projet by N.O.W, Festival

Fabbrica Europa, Firenze

– 1.10.2015 - 4.10.2015, *Corpos Impares*, co-creacion together with Cia Pulsar, Centro Coreografico, Rio de Janeiro

- 2011, *The mirror dancing walk*, CharleroiDances Biennial 2011+ Grace Exhibition Space, New York

– 2011, *Inevitable*, White Night Brussels, Beursschouwburg, Brussels

– 2011, *Invetale Underground & Rituals*, Plankton 38#, Beursschouwburg, Brussels

EXTRA CURRICULUM

- From 1999 to 2005 I trained in contemporary dance and collaborated with several choreographers such as Carolyn Carlson, Raffaella Giordano, Dominique Dupuy and Teatro Valdoca.

- Parallel to my artistic practice, I maintain active collaborations in social fields. Among them, the experience that most marked me was at The Freedom Theatre in Jenin (Palestine), where I taught a month-long workshop addressed to the young people of the refugee camp, experimenting with contact dance and body painting as possible practices to give voice to the effects of the military occupation on these young lives. Since 2021, the artist has been conducting community art workshops for migrant women. in collaboration with the association Apropem Nos and Fundació Guné.

- Since 2020 I have been studing shiatzu at Contact Shiatzu Barcelona.

PORTFOLIO

GUERRILLA DRUGSTORE

ongoing project

Guerrilla Drugstore is a transdisciplinary and anti-disciplinary gesture for those who sow utopia and reap reality.

A street pharmacy of medicinal plants that have been oppressed, capitalised, forgotten and made invisible, and that are being born in Barcelona outwards, through a self-managed network of beings and care.

The construction of the pharmacy is thought as an expanding network that spreads rhizomatically through the city, occupying empty lots, municipal gardens, weaving in the interstices of the neighbourhoods together with the complicity of people met in the street, some communities and institutions of the city.

Each site of the pharmacy has a plant or family of plants to care for. The plant is chosen in dialogue between the healing powers of the plant and the nature of the place where the point arises.

The project is in progress; it has presented at VI Culture and Citizenship - Ecology Meeting, at the week for Art and Science-Faculty of Fine Art- Madrid, at La Escocesa-Barcelona, at Tangent Project-Barcelona, and it is included in the book *Artistic Ecologies: New Compasses and Tools*, organised by the MACBA Museum, Rijksakademie and WHW.

During 2023 a new point of the pharmacy is foreseen to be activated at museum CA2M- Madrid.

More info about the project > www.guerrilladrugstore.com



TABAC TARAB

Listening experience // overflow of Guerrilla Drugstore
presented at *Fluchtpunkt/Vanishing Point*- Tangent Project, Barcelona
2021

During the *Fluchtpunkt* exhibition, I presented a listening experience inspired by tobacco, one of the pharmacy's remedies which, unlike the others, its cultivation is done through a home care network. Each caregiver received a kit that includes the tobacco plant or its seeds, a letter and a chant- *Tabac Tarab*- to care for the spirit of the plant.

Here a link to listen to the chant:

<https://guerrilladrugstore.bandcamp.com/releases>

The experience *Tabac Tarab* began through a bodily practice enabling the visitors to connect to tobacco through listening. The tobacco plant was physically present in the gallery in format of scent: some essential tobacco oil has been diffused in the exhibition space, in order to affect our psycho-physical state and guide us through the experience. In this state of sensitive listening and interconnection, we then listened to the chant *Tabac Tarab*. At the end of the experience the participants had the possibility to join the tobacco home care network by receiving the caregivers letter and some tobacco seeds.

<https://www.tangent-projects.com/affine-fluchtpunkt-5>



HUERTA HERTZ

A project by Margherita Isola and Younes Zarhoni
Historical Botanical Garden of Barcelona
2022



Huerta Hertz is an immersion experience in the Historical Botanical Garden of Barcelona, rediscovering this green area of the city by exploring the plants that live there. Many of them are from the Mediterranean and play a prominent role in the collective imaginary of the region, whether in literature, religion, folklore or politics.

Huerta Hertz can also be read as an archeological reflection on the Mediterranean soul; a multi-layered exploration seduced by interdisciplinary tools, in this case the botanical, the textile art and a musicological research focused on the polyphonic songs of the region. Each plant inspires a short interspecies fiction and a healing music practice; both allow us to rethink ways of understanding and weaving interconnections beyond time and space.

By rooting ourselves in this interconnection and by lending an ear to plants, other perceptions of the Mediterranean Sea become possible. A multi-voiced and a common sea rather than a territory where privileges and borders have to be defended. *Huerta Hertz* is an invitation to make this transformation happening.

