

PLASTIC ART PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE

connecting body-awareness-ecology through art

portfolio • 2020 - 2023

WE ARE

>>> a collective of young artists based in Bucharest, Romania, growing together since 2020 under MACAIA Cultural Association, cross-exploring art-performance, videoart, photography, soundart, new media and cultural anthropology.

WE AIM

>>> to put forward concepts, audio-visual products, cultural projects, public interventions and immersive experiences that cha(lle)nge people's view of their relationship to the environment and their role within it;

>>> to help raise collective consciousness on the fragility of our planet and encourage its greater care;

>>> to embody ecological awareness through practices.

WE ENVISION

>>> a more responsible world towards waste, pollution, extractivism, available for all beings, harmoniously interconnected and reciprocally benefitting.

PLASTIC ART PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE

WE DESIGN, CREATE & PUT FORWARD

>>> cultural projects

>>> public space interventions

>>> videoperformances

>>> photo-essays

>>> digital and new media art

>>> object-art installations

>>> performative exhibitions & immersive events

>>> art concepts & artistic research

>>> community workshops & campaigns

PLASTIC ART PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE





PLASTIC - AFFECTIVE MEMORY AND WASTE (2020)

a manifesto-project for participatory activation through art, which proposed a public dialogue and questioned practices, representations and individual and social uses of plastics.

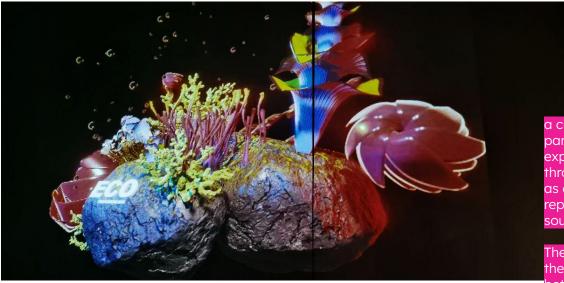
Amid the worsening environmental and climate crisis, the effects of consuming disposable items are being debated in the public sphere more than ever.

The project drew an alarm signal on plastic pollution and unsustainable consumption, being a starting point for a fresh cultural look and an artistic reflection on the "internalization" of plastic in everyday life.

MONOMER- FUTURE PROSPECTS ABOUT OLD HABITS (2021)



a cultural project of choreographic investigation where a group of multidisciplinary artists worked together to create immersive dance performance events and to put forward a series of resources intended for performers faced with the impossibility of working with their body during the lockdown period. The project introduced new links between dance, body, sound, plastic and technology through creativity.



ECO-FREQUENCIES - BINAURAL THERAPY (2022)

a cultural intervention project proposing participatory activation through art. An exploration of natural areas of urban space through sensory and sound guidance, as well as a public dialogue questioning practices, representations and uses of nature and natural sounds in art. therapy.

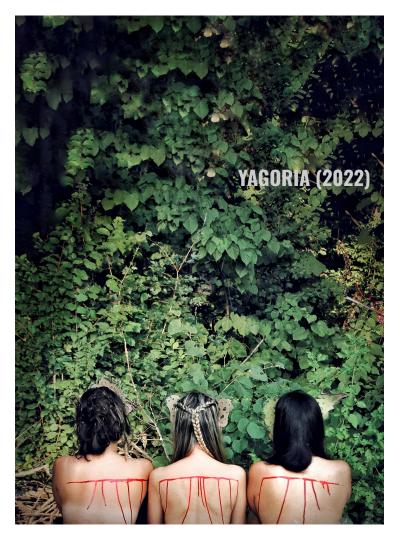
The methodology involved bringing to the fore the emotional dimension of the connection between humans and nature, in order to produce awareness and social impact on the importance of mental health.

The project also raised the alarm about environmental pollution and encourages the sustainable and responsible use of plastic objects.



introduced the practice and method of ecoperformance in the field of Romanian contemporary choreography, by supporting the creation and development of new choreographic languages that start from performative art at the intersection with ecological concerns and interests.

the project translated this vision into a series of cultural outputs: a dance-ecoperformance with several outdoor and indoor representations, an interdisciplinary training program of workshops, an ecovideoperformance with screening events.







