

ARTINCIDENCE



MAMISARGASSA 5.0

Annabel Guérédrat
Raphaël Gautier

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STATEMENT OF INTENT

2083

On a deserted island in the Caribbean Sea, once known as Martinique, no human, animal, or plant has survived after centuries of colonization and pollution. Only the sargassum—poisonous seaweed—remains.

Mamman Dlo has vanished, replaced by a new entity: Mami Sargassa, a genetically modified woman who lingers on the shore. To survive, she buries herself in the fresh sargassum, performing a magical act by colonizing the very algae that colonized the island. The sargassum releases toxic gases, and with each burial ritual, Mami Sargassa is reborn, gradually reclaiming her humanity. She becomes a heroine, deeply connected to this invasive and contaminating form of nature.

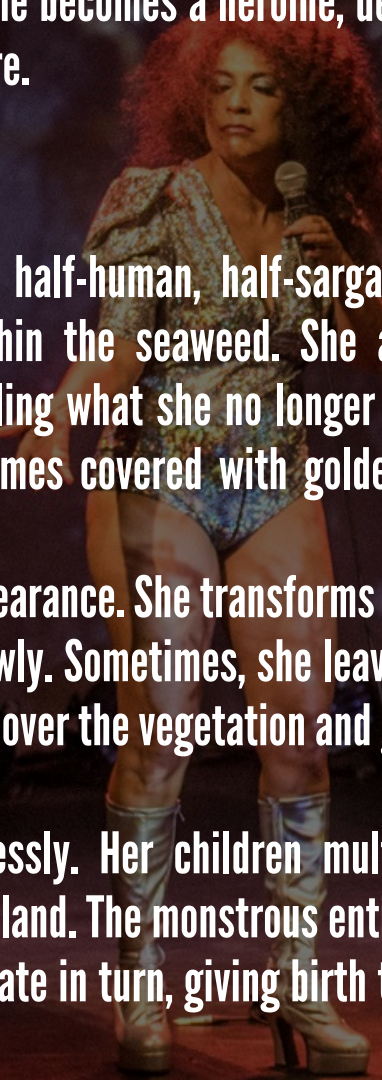
A CONTAMINATED HEROINE

Mami Sargassa gives birth to hybrid beings, half-human, half-sargassum, who live without oxygen and feed on the insects within the seaweed. She absorbs all the substances of earth, air, water, and fire, expelling what she no longer needs. Her hair intertwines with the algae, and her skin becomes covered with golden growths. Her tentacles connect her to the island.

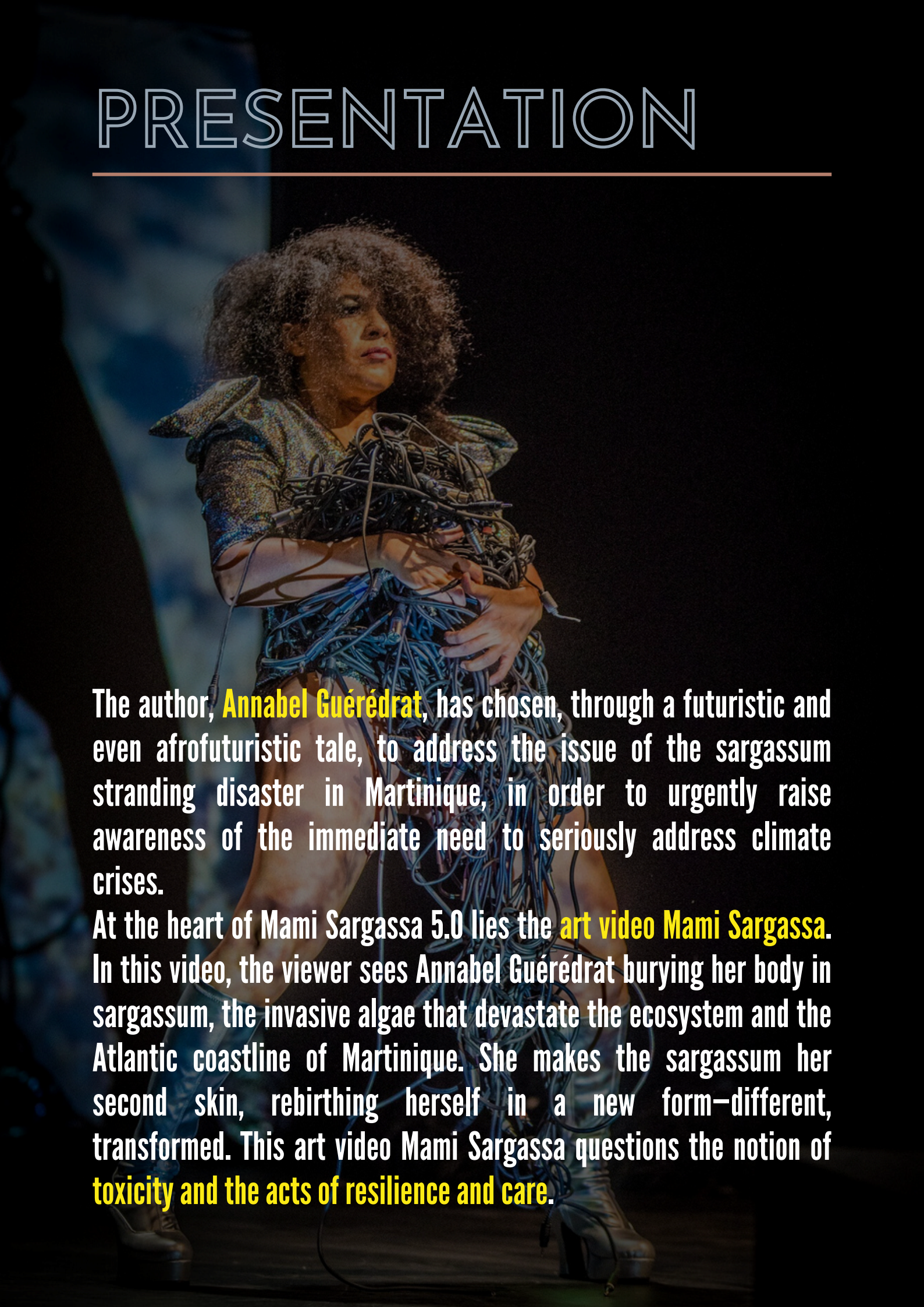
Her growths invade her body, distorting her appearance. She transforms into a tentacled humanoid form, a giant octopus that moves slowly. Sometimes, she leaves the beach to venture into the forest, where she takes control over the vegetation and gives birth.

