



**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.*