Yagoria touched issues of illegal deforestation, plastic pollution and abusive or irresponsible interventions in forest and deltaic ecosystems in Romania.

ECO MOVEMENTS (2023)

investigates the impact of pollution and waste on our lives, leading to climate anxiety, and how climate resilience can be achieved through movement.

the artistic research will be declined in a series of artistic products, the most important being 4 choreographic eco-performative installations and an ecovideoperformance, to be presented in several Romanian cities and in Portugal.

What forms and representations does industrial intervention pollution take? How does toxicity configure the human-error relationship with the body? What about the magnifyir relationship of a community with the natural - experience urban landscape? How can art signal of Petroso environmental problems? Romania.

Starting from these interrogations - a cultural intervention project explores and capitalizes on the human-environment relationship, putting under the magnifying glass the memory, the imaginary and the experience of pollution, as it is felt by the inhabitants of Petroşani and Valea Jiului mining region of Romania.

FOUND ECO-THEATRE - STORIES FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (2023)

>>> immersive concept events & performative exhibitions





Starting from the plastic childhood of the 90s, passing through the crisis of the present and up to a future imagined as a dystopian world, we are guided in the footsteps of non-recyclable plastic carried in memory.

'94-future: life in plastic > ecoperformance installation / Art Galleries Constanța, Constanța Fotofest



mono.future > immersive performative event / CNDB (national center for dance bucharest)

dreaming of a solarpunk future



body of textures [ecopoesis of my body/ ecomeditation in movement] poetic matter // global crisis // transparency. hardness. resistance // chameleon // extractivism // fragile // suffocation // coexistence?

We carry it with us, in us. It's everywhere. Indispensable, from small, everyday use to sophisticated declensions in various industry applications, plastic has strengthened its grip on us with each generation. In the last decade, it has become the preferred global enemy, the vector for the environmental crisis.

[What can plastic say about the legacy we leave to future generations and, more generally, about how we relate to the future?]

Research over the past two years has shown that most of the microplastics in our bodies come from the air we breathe every day.

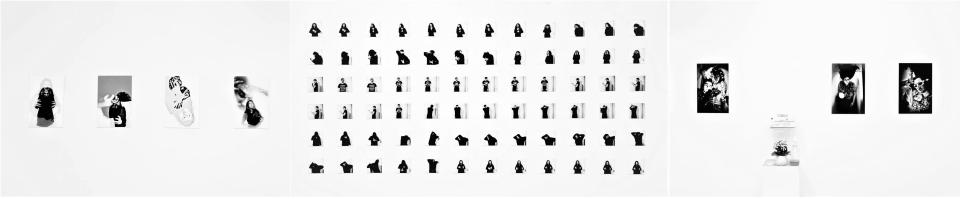
[But how does plastic breathe? How does it interact with trees, sand, light? "Feels" the sea breeze? But the body, how does it move or perceive the world through plastic?]

At least 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year. Floating plastic debris is currently the most abundant item of marine litter. Marine species ingest or become entangled in plastic debris, causing serious injury or death.

The Black Sea has the highest pollution rate of all European seas. It often returns our disposable gifts.

[Are we really free of trash once we throw it away?]

mono.bodies > photo-performative exhibition/ Etaj artist-run space



II. Known examples of polymers: plastic, DNA;

III. Monomers can be classified as
"hard", "soft" or "reactive";

I. A monomer is an organic compound capable of forming polymers by the repeated union of its molecules;



During lockdown, the body began to speak to me: mono, stereo, polyphonic; The internal monologue now occupies the whole space of the body house and overflows beyond the four walls of the outer house;

In the last year, "myself and others" has gradually turned into "me vs. the others"; Polymerization failed;

I am one with the plastic that surrounds me from all sides. I borrowed the shape of the chair from which my hours pass. I collect objects that fall out of my window. I dance in the dark, when it's the quietest.