Concept: Margherita Isola & Younes Zarhoni
Embroidery & interspecies fiction: Margherita Isola
Composition ,performance music & sound: Younes Zarhoni
Layout: Joseph Charroy
App developers: Marek Pivovarnik & Nuria Lopez

Thanks Airy Gras Mas, Claudia Ventola, Piluca, Edurne Rubio, Xefo, Jermaine Brown, Aida Franch.
A special thanks to the Botanical Institute and the Historical Botanical Garden, in particular to Teresa Garnatje and Lina Ubero for their support and collaboration.

Huerta Hertz has been supported by Barcelona 2020 Awards from Barcelona City Council.

Links to listen to the polyphonic compositions:

<https://huertahertz.bandcamp.com/releases>



PACHA MANAS

Reading performance
by Margherita Isola and Marina Alegre
with the support of Goethe Institut
Sao Paulo
2022

Pacha Manas is a reading performance in which the two artists present extracts of the book *Pacha Manas-sewing conversations about abortion* through a participatory lecture, a collective embroidery and an interconnection with plants for women caring, including abortive plants. The book, edited by Funilaria Editora, gathers texts with multiple perspectives written by Brazilian and non-Brazilian women, including the two artists, and invites to reflect on abortion, patriarchy, reproductive autonomy, care and traditional knowledge, among other topics.



Pacha Manas is also a series of circles of women, plants, and embroidery, in which as we speak our hands sew and embroider. This word-embroidery combination allows us to involve the body in the construction of dialogue, letting bodies and gestures awaken the words. Moreover, as experimenters in textile art, we understand embroidery as an ancestral and restorative practice that allows us to expose the mourning and struggles that run through our bodies and, at the same time, awaken creative and transformative power within us.



Pacha Manas is a communitary garden dedicated to women and plants for women's health. The garden has been created involving an intergenerational group of women.



Pacha Manas is an installation that pays homage to the victims of illegal abortions, women who lose their lives because they are not guaranteed a fundamental right to health and autonomy over their own bodies. A hanging garden, created by occupying a wall of the courtyard of the Goethe Institute, where vulva-shaped planting bags are installed, which serve as shelter for traditional abortifacient plants, such as rute, melon of São Caetano, pennyroyal and parsley, among others.



ALIADAS

autonomous walk with mobile app
by Bia Bittencourt, Anxela Louzao and Margherita Isola
Macba, Barcelona
2021

We start to walk. One step, two steps, three steps we are looking down ... and surprise!

This app is about allied plants, companions that heal us, nourish and balance, and that emerged from the asphalt of the city during the pandemic. Some were already there but we did not see them, others are growing and we are learning to recognize them.

The walk follows the health protocol of the first confinement of March 2020, and takes place within a radius of 1 km in the Poblenou neighborhood, starting and ending the walk at number 46 Badajoz street. To enable the walk there is a mobile app made up of a map, an audio guide and photographs. The route passes through 10 points where different species of medicinal ancestral plants grow through the cracks in the concrete. The audio guide explains stories and characteristics of each one of them, inviting us, at each step taken, to awaken our body and its multiple levels of communication and listening.

This walk can be done individually or in a group.

The "Allied" plant route is an autonomous activity that contemplates, through a new perspective, the efforts of surviving in an environment undermined by works and constructions in a living city. In this activity our mission is to highlight these small traces of care, knowledge and connection between us and nature.

<https://www.macba.cat/es/exposiciones-actividades/actividades/ruta-aliadas>



REVOLUTIONARY HERBARIUM

Installation

Fabric, embroidery, medicine plants // 200 cm x 220 cm
Centre d'Estudis i Documentació, Museo MACBA, Barcelona
2021

Revolutionary Herbarium is a miscellanea of ethnobotanical drawings about medicinal plants that, because of their therapeutic principles, have been deliberately forgotten, invisibilized, capitalized or removed from circulation to defend interests of pharmaceutical lobbies. Ancestral plants which are extremely contemporary in relation to diseases that can prevent and cure. The herbarium is on fabric and embroidery, sewing the plants' seedlings. The hand-made infuses an anti-modern force with explicit references to the ancient codes and the sacred textile art of indigenous peoples, such as the Shipibo who work with weaving and medicinal plants.

