



## MARY JORDAN

### PROFILE

I have worked in the confluence of film, art, design and media for the last 26 years. During that time I have created award winning work, lectured, taught courses, advised art collectors, auction houses and have considered a social entrepreneur and an innovator.

At the age of 20 I was the producer of Canadian directors like Steve Chase and [Marco Brambilla](#). In [Sydney, Australia](#) I founded the production firm Indigo Blue for music videos and commercials.

In 2005 I was acclaimed by the magazine [filmmaker](#) as one of the 25 "new faces of independent film-making". The same year, in the Old Chelsea Y.M.C.A. in New York I held an exhibition about Jack Smith, including films, photographs and radio-broadcasts of his as well as interviews with his friends. I established a performance art troupe called Parthenogenesis made up of mainly woman. I organized and directed over 62 shows for museums, galleries, artistic venues such as [CBGB's](#), the Box, [Canal Room](#) and in many under ground theatres and lofts.

I am the Founder and Creative Director of [Word Above the Street](#), a not-for-profit established in 2010. Leveraging the transformational power of art and technology, Word Above the Street pioneers fresh methods of communication to produce visionary art exhibitions that capture the imagination, stir the conscience, and have the power to change the world. While working on an ethnographic film about the Hammer people in Ethiopia, I became acutely aware of the extreme challenges that the population faced in accessing clean water. Galvanized by this experience, I was determined to create an awareness campaign around the issue of water scarcity. The Water Tank Project is my current venture and Word Above the Street's inaugural project. In the summer of 2014, carefully selected rooftop tanks across New York City will be temporarily wrapped with original artwork on the subject of water. This production will redefine the skyline across all five boroughs and affect millions of

people around the world. I have been working with artists as famous as Jeff Koons, Ed Ruscha, Maya Lin, Marilyn Minter, to new and emerging artists as well. We have established partnerships and strategic alliances with Christie's Auction House, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and have been supported by some of the most successful people in the arts. I have delivered talks at the Festival of Ideas for the New City in 2011, PolicyLink Equity Summit 2011 in Detroit, the **Social Good Summit** along with **Al Gore**, **Melinda Gates** as well as becoming a speaker for water and sustainability, arts, social entrepreneurship, curation and has spoken at educational institutions such as **NYU**, **Columbia University**, Harvard, Yale, Parsons, Brown and **the New School**.

I am a regular speaker at the Venice Biennial speaking on art, curation and advocacy.

Last year I spoke for the **Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia** conference at the **Venice Architecture Biennial**

I am also developing a curriculum for The Earth Institute at Columbia University on art and advocacy. Last month in conjunction with Studio in a School an organization led by Agnes Gund, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ferris Booth Foundation, we created a curriculum for sustainability to be used in the public school system. This curriculum is currently being taken by the Board of Education and several charter schools.

I sit on a number of boards and am a business advisor in the field of arts. **Kau Academy** is a place where I hope to share and teach and build an incubator of social innovation in the arts. Media and technology.