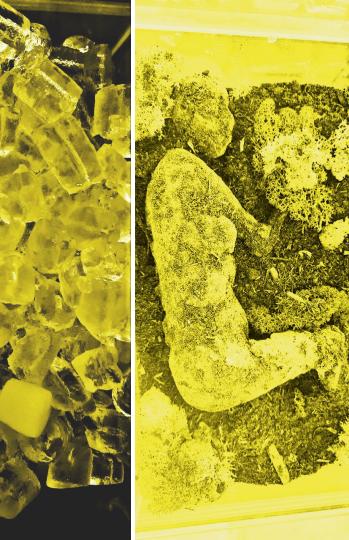








hypnagogia > Galateca Gallery



The immersive sound experiences were based on experimental creations using sounds and frequencies captured from nature. The public was guided through a physical and sound route - a sensory "eco-walk" that included both digital and physical scenography, where they could interact with organic installations, sculpture and objects, video art installations and new media

Grounded drew attention to the need to reconnect the body with the earth.

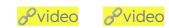
Hypnagogia pointed out how pollution and climate problems are reflected in the collective subconscious, altering our dreams and imagination.

Through Urban.esc attention was directed to the importance of urban natural spaces, places of refuge during the last pandemic years.









urban.esc > Club Guesthouse





limbo > 8pt alternative space

every year we hope and wish each other that the holidays bring us abundance, gifts, goodies. What does this actually mean? Thrown food, millions of tons of waste, surplus of single-use plastic, which often cannot be recycled. Although driven by the best of intentions, we often end up (in)voluntarily encouraging irresponsible consumption during the festive season.





jellyfish and other gelatinous creatures whose bodies are 95% water hover at the edge of our ability to build solid interspecies bonds. Their ephemeral bodies get trapped in plastics. Nano plastic is the invisible antimatter of our oceans now.





yagoria > immersive ecoperformance / Văcărești Delta Natural Park



yagoria > Romanian Peasant Museum / Modul Cărturești library





Year by year, Christmas-related practices inevitably bring a different kind of plastic, in masks, props, and costumes. They are substitutes for old traditional elements and habits lost over time, either by the persistence of consumerism or by adapting them to the current context.

By reimagining the ritual practiced around the new year, namely, "Goat's Dance", we aim to signal these transformations through a warning signal about waste during the festive periods of the year.

By adapting the gift packages and the plastic bottles collected during the months that predate the festive period, the collective proposes a new kind of Christmas (alarmsounding-)carol.



ța ța pvca > MNȚR+C gallery

Caroling with the Goat is a ritual performed traditionally between Christmas and New Year's Day in many regions of Romania, still practiced today. Its counterparts are in other Balkan traditions and winter-spring carnivals worldwide. As all masked rituals enacted within this transition period, its role is to bring prosperity to the receiving families, the lands and animals of the household, helping to renew Time. During the traditional play in its original rural areas, at one point, the Goat must die in order to be resurrected by the performers.

>>> photo-performative essays





single use / plastic.intimate.collective

a poetic photographic experiment in three parts. The series proposes to explore the inner world of plastic and the place it occupies between Humans and Nature.





photo-performative meditation on trash

"Beneath the melting sun lies the rigid body forgotten in time. I live the illusion of an eternity flowing through my fingers. It pains me that I am made of plastic and that my presence here brings death to sea life, that the place I occupy inhibits the possibility of any form of life on earth, that where I stand, nothing grows, it just dries up. The sun melts and I change shape, fooling myself with my own beauty. The sun goes out, and I'm still here..."









photo-performative meditation on snails and slowness

the slow never forgets.

snails and slowness snails remind us that time happens in its own time, on its own terms. The snail's terms are but its own, regardless of external rhythms, of imposed deadlines. The snaid knows no deadlines, just traces.

incubation : gestational spaces

reconquer the liminality, stay in the hibernation.



