



st mary's women

PILAR MATA DUPONT ('98) Artist



"I can see that the confidence I had in exploring whatever I wished to do were in part influenced by the years I spent at St Mary's."

One of my strongest memories of my time at St Mary's was being Wardle Drama Captain and writing and directing a short musical play for the school in my final year; an immense task for a sixteen-year-old and one very much supported by the staff at St Mary's. I was heavily involved in drama and art throughout my time at St Mary's, which led to me completing a BA in Fine Arts at Curtin University, a Certificate of Music Theatre at WAAPA, and a Masters of Art Praxis at the Dutch Art Institute in the Netherlands.

I now work as a full-time artist and occasional performer living between Rotterdam and Perth. My practice spans film production and direction, photography, performance and production design. I have been lucky enough to win some international awards, including the main award at the 2015 Plymouth Contemporary Art Open in the UK and a residency prize at the Videobrasil Biennial that year in São Paulo. I have also exhibited my work in galleries and museums such as Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; Secession in Vienna; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, as well as in festivals and biennales such as the 17th Biennale of Sydney, Mediacity Seoul Biennale, and 'Les Rencontres Internationales' film festival in Paris. I spend roughly half my year travelling to either research or create new work, or attending openings, which sounds glamorous, but is also hard work.

On the performance side, I spent the years after WAAPA working throughout Perth and regional WA at venues such as the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, His Majesty's Theatre, and the Ellington Jazz Club, and since moving away, have been involved as a performer in an experimental opera in the Netherlands and Belgium. Another performance work I am incredibly proud of is the original full-length musical I co-produced and designed entitled 'Heart of Gold' back in 2009 while I was Co-Artistic Director of interdisciplinary theatre group, Hold Your Horses.

Looking back, I can see that the confidence I had in exploring whatever I wished to do, and the courage to accept the risks in the field I have ended up in, were in part influenced by the years I spent at St Mary's.

