

Ela Spalding

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Founder and Director of
estudionuboso.org
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Ela Spalding (Panama/UK, 1982) is an artist~facilitator and cultural producer. In her artistic practice, she uses the space of art as a medium to communicate expanded notions of ecology. Her professional background is in film, photography, dance and somatic consciousness practices, with a strong interest in sound and well-being. Interweaving these influences, her work invites listening and resonance inwardly and outwardly. Her artworks have been shown at the XIII Bienal de La Habana, Cuba (2019) - *Ocaso/Sundown*; the X Bienal Centroamericana in Costa Rica (2016) - *Songs for Limón, Songs for Colón*; the Bienal de Artes Visuales del Istmo Centroamericano (Bavic9) in Guatemala (2014) - *Entre Suelo y Concreto*; and in group exhibitions in Panama, Germany and Austria. She has collaborated with Tino Sehgal in *This Variation at dOCUMENTA(13)* (2012), and with Ari Benjamin Meyers in his work *Serious Immobilities* (2013) for Berlin's Esther Schipper Gallery, among others. Ela Spalding is the founder and creative director of Estudio Nuboso, a nomadic platform for exchange between art, science, nature and society that addresses environmental issues in various biocultural contexts. She is also a founding member of Archipel Stations Community Radio, an international and intercultural web community radio station.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Cinema and Photography (magna cum laude) with a Minor in Dance & Theatre, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York (2004)

Ongoing research in ecology, human ecology, dance, somatic studies and performance in context with various mentors in Panama, Germany, the US and the UK (2005-present)

Exhibitions

En Nuestras Manos/In Our Hands, online collective exhibition, Grid Galeria, Panama (2020)

Vida, Audio collaboration with the video artist Laura Fong Prosper, online collective exhibition, Grid Galeria (2020)

In our Hands / Weiche WohnWelten / Wuan Wandeln, collective exhibition in sign, CIAT - Contemporary Institute for Art & Thought, Berlin (2019)

Archipel Stations Soil as an Inscribed Body, Archipel radio intervention and live broadcast at SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany (2019)

Ocaso / Sundown, collaborative sound installation with geologist Dr. Manuel Iturralde Vincent, created for the XIII Bienal de La Habana, Cuba (2019)

Songs for Limón, Songs for Colón, X Bienal Centroamericana, Limón, Costa Rica (2016)

Panamá Caribe, commissioned work for INTEROCEANICO, curated by Sebastian Calderon for Performance Studies International (PSi) worldwide performance festival Fluid States. Colón, Panamá (2015)

Entre Suelo y Concreto, Commissioned work for Bavic9 – Central American Visual Art Biennial, Guatemala (2014), shown again in the collective exhibition *Touching the Reality* at Kunstraum Niederösterreich, Vienna, Austria (2016).

Entre Cielo y Concreto, performance based on Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, guest artist, Festival Ulls, Barcelona, Spain and Plataforma Festival, Berlin, Germany (2011)

Artistic and Cultural Facilitation

Art and Ecological Awareness workshop, Seminar on “Strategies to grieve the losses incurred by our current ecological crisis” led by Florian Ruland, PhD., Freie Universität, Berlin (2021)

Flash LAB de Arte y Ciencia - an interdisciplinary workshop, design and facilitation, with Estudio Nuboso, for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation, Panama City Panama (2019)

LAB de Arte y Ciencia Ciudad de Panamá, design and facilitation, Estudio Nuboso, Panama (2017)

Associate Curator, The Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World (CCANW), United Kingdom (2016–2018)

LAB de Arte y Ciencia Chiriquí, design and facilitation, Estudio Nuboso, Panama (2015)

SUELO, implementation of a crowdfunding campaign, design and facilitation of a multidisciplinary residency on the theme of soil/land/territory, Estudio Nuboso, Panama (2014)

Publications and Texts

Flash LAB de Arte y Ciencia, concept and co-design, Estudio Nuboso’s Flash LAB workshop publication, Panama (2019)

Soil Macrococosms: Microbes, People and our Cumulative Effects, chapter based on interview with Claire Pentecost, Alejandro Meitin and Brian Holmes in the book *Field to Palette, Dialogues on Soil and Art in the Anthropocene* (CRC Press, 2019), edited by Alex Toland, Jay Stratton Noller and Gerd Wessolek. Berlin (2019)

LAB de Arte y Ciencia Ciudad de Panamá (LAB for Art and Science Panama City) 2017, Concept and co-creation of a publication for the documentation of the interdisciplinary workshops of the same name, Estudio Nuboso, Panama (2017)

LAB de Arte y Ciencia Chiriquí (LAB for Art and Science Chiriquí) 2015, Concept and co-creation of a publication for the documentation of the interdisciplinary workshops of the same name, Estudio Nuboso, Panama (2015)

Lo Exótico en el Trópico (the exotic in the tropics), article for the online journal of the Latin American art organisation Colección Cisneros for the section Cite, Sight, Sites - Dispatches on Latin American Art and Culture, Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, New York (2015)

Suelo Vol. 1, collaborative design and book binding of the publication on the multidisciplinary residency *SUELO*, Estudio Nuboso, exhibited at the graphic design exhibitions Panamá Gráfico 14, MAC - Panama Contemporary Art Museum, Panama (2014)

Presentations & Prizes

Presentation of artistic practice, *Curious Minds - dialogues in art and science*, State Studio, Berlin (2020)

Panel participation and presentation of the Estudio Nuboso *SUELO* project as a case study in the discourse programme *The Shape of a Practice*, organised by The Anthropocene Curriculum at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2020)

Presentation of the Art and Science LAB at *Feeding the Insatiable* - a summit for creative explorations of real and imagined futures, organised by Art.Earth, Dartington, Devon, UK (2016)

Presentation of the Art and Science LAB project at RIXC - Open Fields Conference and Art and Science Festival, Riga, Latvia (2016).

Nomination for the Visible Award 2015 for the Estudio Nuboso *SUELO* project, by Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto and Fondazione Zegna, Italy (2015)