🔗 '94-future: life in plastic

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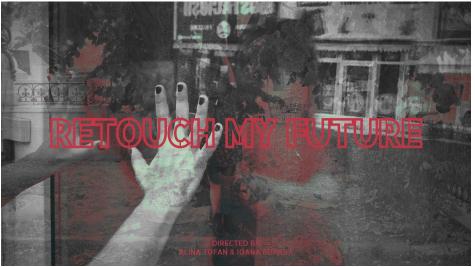
A subjective foray into the world of material invested with the most public hatred. A journey through memory, where ubiquitous plastic configures affective experiences. A gesture of recycling through art and an alarm signal on collective waste. The plastic crisis speaks to the societal crisis.



"In itself, plastic is beautiful. It's alluring. You wouldn't say it actually brings death. That it can suffocate. I soon felt claustrophobic. Abandoned, lost. There was this feeling: how beautiful it felt from the outside - versus how I felt in that enclosed space. I started breathing hard. It wasn't until I felt suffocated that I realized how harmful it could be. I didn't even realize what scared me the most: the texture I had on me or how it acted in nature. However, I tried to see what it was like to be it, to sense through it. I wanted to see how plastic feels, to experience what it experiences. Wind, rain, lightning... How does plastic breathe? "



As a society, we are in a limbo. We see the global damage plastic has brought to the ecosystems, the effects of this addiction on the natural environment. We collectively dwell with a choice. Can we dispose of our present consumer habits and take a new turn towards more sustainable practices? Limbo is a video-eco-performance meant to draw an alarm on the current rate of plastic consumption. 🔗 retouch my future



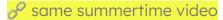
Future has a power named mystery. We will never know for sure what we are going to live, but what we do know are the actions we take in our present, that act like a fuel. But rather than using the fuel to burn, we can use it to grow. Fuel means energy. Energy has to be consumed and because every action in this world has a reaction, it means that if we use this energy in order to grow, one day the seeds that we planted will bloom into a better future. The one we wanted. Today's touch has a great impact on future humanity. Future it's what we are now. Look at yourself in the mirror and ask: Are my hands touching for the future I want to live?



Se mirrors

Nature is the place where you can face your own reflection and see the truth about yourself. Nature is a mirror. As a mirror, nature reflects what is, whether truth, instincts, love or illusion. You have to give first to the spirit of nature what you want to receive. Nature means unity. In the mirror, there is no separation. Nowadays, we confront the problem of pollution and consumption. This is a subjective exploration between unity and duality in the world of affective memory and waste.







Do you see your freedom as a commodity? Check through a plastic filter. This is a video poem reflecting on plastic as medium for domestic reveries and beauty practices.



🔗 plastic beauty

Air quality is deteriorating day by day. The time of the Sun flows through the air conditioners set to maximum power. Global warming is leading to radical weather changes. Plants are affected. Animals are affected. Insects are affected by global warming, excessive consumption of resources. We are causing massive changes that are taking hold in nature at lightning speed. I've never seen the stars in my town. Yagoria dance-performances focuses on the interconnectivity/fusion between the natural environment and the body, as two inseparable dimensions of the choreographic creation.



>>> public interventions / ecoperformative manifesto





hypnagogia > Bucharest Fringe Festival









second skin > Balkanik Festival





plastic womb > Dâmbovița Delivery Festival







🥜 eco-Goat carolling > Obor market





>>> digital and new media artworks

🔗 non-degradable memories > VR installation & 180 video

the story of plastic left in the most intimate memories, carried from the beginning of life, from childhood, to adult life, and which continues to generate emotions that are always in opposition. In a world where we are becoming increasingly aware of the problem of plastic pollution, the memories of plastic toys, the pacifier, the lifeline overlap with the fear of being wrong, with the feeling of guilt.