Years pass: 2083, 2084, 2085...

Mami Sargassa continues to give birth endlessly. Her children multiply, becoming increasingly numerous, until they overrun the island. The monstrous entity has replaced Yemaja. The Sargassum babies grow and procreate in turn, giving birth to a new planet: Madinina Sargassa.



PRESENTATION



The author, **Annabel Guérédrat**, has chosen, through a futuristic and even afrofuturistic tale, to address the issue of the sargassum stranding disaster in Martinique, in order to urgently raise awareness of the immediate need to seriously address climate crises.

At the heart of Mami Sargassa 5.0 lies the **art video Mami Sargassa**. In this video, the viewer sees Annabel Guérédrat burying her body in sargassum, the invasive algae that devastate the ecosystem and the Atlantic coastline of Martinique. She makes the sargassum her second skin, rebirthing herself in a new form—different, transformed. This art video Mami Sargassa questions the notion of **toxicity and the acts of resilience and care**.

PROJECT HISTORY

MAMI SARGASSA: A RITUAL IN TRANSFORMATION

Mami Sargassa is a ritual initiated in 2017 by Annabel Guérédrat. During the FIAP, an intellectually and artistically stimulating environment, she buries herself in sargassum, an invasive and toxic algae. Her major inspiration comes from *Women Who Run with the Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estés, a book that explores the archetype of the wild woman and her deep connection to instinct and transformation.

This experience evokes for her a second skin, a symbiosis with the algae, before she becomes aware of its toxicity. She perceives it as a process of nesting, rebirth, and metamorphosis, akin to a witch undergoing transformation. Curators Maria Elena Ortiz and Marsha Pearce then invite her to reflect on this performance: what does it reveal about the authenticity of the wild woman archetype? And what does it signify, within the insular context, regarding the presence of this toxic algae?

HOMO SARGASSUM AND THE ENCOUNTER WITH SCIENCE

Subsequently, the performance evolves with the Homo Sargassum artist residency at Hodex in April 2021, which creates a dialogue between art and science surrounding sargassum and the toxicity of the gases it emits. Annabel Guérédrat invites filmmaker Gaspard Pauwels—known for his work in performance and contemporary art—to film and accompany this ritual. Then, in May-June of the same year, Annabel participates in the ONDES residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, where she creates the art video *Mami Sargassa*, working with editor Sonia Bogdanovsky and under the supportive gaze of Olivier Marboeuf. The film is conceived as an afrofuturistic dystopia, inspired by a text titled *2083*, translated into several languages.

When Olivier Marboeuf, curator and artistic director, decides to host an evening dedicated to this work at the C.I.A., Annabel presents a performative reading while the video is projected on the first floor. This performance later gives rise to the idea of an afro-rock concert, blending live instrumental music (drums and guitar) with video.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

CAST

Author, Creator, Performer: Annabel Guérédrat
Performing Musician: Raphaël Gautier

TYPE OF WORK

Choreographic Duo and Musical Piece incorporating artistic performance, vocal performance, musical composition, and art video projection (or not).

CREATION DATE & CONTEXT

Mami Sargassa 5.0 is the fifth installment—performed as a duo—of the Mami Sargassa project, initiated in 2021. It follows the art video Mami Sargassa, the performative reading Mami Sargassa 1.0, the concert forms developed in 2022 and 2023 (Mami Sargassa 2.0, Mami Sargassa 3.0 and its guests), as well as the fourth installment Mami Sargassa 4.0 (with Daniel Dantin on drums).

MANDATORY MENTIONS

Production: Artincidence

With the support of: DAC Martinique (grant for institutional support 2024-2026)

THEMES EXPLORED

Relationship between music and dance, song, Caribbean afrofuturistic storytelling, art video, sargassum, pollution, environment, politics, toxicity.

CONTACT



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