

# ☕ Coffee Talk with Agostina



**Please tell us about yourself, who are you and what do you do?** I have a very curious personality, and that curiosity has led me to an interest in responsible consumption, healthy eating, and education. I am from Argentina, where I studied design. I currently live in Girona, Spain, where I did a post-degree in Art.

When I became aware of the impacts of environmental pollution, I started to look for sustainable alternatives in my own way.

**How did your journey towards sustainability begin and how did you come up with the initial idea?** This is quite a personal answer because it was in fact a health accident that started my sustainability journey. I used to work with epoxy resin, and I gradually started to notice a problem with my skin. I realised it was because my body was being exposed to toxic gases. When I started investigating the effects of epoxy resin on the human body, the first thing I discovered was the problem with petroleum. At the same time that I started to look at more sustainable material alternatives to make my work, I was taking a pill for my health problem that was a powder in a transparent capsule. In that pill, I found the answer. That was the start of bioplastic in my life.

**What are the biggest challenges you face?** Getting society to understand that everything around us is useful. If we talk about organic waste for example, it is not waste but a valuable resource that provides food for bacteria. Inorganic waste always needs to be treated with fire or pressure to be recycled and transformed into something new.

Bacteria can transform organic waste into food, and create a new material that is a new valuable resource for us to use. The biggest challenge is accepting that this is a possibility and that making the effort to split the garbage bag is not in vain!

**What is a possible future for your initiative? Where do you want to be within five years?** I am living in a place that has enough space to transform my workshop into an area for many people. I am trying to find equipment such as a laser cutter, 3D printer, pressing mold, and a drying machine so I can offer this space to groups where I could offer some knowledge and help them to develop their own projects. I want to be a bridge!

**If you have three free wishes, what would you wish for?** Really? This is a difficult question to answer! I wish deeply for a change in people's attitudes – for us to be more

Insights about the project

## “MEDLastic”

by Agostina Laurenzano, Spain



empathetic, respectful, and generous. I'm not sure I am completely acting in this way, so it is difficult to ask for that change!

**What do you think we all can do to solve the plastic pollution problem in general?** Don't believe in the bioplastic as “The Solution”. The abuse of any resource is always a problem. The solution is to learn to consume in moderation.

Single-use packaging for seasoning salads.  
Extra virgin olive oil macerated in red fruits.



*Agostina created a recipe for cooking a bioplastic that is resistant to traction and elongation and suitable for thermofusion.*