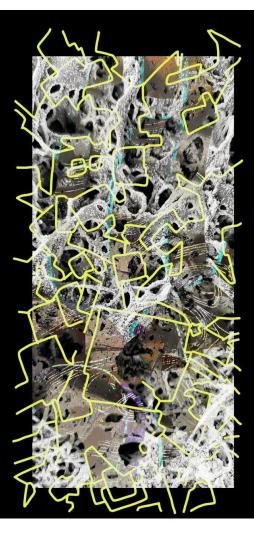




Concept: Georgiana Vlahbei, Alexandru Claudiu Maxim și Vlad Grigore, Fotografii, text, sunet: Georgiana Vlahbei, Augmentare digitală: animație -Alexandru-Claudiu Maxim; Grafică - Vlad Grigore, Sound-edit: Alexandru-Claudiu Maxim, Voice-over: Alina Tofan, Tudor-Răzvan Morar, Vlad Benescu

pan(dem)ic attack > instagram-concept gallery

Imagine your body as an 8-story building. Each window contains a time-frame of your domestic intimacy, a moment you experienced, perhaps, during the pandemic. Walk around every floor and knock on every door. Follow the directions or create your own route. Each apartment will tell you something about you. At some of the windows, you might find yourself in your most vulnerable moments. Pan(dem)ic attack is an exercise in empathy with yourself, inspired by the new pandemic corpo-realities. Discover the digital exhibition on our Instagram account @monomer.future.







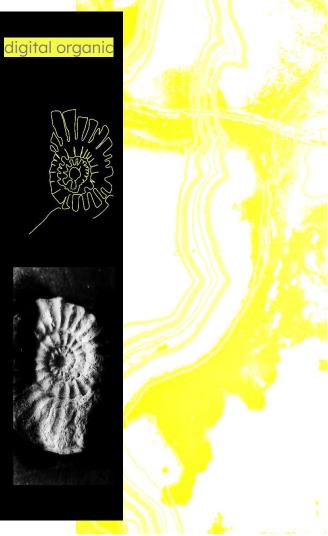
v.r. traces



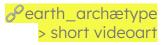


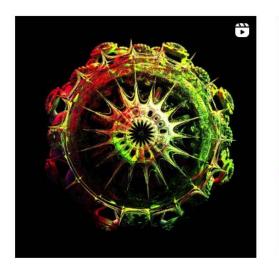


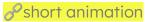


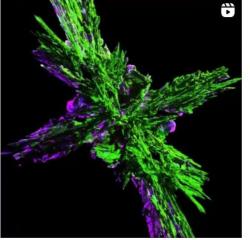


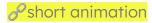




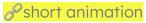


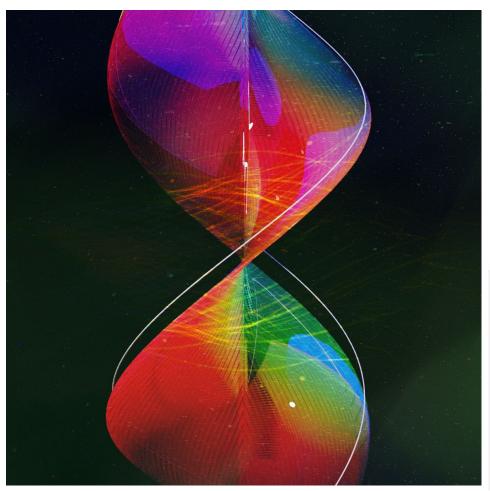








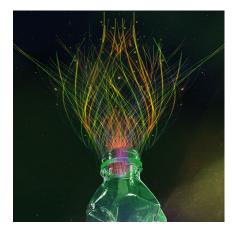




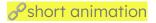


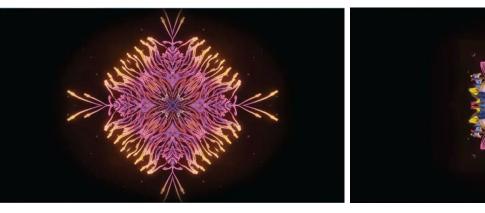
scan for animations

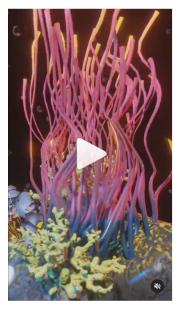


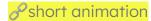


If human beings are made up of atoms in continuous movement, then we are a kind of soluble mass, not solid. Water molecules communicate. The Japanese scholar Masaru Emoto claims that water undergoes physical changes in depending on the emotions felt and expressed by people in its proximity. Apatite, the mineral substance from the composition of bones is made up of crystals microscopic calcium phosphate. According to him, thoughts and feelings affect the environment.