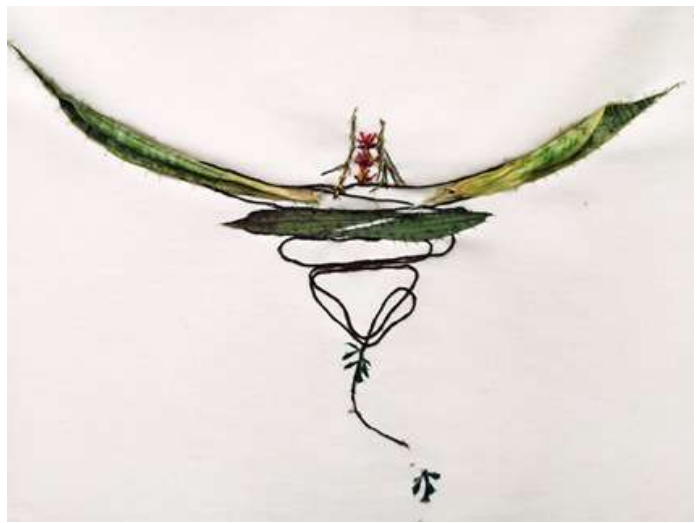
The herbarium is conceived as a work in progress, to be enriched through the time, with new pages and with new plants from different natural contexts; Brasil, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, Spain...

Revolutionary Herbarium has been shown at CED- MACBA Museum, Barcelona and at the National Museum Nacional of Science and Natural History of Lisbon.



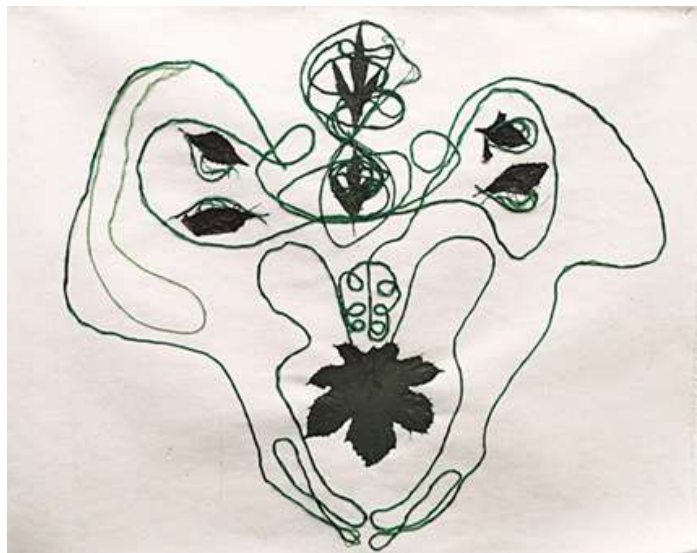


LUCHA COMO UN BREZO
Solo Exhibition
Tangent Project- Barcelona
2020



Lucha como un brezo is a miscellany of works inspired by the power of plants. Here, "power" is understood as a Spinozian assertion of "what a plant can do". The exhibition enables a range of scenarios about the power of plants - magical beings that heal and protect, incarnation of Gaia's knowledge, poetic-political allies against capitalism and patriarchy. Standing out among the works is the series *Post Vudu*- a group of embroidered drawings inspired by the articulation of the pelvis, colonized by healing plants for women's health.

Brezo (heather) is an endangered plant.



PROPOSAL

Our lives depend on plants; as Wall Kimmerer writes, plants teach us that life is interdependence and therefore teach us to care for each other and thus to heal ourselves.

This is the conceptual framework of my proposal.

Thanks the residency in offer at **Espacio Rojo** I have the opportunity to activate a new point of *Guerrilla Drugstore*, a street pharmacy of medicinal plants that have been oppressed, capitalised, forgotten and made invisible, and that are being born in Barcelona outwards, through a self-managed network of beings, humans and plants, and care.

The attempt in *Guerrilla Drugstore* is to create an inter-speciesist alliance claiming autonomous health practices capable of reconciling scientific knowledge and community knowledge. Furthermore the project promotes an understanding of the network as a "common", reconstructing a real network of relationships, and therefore, a network of care, which knows how to weave with personal autonomy, a common action (and therefore a common responsibility). Last but not least, the pharmacy functions as a sort of urban acupuncture; planting the plants, besides promoting health and caring practices within the human community, provokes a loving and caring predisposition towards Gaia, generating a compromise towards its health, because as Ailton Krenak says, if the body of the earth gets sick, our body gets sick too.

During the residency, the new point of the pharmacy will be created through participatory dynamics, and dialoguing with the social and urban reality of the neighbourhood and Madrid. The process is developed thanks to the complicity of the local communities and institutions that gravitate around Espacio Rojo. Together, we will choose what remedy to plant: a plant that the community feels relevant as good ally for their health. It may be a plant that heals diabetes, or hypertension, or a family of plants for mental wellness and anti-stress, which are typically urban and modern lifestyle diseases. In case to involve a vulnerable community of people we might think something specific in relation to their vulnerability, something that connects the plant straight to their daily life and living situation.

About the activation of the point we might think to activate it through "hacker gardening interventions" occupying some green area of the city with our remedy or collaborating with some institutions and local reality in the neighborhood that provide us space for the cultivation of the remedy. In this case we might think to formalize the point, building for example a structure to host the plants, or including some architectural elements. The cultivation and maintenance of the point will be carried out by the community involved, in a self-managed way, transforming the proposal into a daily caring experience.

