

## LUCY ORTA



Orta studied Fashion Knitwear Design in Nottingham, UK, before moving to Paris in 1991. She first gained recognition in the art world for her series 'Refuge Wear' and 'Body Architecture' (1992–8), which featured structures that modified and fused clothing and survival equipment. Together with her partner Jorge (b.1953), she founded Studio Orta in 1992, and since 2005 they have co-authored work under the name of Lucy + Jorge Orta. With a focus on the body and its environment, their artworks range from modified vehicles to public sculptures and large-scale installations, and in 2007 they received the Green Leaf Award for Sculpture, in recognition of the environmental aspect of their practice. Orta created this work, one of the final 'Body Architecture' pieces, for the exhibition 'Visions of the Body' at the National Art Museum in Kyoto, Japan. She added sleeve-like garments to the outside of a tent, to which people could join themselves using zips. A metaphor for the social fabric of existence through which everyone is related, the sculpture highlights our inescapable, indispensable interconnectivity, something especially evident in times of crisis and adversity.

### **BODY ARCHITECTURE – COLLECTIVE WEAR x 8**

1998, polyamide tent, aluminium-coated polyamide, various textiles, 3 telescopic aluminium armatures and zippers, 400 x 260 x 120 cm (157 x 102 x 47 in)

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Lucy Orta, born 1966, Sutton Coldfield, UK.