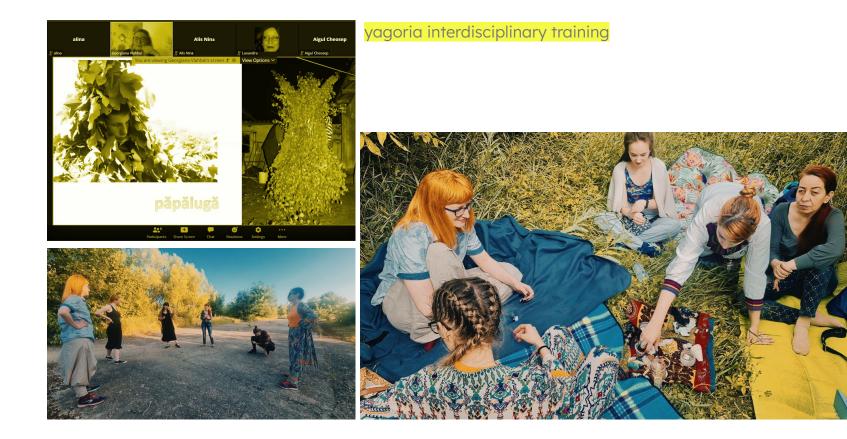
performative plastic / mono.learning workshop for experimenting with body plasticity



eco-frequencies. binaural therapy workshops







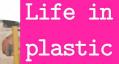
open call for memories and testimonies: childhood in plastic



open call for testimonies and interviews: industrial pollution in post-mining region

open call for plastics: turning waste into art for clean waters





it's fantasti



WE ARE PART OF NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

>>> online festivals & exhibitions

- > 1st International EcoPerformance Festival (Brazil)
- > Acciones Al Margen International Performance Festival 9th ed. (Columbia)
- > Connection Exhibition Show Dispatch virtual gallery (US)
- > The Digital Hole Present Escapism exhibition (international)
- > Online Performance Art Festival ed. 2020, 2021 (international)
- > Tablespoon Theatre Glasgow (UK)
- > Austral International Performance Festival Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- > IMAF 2021 / 23rd edition of the International Multimedia Art Festival (Serbia)
- > De Kunstgenieloods (The Netherlands)
- > 4th ed. of OUTPUT visual arts festival (Denmark)
- > Encuentro de imagen Tierra y Territorio (México)
- > DISLOCADA LOCATED Muestra Internacional de Video-performance 2021
- > X Tension Feria de Arte (México)
- > Home Fest 2021 (Romania)
- > Climate Action & Visual Culture (UK)
- > Latitudes Hybridas International Art Performance Festival (Bolivia)
- > Pasa Festival (Korea)
- > International Forum of Performance Art (Greece)
- > "Idas e Vindas" exhibition (Portugal)

COMING SOON 1st INTERNATIONAL ECOPERFORMANCE FESTIVAL



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N'Me • Núcleo de Estudos sobre Metodologias de Pesquisa em Artes



Asphyxia 2020 I 2 min 20 sec Plastic Art Collective (Romania)

THE REAL PROPERTY AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY

Synopsis: Asphyxia is a video-eco-performance born from the attempt to experience the inner, hidden world of plastics through the body and the senses. An attempt that challenges us to breathe at the same pace with a slowly suffocating planet. Through this corporealvisual experiment, we draw attention upon the effects of plastic waste and irresponsible consumerism, on humans and nature. An urban corner turns into a confessional space. We look for shapes generated by the chameleonic plastic and we try to breathe with it, through it. How does plastic breathe?