In synergy with the planting and activation of the point, ethnobotanical research is carried out, always through participatory dynamics. Material about scientific studies is accompanied by material that the participants themselves elaborate starting from their own knowledge concerning plant, folk medicine, grandmother's remedies and ancestral traditions. The idea is to elaborate this material and then to edit an archive -texts, audios, images, drawing- about our communitary ethnobotany research. Part of the material of this research might be included in the cultivation point, as an element of communitary knowledge.

All the phases of the process- the cultivation, the activation of the point, the ethnobotanical research- will be documented in order to create an audio-visual archive (pictures, drawings, video, audio) about the project. This archive, together with the ethnobotanic research will be presented in the frame of the exhibition. The exhibition may be the opportunity to present a performative action inspired by our plant-remedy and its ancestral uses. Because the future is ancestral.

In the case of the residency taking place at **Vorres Museum**, the pharmacy point might be activated in the museum garden itself, and dedicated to migrant plants of the Mediterranean pharmacopoeia. Besides the plants, the point could include elements by textile and embroidery, as for example was realised in the *Pacha Manas* project.

GUERRILLA DRUGSTORE



CONEXION CURA

LISTEN

Dear Julia,

Thank you for accepting my invitation
and taking care of this sacred plant,
which was raped
and which is still being violated to this day.
Incredible as it may seem,
I planted its seeds at the spring equinox,
on my terrace, in the middle of the lockdown.
I planted these seeds, so small that they seemed to be nothing,
in the worst conditions,
but completely hopeful.
The seeds were given to me by the Mujeres do Gau,
a wonderful collective of retired women
who run a garden on the outskirts of São Paulo.
I packed a sacred twig from the South in my suitcase
and took it to Barcelona.
I waited a few weeks and
out of the darkness of the earth this little plant was born.
The tobacco you're going to take care of is part of the remedies of
Guerrilla Drugstore,
a street pharmacy of medicinal plants that were once
suppressed,
capitalized,
forgotten,
and made invisible,
which is being born in Barcelona to expand outward.
Most of the pharmacy's remedies are cultivated by taking up land in the city,
but in the case of tobacco, it is grown indoors,
managed through a home-based care network
of which you are part.

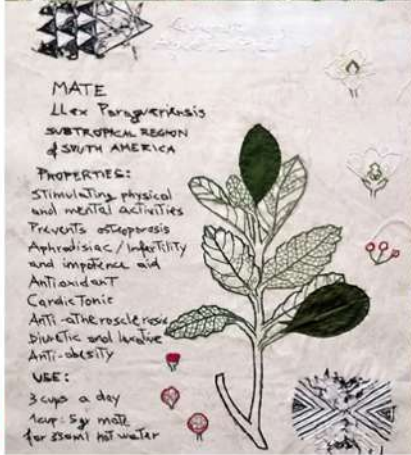
As a caregiver
you receive the plant on the day of the summer solstice,
under a totally favorable sky,
with a partial eclipse of the sun and a new moon.
Please note that it is a plant that loves heat and humidity.
Plenty of water, but well filtered so that no deposits remain.
The direct sun of the European climate dries its leaves too much,
so you can humidify them regularly
by creating a homemade tropical microclimate.
Each caregiver can continue to weave
the tobacco's web of connection,
by distributing new plants to other beings
who can take care of them
and be nurtured by them.
Part of the tobacco kit is a musical piece composed by Younes Zarhoni,
"Tabac Tarab".
A song for the spirit of the plant,
because, as Bob Marley said
—all songs come from the Gods.
As our dear Karen said, it is an invitation to listen
and feel the energy of the plants,
of this one and others.
To feel them is a gift firstly for us,
because to do so,
we need to feel and listen to ourselves deep inside,
and in this connection of listening, caring, and interdependence
it is possible to create other forms of life.
Let's make this happen.
Please, savor the listening.

<https://guerrilladrugstore.bandcamp.com/releases>

ESTRUCHA



LAVANDA
Lavandula officinalis
 MEDITERRANEAN
 PROPERTIES:
 Sedative
 In throat irritations
 and spasms.
 Relief from rheumatic pain
 Anti-inflammatory and antispasmodic
 All in a lavender oil during ailments
 - increasing the metabolic flow
 in throat irritations
 USE:
 Steam



MATE
Ilex Paraguariensis
 SUBTROPICAL REGION
 of SOUTH AMERICA
 PROPERTIES:
 Stimulating physical
 and mental activities
 Prevents osteoporosis
 Aphrodisiac / Infertility
 and impotence and
 Antioxidant
 Cardiotonic
 Anti-atherosclerosis
 Diuretic and laxative
 Anti-obesity
 USE:
 3 cups a day
 1cup 5g mate
 for 250ml hot water

