

## Biography

Lucy + Jorge Orta

[www.studio-orta.com](http://www.studio-orta.com)

Lucy + Jorge Orta's collaborative practice draws upon urgent ecological and social sustainability issues to create artworks employing diverse media, including drawing, sculpture, installation, couture, painting, silkscreen, photography, video and light, as well as staged ephemeral interventions and performances. Amongst their most emblematic series are: *Refuge Wear* and *Body Architecture*, portable minimum habitats bridging architecture and dress; *HortiRecycling*, exploring the food chain in global and local contexts; *70 x 7 The Meal*, about the ritual of dining and its role in community networking; *Nexus Architecture*, establishing alternative modes of the social bond; and *Clouds* and *OrtaWater*, addressing the increasing scarcity of this vital resource and the problems arising from its pollution and corporate control. For this project the artists received the *Green Leaf Award* in 2007 for artistic excellence with an environmental message, presented by the United Nations Environment Programme in partnership with the Natural World Museum at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. Two recent bodies of work *Antarctica* and *Amazonia* reflect on the value of the natural environment to our daily lives and to our survival.

Lucy + Jorge Orta's artwork has been the focus of major solo exhibitions at the Venice Biennale (1995); Johannesburg Biennial (1997); Weiner Secession, Vienna (1999); Barbican Art Gallery, London (2005); Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice (2005); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2006); the Biennial of the End of the World, Ushuaia, and the Antarctic Peninsula (2007); Hangar Bicocca spazio d'arte, Milan (2008); Natural History Museum, London (2010); Shanghai Biennale (2012); Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford (2012); MAXXI National Museum of XXI Century Arts, Rome (2012); Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University, Middletown (2013); Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield (2013); and Parc de la Villette, Paris (2014).

Their work can be found in public and private collections and has been the subject of numerous monographs, notably: *Potential Architecture*. Bologna: Damiani, 2013; *Clouds | Nuages*. Bologna: Damiani, 2012; *Fabulae Romanae*. Venice: Marsilio, 2012; *Lucy + Jorge Orta: Food Water Life*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2011; *Light Works*. London: Black Dog Publishing, 2010; *Antarctica*. Milan: Mondadori Electa, 2008; *Lucy Orta. Contemporary Artist*. London: Phaidon Press, 2003.

**Lucy Orta** was born in 1966 in Sutton Coldfield, United Kingdom. She graduated with an honours degree in fashion-knitwear design from Nottingham Trent University (1989). After moving to Paris, Lucy began practicing as a visual artist in 1991, exhibiting her work in galleries and museums internationally. Currently Chair of Art and the Environment at the University of the Arts London, where she has been a Professor of Art and the Environment at the London College of Fashion since 2007. Lucy was the inaugural Rootstein Hopkins Chair from 2002–2007, and was Head of Man & Humanity at the Design Academy Eindhoven, a pioneering socially driven and sustainable master program, she co-founded in 2002.

**Jorge Orta** was born in 1953 in Rosario, Argentina. He studied simultaneously at the faculty of fine arts (1972–1979) and the faculty of architecture (1973–80) of the Universidad Nacional de Rosario. Jorge was a lecturer in the faculty of fine arts at the Universidad Nacional de Rosario and a member of CONICET, the Argentinean national council for scientific research, until 1984, when he received a scholarship from the Ministry of Foreign and European affairs to pursue a D.E.A. (Diplôme d'études approfondies) at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Lucy + Jorge Orta's studios are located in central Paris and at Les Moulins in Seine-et-Marne. Les Moulins is a cultural complex situated along an 8km stretch of the Grand Morin valley. Founded by the artists in 2000 as an extension of their practice, to create a collective environment dedicated to artistic research and production of contemporary art. Informed deeply by the historical and environmental context, in particular the former mills and thriving paper making industry that once occupied the valley, four former factories: Moulin Sainte-Marie, Moulin de Boissy, Moulin La Vacherie and La Laiterie

are undergoing redevelopment into artist studios, workshops, residencies, contemporary art galleries and a sculpture park to host international artists and researchers to create artworks in-situ.