

**Lecture by Maria Cristina Finucci:**  
**THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE**  
**“OCEAN PLASTICS POLLUTION”**

at

**Georgetown University**  
**Italian Research Institute**

Also featuring:

**LAURA PARKER**

Senior Staff Writer  
National Geographic

**JOHN MCNEILL, PHD**

University Professor  
Georgetown University

**Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 5:30 pm**  
**Intercultural Center Auditorium**  
**Georgetown University**

in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Maria Cristina Finucci will give a lecture on THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE® at Georgetown University, Washington DC. The lecture falls within a number of initiatives led by the artist to raise awareness on ocean plastics pollution. Ms. Finucci founded the THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE® as a new nation, in order to recognize this issue in an innovative, artistic way. The aim is to address the audience that matters most: the generation of young people who will be left to confront the crisis.

After the lecture, Ms. Finucci will participate in a panel debate with journalist Laura Parker of National Geographic (who specializes in covering climate change and marine environments) and environmental history Professor John McNeill of Georgetown University.

THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE® was created by Maria Cristina Finucci, an Italian architect and artist, to raise awareness about the critical problem of plastic choking our oceans. THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE® is a federal state made up of five islands covering 16 million km<sup>2</sup> of our oceans. It was founded in April 2013 at UNESCO in Paris.

Five years ago, Maria Cristina Finucci decided to devote her efforts as an artist to giving visual meaning and tangibility to the problem of invisible microplastics polluting the oceans. Her idea of making a new state has been a tool for raising awareness and engagement with one of most severe and least known environmental issues.

THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE® has progressed with several international engagements in which enormous public installations have been built. To date, venues have included: Venice at Ca'Foscari University during

the Art Biennale (2013); Madrid, on the Gran Via (2014); Rome, at the Maxi museum (2014); New York City at the UN Secretariat (2015); Milan, at the World Expo (2015); Paris, COP 21 (2015); Venice, *Bluemed high level conference on the Mediterranean* (2015); Mozia, Sicily, *L'età della Plastica* (2016-2017).

As full-fledged nation, THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE® has a flag, a constitution, ministers, and ambassadors. It grants citizenship and even issues postcards and stamps (free e-cards can be send through the official website). Multiple universities have supported this complex artistic endeavor, including: Ca'Foscari University, Venice; Roma Tre, La Sapienza and Tor Vergata in Rome; Palermo University; *Istituto Europeo del Design*, Madrid. In addition, many important institutions have provided backing: UNESCO - Paris, UNESCO - Venice; the Italian Ministry of Environment; the Italian Ministry of Education; the Italian Cultural Institute in Madrid.

The message of THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE® hopes to reach every layer of society, including the “connected generation” in order to empower them with ideas and missions to drive change.

More information on THE GARBAGE PATCH STATE®: <http://www.garbagepatchstate.org/>

Maria Cristina Finucci: <http://www.mariacristinafinucci.com/>