



*Rosalía*, 2023. Glazed earthenware with platinum lustre

Rafaela de Ascanio (b.1986) is a British painter and sculptor living in London. Her work references art historical figures from the Renaissance era and Tarot card illustrations.

Appropriating the reverence of canonical imagery, de Ascanio paints stories depicting her contemporaries, reimagining ancient narratives with female protagonists. She hand-builds clay into anatomical forms which are then glazed and fired to create enduring stone bodies. Her artworks usually reference a tropical colour palette, attributed to her early years in the Canary Islands. For de Ascanio, glaze painting is slow and meditative. She welcomes the unpredictable nature of ceramics, noting that you never know exactly how the colours will fire in the kiln. De Ascanio portrays the female in defiant guises, empowering both her and the viewer. Images emerge from autobiographical events, fantastical symbols from sci-fi film and literature, esoteric pagan practices, and 'fire and brimstone' altarpieces.

De Ascanio studied at Central Saint Martins (2005), The Courtauld Institute of Art (MA, 2010) and the Turps Banana Painting Programme (2019). Recent exhibitions include two-person shows at Aindra Contemporary, London in 2019 and LAMB Gallery, London in 2018. She has also performed at the Tate (2017) and Peckham Festival (2016).

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**Solo Exhibitions** 2022 *The Pump House*, Bernston Bhattacharjee, London

2021 *Universal Yearnings*, Liliya Art Gallery, London

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**Group Exhibitions**

2024 *Apocalypse Now*, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London

2023 *Sexing the Cherry*, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London  
*Ex Voto*, organised by by The Mary Leyline Pilgrimage at Original Projects

2022 *A Conference of Birds*, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London  
*Conjure*, Arusha, curated by Chantal Powel  
*Fancy A Bite?*, Studio West, London  
*The Amber Room* at Reference Point Library, 180 The Strand, London  
*I'll be your mirror*, curated by Mark Connoly at Alice's Gallery and Oyster Bar  
*Swamp Legends*, Terrace Gallery, London  
*Wave*, Cob Gallery, London  
*Summer Exhibition*, Cynthia Corbett Gallery, London

2021 *Back to Back*, Bowes Gallery Parris Gallery, London  
*Disrupting the Delicate: Contemporary Ceramics By Ten Women Artists*, Janet Lady Fine Art, London  
*Meaning Behind Materiality: London Craft Week (Extended)*, Cynthia Corbett Gallery, London  
*Cracked*, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London  
*Focus on the Female*, Cynthia Corbett Gallery, London  
*Inside / Outside*, Janet Rady Fine Art, London

2020 *Monster/ Beauty, An Exploration of the Female/Femme Gaze*, Lychee One, London  
*Clay Today: A Showcase of Ceramics In Isolation*, Cynthia Corbett Gallery, London  
*Paintings On, And, With Paper: An Online Group Exhibition*, Cob Gallery, London  
*Tangled up in blue & the tales we tell ourselves*, Purslane

2019 *The Deccan Traps*, Andrea Contemporary, London

2018 *The Body Is A Blessed Fruit*, LAMB, London

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**Performance**

2016 *Queer Campervan*, Lila Festival, Switzerland

2017 *Queer Campervan*, Uniqlo Tate Lates, Tate Modern

2016 *Queer Campervan*, Peckham Festival  
*The Alternative*, Alternative Miss World, The Moth Club, London

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**Awards**

2022 Focus on the Female Emerging Women's Artist Award, Shortlisted for Mother Art Prize

2021 Young Masters Emerging Artist Award, hosted by Cynthia Corbett Gallery

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**Education**

2019 Turps Banana Painting Programme

2010 MA Curating The Art Museum, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London

2008 BA History of Art, The Courtauld Institute, London

2006 Arts Foundation, Central St Martins, London

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