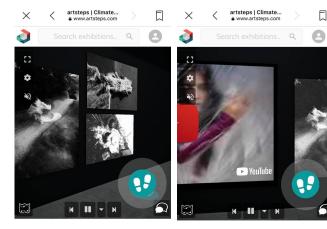






Texabasetat Interna Facette 1022. Santifia: Natur di Hill Passin, Naturativi Dellar (* Rata: Arna 2022 ALE: Scillificati dalla Anna et





Climate Action and Visual Culturê

Climate Action and Visual Culture





09/20

Câmpuri de expertiză

Remus Pricopie, Dan Sultânescu, Remus Ioan Șteureac, Ioan-Aurel Pop

Valorile vieții și comunitatea responsabilă Disoluții culturale în România mileniului 3

Arte & media & stiinte Pandemic chic



La Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, entrega la presente:



a: Alina Tofan

Por su participación en la exposición: ENCUENTRO DE IMAGEN TIERRA Y TERRITORIO con la obra: "ASPHYXIA" que se llevó a cabo en el CECRITICC (Centro de Estudios Críticos en Cultura Contemporánea) el día 11 de noviembre, 2021.

> MDI. Abraham Kalid H. Martínez Coordinador General del CECRITICC



>>> art / eco talks

- > The Hive Art Community (US)
- > Dispatch Gallery (US)
- > 1st International EcoPerformance Festival (BR)
- > TransitStation (DE)
- > Eco-dialogues, Natura Vie (RO)
- > Fusion Talks (RO)
- > Body in Perform (TU)
- > AVI Talks (RO)
- > Reconectat Podcast (RO)
- > Ananda Valley (PT)
- > Chance International Berlin (DE)



>>> online / printed publications & articles

- > Eco-performance volume I by Taanteatro (BR)
- > MVIBE Magazine (US)
- > Balkan Art Scene (Serbia)
- > Culture Magazine (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- > Cultural Observatory Magazine (RO)
- > IQAds (RO)
- > Impermanent Earth issue, IV (international)
- > Culture Magazine (RO)
- > Biophilia Magazine Environmental Humanities (international)

AWARDS

>>> Best video under Environmental Section/ short film category - Art Performing Festival VII ed., Italy (2022) - "Asphyxia"

>>> Best project under Projects for the Environment Gala - ECOTIC Association and Romanian Ministry of the Environment (2022) - "Eco-Frequencies. Binaural Therapy"



MACAIA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The non-for profit organisation supporting the collective was founded in 2010. Since then, it has been running artistic and cultural projects and among them, numerous cultural intervention initiatives, projects for social activation and community art, visual and performative art.

The mission of the MACAIA is to make a positive contribution to the community, by initiating and running projects and programs with social and cultural impact, both at the local and European level.

The members of the Macaia Association are young artists from different fields of activity who have chosen a lifestyle based on continuous self-education.

Currently, the Association's efforts are dedicated to transferring expertise to growing initiatives in several Romanian regions, helping build communities of active citizens.

PLASTIC ART PERFORMANCE COLLECTIVE

>>> collaborators

> Răzvan Omotă : performer, playwright > Radu Ștefan Smărăndescu (Ștefan Blănică/Rage): sound-designer > Adrian Budritan (kubikmilk) : composer/ musician > Maria Mora : performer > Gabriel Durlan : cinematographer > Manuela Marchis (pilestra) : musician > Alina Usurelu : performer > Elena Păun : photographer/ visual artist > Alexandra Cojocaru : photographer, costume designer > Larisa Tofan : sculptor > Ecaterina Colasîz : eco-designer > Andreea Lupescu : PR > Andrei Barbu: sound designe > Bogdan lonescu : photographer > Alin Andrei Mărculescu : musician > Vlad Benescu dancer/ performer > Aigul Cheosep: dancer/ performer > Oana Arsenoi: creative assistant > Tudor Morar : dancer/ performer > Fillip Longfellow : musician

THE COLLECTIVE

>>> core team

> Alina Tofan : co-founder, art/concept director, ecoperformer, workshop coordinator, program manager, PR

- > Georgiana Vlahbei (GCV) : co-founder, researcher, visual artist
- / photographer, art installation, cultural manager
- > Paul Ruben Grec : cultural manager, production & administrative director, president of Macaia Cultural Association
- > Ioana Buraga : digital / new-media artist, visual communication, project assistant
- > Alexandru Claudiu Maxim : video/ new-media-artist
- > Teo Rădulescu : sound-designer
- > Vlad Grigore : graphic designer, new media artist











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