

Masha Semikina

# MARERA

Portfolio

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BIO

I was born in 1982 in Kaliningrad, Russia, and studied French language and literature before earning degrees in cultural project management in France and European interdisciplinary studies in Poland. After working in the NGO sector in Kaliningrad, I moved to Germany in 2012 with the German Chancellor Fellowship Program. My artistic journey began in 2020 in Berlin, where I explored drawing and painting in various artistic courses, followed by studies and a certificate in graphic design. Since 2023, back in Berlin after time in Belgium and Spain, I've focused on abstract-figurative art, exploring human relationships and working with diverse mediums.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In my art, I bring human emotions to life through diverse mediums such as painting, sculpture, and ready-made objects. My work is inspired by personal experiences and the challenges women face around the world. I explore themes like being a woman, female sexuality, gender roles, and the balance between beauty and strength. Through my art, I want to show the hidden struggles behind seemingly happy lives and encourage people to think more deeply about the layers that make up our identities.

EXHIBITIONS

December 2024 - January 2025  
Group Exhibition "Be visible" at Palazzo Albrizzi-Capello, Venice, Italy

November 2024  
Group Exhibition "Visual Narratives" at Bardo Projektraum, Berlin, Germany

July - October 2024  
Group Exhibition at Zeit ist Knapp (Zentrum für internationale Künste), Berlin, Germany

January - February 2024  
Group Exhibition "SichtbarSEIN" (Cooperation project of I.S.I. e.V. Initiative Selbstständiger Immigrantinnen and the Ludwig-Erhard-Forum für Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft), Embassy of Mexico, Berlin, Germany

January – February 2024  
Group exhibition "Arte Fantastico", Colectiva Canary Art, Tenerife, Spain



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THE FRAGMENTED IDENTITY

The disjointed and blended shapes capture the fragmented identity of an immigrant, a woman, a mother, and a modern individual. They swarm, repel, and overlap, mirroring the chaotic emotions and thoughts of a turbulent mind, which arrive simultaneously and continuously collide. In my quest to bring order, I carefully arrange colors and forms until I achieve a perfect balance and attain inner harmony.

*I'm just a woman*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 100 cm



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THE WORLD OF SYMBOLS

What object do you associate with joy? And with despair? How would you represent hatred? Or sexuality? Each person holds their own unique associations with particular emotions and experiences. My aim is to uncover universal forms that embody various states of the human psyche. These symbols serve as prompts, guiding the viewer toward a particular theme and onward into a psychological odyssey shaped by their own imagination.



*International women day or give me time*

2024

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm



*It's your turn tonight* (Quadriptych)  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
120 x 120 cm

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## THE ANBIGUITY

My artworks act as gateways, inviting viewers to explore their personal associations with the shapes and colors depicted. Each painting, through its unique title, gently steers the viewer towards a particular theme. Yet, because of their fragmented nature, the forms often transform, acquiring new shapes and meanings in the viewer's imagination.

