

JO-HS

Melissa Rios (b. 1986)

Based in Mexico City, Melissa Ríos works primarily in painting and drawing. Exploring the fertile ground between figuration and abstraction, Ríos draws on feminist, literary, and surrealist understandings of reality and its representation.

Her paintings depict surreal, dream-like visions where figures, objects, and abstract forms overlap and interact, creating layered compositions that mediate between different realms of experience. Emotionally charged and deeply introspective, her work contemplates the spaces between the physical and the metaphysical, between imagination and lived experience.

Melissa has an academic background in architecture and advertising design, which informs her multidisciplinary approach. Alongside her painting practice, she has worked in art direction, interior space design, product design, furniture, and photography.

Her work has been exhibited extensively, with solo shows including *In the Margins of What You Call Reality* (JO-HS, New York, 2024), *Realities in Dialogue / Realidades en diálogo* (JO-HS, New York, 2023), and *Más allá del mundo que existe* (Cuarto 37, Costa Rica, 2021). She has participated in numerous group exhibitions, such as *Anatomías* (GARNA Gallery, Madrid, 2025), *These Boots Are Made for Walkin'* (Room57 Gallery, New York, 2024), and *Queremos Pintar* (Regional Museum of San Ramón, Costa Rica, 2022).

Melissa was awarded the *Erarta Foundation and ZSONAMACO Art Prize* (Semi-Finalist, 2024) and has attended artist residencies, including the Mack Art Foundation in New York (2024) and JO-HS in Mexico City (2022). Her work has been featured in major publications such as *Vogue*, *Galerie Magazine*, *Cultured Magazine*, and *ONDA MX*.

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Melissa Ríos (n. 1986)

Residente en Ciudad de México, Melissa Ríos trabaja principalmente con pintura y dibujo. Explorando el terreno fértil entre la figuración y la abstracción, su obra se nutre de perspectivas feministas, literarias y surrealistas sobre la realidad y su representación.

Sus pinturas presentan visiones oníricas y surrealistas donde figuras, objetos y formas abstractas se superponen e interactúan, creando composiciones que median entre distintos niveles de experiencia. Con una gran carga emocional e introspectiva, su trabajo explora los límites entre lo físico y lo metafísico, entre la imaginación y la experiencia vivida.

Melissa cuenta con una formación en arquitectura y diseño publicitario, lo que ha influido en su enfoque multidisciplinario. Además de la pintura, ha trabajado en dirección de arte, diseño de espacios interiores, diseño de producto, mobiliario y fotografía.

Ha exhibido su obra ampliamente, con exposiciones individuales como *In the Margins of What You Call Reality* (JO-HS, Nueva York, 2024), *Realities in Dialogue / Realidades en diálogo* (JO-HS, Nueva York, 2023) y *Más allá del mundo que existe* (Cuarto 37, Costa Rica, 2021). Ha participado en exposiciones colectivas como *Anatomías* (GARNA Gallery, Madrid, 2025), *These Boots Are Made for Walkin'* (Room 57 Gallery, Nueva York, 2024) y *Queremos Pintar* (Museo Regional de San Ramón, Costa Rica, 2022).

Melissa fue galardonada con el *Erarta Foundation and ZSONAMACO Art Prize* (Semifinalista, 2024) y ha participado en residencias artísticas como la Mack Art Foundation en Nueva York (2024) y JO-HS en Ciudad de México (2022). Su trabajo ha sido destacado en publicaciones como *Vogue*, *Galerie Magazine*, *Cultured Magazine* y *ONDA MX*.