



MAGDALENA PAZ



From

Houseplants

Artist Statement on the *Houseplants* series:

I started working on this project towards the end of 2017. My previous work was inspired by abstract expressionist paintings that explored the processes related to my athletic practice. However, after I suffered an ankle injury in June of that year, I underwent a natural transition to a different form of art.

Before my injury, I had a very active daily routine. But, after the injury, I was forced into a sedentary lifestyle rather abruptly. Being inactive made me feel physically uncomfortable and emotionally uneasy. However, I recognized that this was a common circumstance in today's ever-expanding digital society.

The transition from my previous work to this new project may seem spontaneous, but it was something that happened quite naturally for me after my injury. Without even realizing it, I was drawn to painting humans as some sort of inanimate object - like a houseplant or a wild organism that had been domesticated.

At first, I had only a few ideas in mind for the figures, and I didn't know how the composition would be set in an environment that could neither be recognized as indoor nor outdoor. However, I started with rough pencil sketches and allowed the work to have elements of spontaneity and life. This process also required perseverance to see the paintings through to an unknown end.

I experimented directly on the canvas with form and color until the subjects felt right. I didn't worry about creating anatomically correct figures but focused on achieving aesthetic harmony. I continued to make changes until the sum of the elements evoked a





From

**Madonna
in the 21st Century**

Artist Statement on the Madonna in the 21st Century series:

I believe that creating a new icon of what the ideal woman and mother of the 21st century looks like would be a false and destructive belief. It is impossible for there to be one perfect fit for all, and attempting to create one would go against the progress we have made towards a more accepting and equal society. Such thinking does not harmonize with the progress we have made towards a more accepting and equal society and perpetuates feelings of shame and worthlessness among those who do not fit into the prescribed mold.

My paintings invite the viewer to see themselves as the contemporary or ideal version of a woman and mother in the 21st century. In contrast, the traditional image of the Madonna, which remains stagnant in its outdated ways, gazes disapprovingly at the modern depiction.

Through my art, I hope to inspire viewers to reject the idea of a one-size-fits-all approach to womanhood and motherhood and to celebrate individuality instead. By doing so, we can create a more diverse and accepting society that empowers all women to be their authentic selves.





From

Empty Landscapes

mpaz

Artist Statement on the *Empty Landscapes* series:

As an artist, I have always found refuge and comfort in sport fields and arenas. During the pandemic, I started a project called Empty Landscapes that focuses on exploring football fields as de-peopled. Among other things we never imagined happening in our lifetime, It is surreal to see a space that was designed to be occupied now rendered inaccessible and even prohibited for almost a year and a half.

Through my work, I deconstruct and rearrange the boundaries and shapes that form the foundation of the game, often creating a familiar but obsolete representation of this space treasured by so many. I experiment with placing the field vertically, reimagining its traditional form, and exploring its potential as an artistic medium.

Empty Landscapes is a reflection of our current times and the drastic changes that have occurred in our daily lives. As an artist, I am interested in exploring the impact of these changes on our society and the spaces we occupy.