*Self-Portrait*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 100 cm



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FROM HIDDEN TO OPENNESS

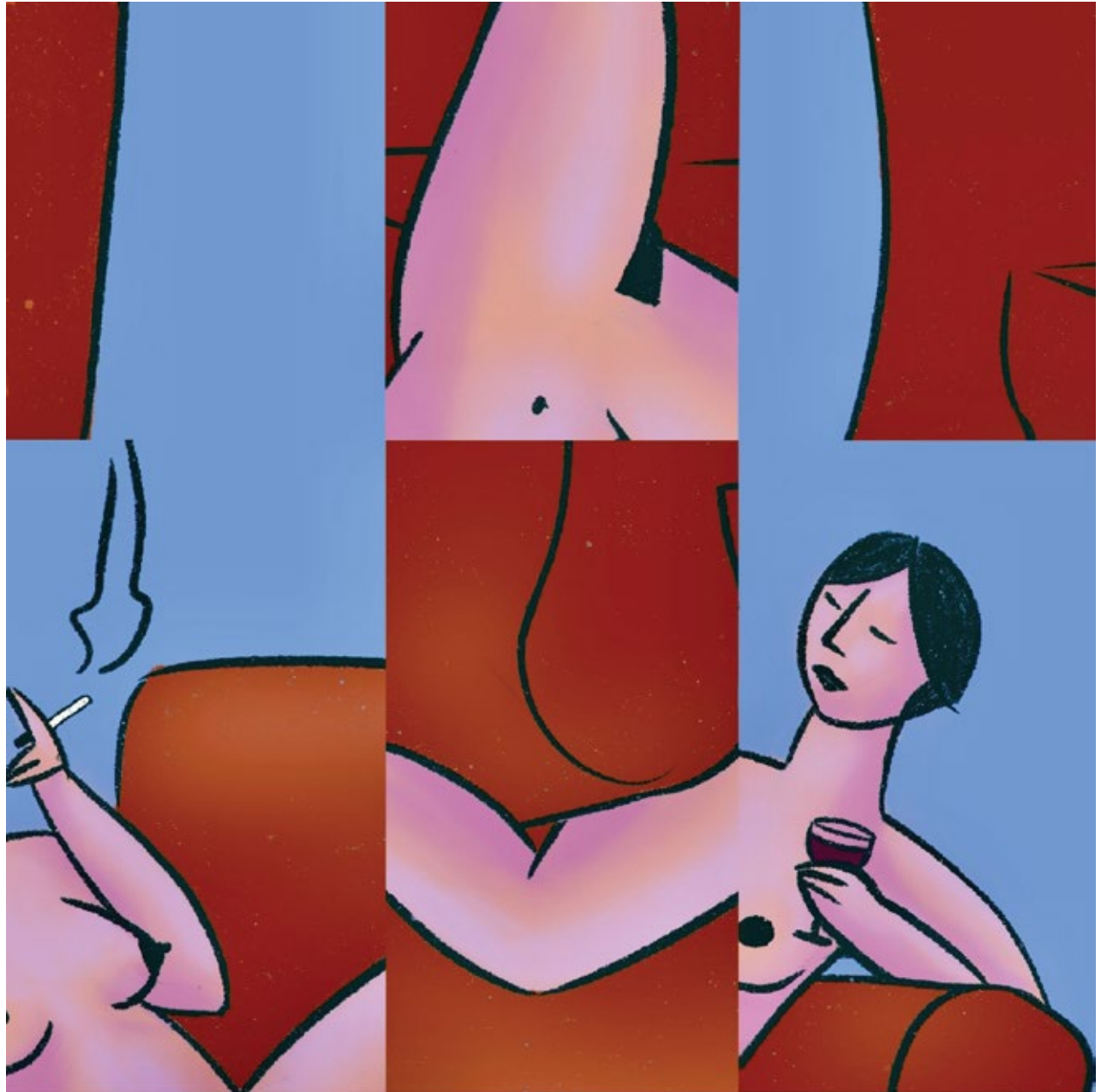
The fragmentation in my work is not only the result of a disjointed identity but also the necessity to hide myself from social stigmatization. Working on intimate subjects, consciously or subconsciously I compose my works from intricate details, to make interpretation challenging and to avoid a shame. Through creative process and ongoing psychotherapy, I am slowly gaining the courage to share my thoughts and desires more open which one can observe in my work becoming more candid and less obscured.

*Waiting for a miracle I*

2024

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm





*Waiting for a miracle II*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 135 cm



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This piece was created to convey the emotions of a woman who must constantly meet the needs of her family members. She is expected not only to cook, clean, and do laundry but also to "fulfil her marital duty." Her despair, however, stems not only from the exhaustion of these responsibilities but also from the frustration of wanting to bring joy to her loved ones while simply lacking the energy to do so. The woman is intentionally portrayed as a blonde in a pink apron to highlight that behind the "Barbie" image, there often lies a very different reality.

*Mom and wife*  
2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
70 x 50 cm

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*Mom and Wife* 2024

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The female breast—serving as a symbol of the primitive male perception of women solely as sexual objects. Both from personal life experience and from researching this theme in society, it is evident how much emphasis on the breast in a woman's attire influences men's perception of her. For example, sometimes consciously, but often unconsciously, men tend to hire women who skilfully highlight their breast during job interviews.

This art object was presented at the "Visual Narratives" exhibition in Berlin as part of the composition "I am always here for you, dear". Artificial breasts were available for visitors to touch for a small fee.

*Touch me*  
2024  
Clay, wood, metal  
26 x 40 cm



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This art object was presented at the "Visual Narratives" exhibition in Berlin as part of the composition "I am always here for you, dear", intended to reflect the widespread male expectation that a woman should always be ready for sexual intimacy.



*Of course, dear!*  
2024  
Clay, acrylic, fabric  
50 x 50 cm



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