



IOANA BALTAN

Short Statement

My work combines various ideas about female identity, childhood memories and imaginary adventures. Through the female characters, I want to highlight contemporary beauty aesthetics. I am intrigued by the history of women's beauty standards, and how they were depicted over time as angelic beauty icons, grotesque monsters and recently as animated plastic simulacra. In my paintings, I choose to present a cartoon-ish Instagram-filter beauty, defined as Cartoon Glam. Unicorns, bunnies, and cakes are meaningful symbols in my paintings. They emphasize the idea of childhood, innocence and belonging.

Short Bio

Ioana Baltan (b. Dragomirești, Dâmbovița) lives and works in London. She attended The National University of Arts, Bucharest, where she obtained a BA degree in painting in 2015. The same year, Baltan obtained the Teaching Training Department's BA degree issued by the same institution. She continued her studies at The Brera Fine Arts Academy Milan with a scholarship and got an MA Degree in Strategies of Creation in Painting released by the National University of Arts Bucharest.

Baltan's paintings reveal her strong preoccupation with contemporary approaches to the female figure. Her large scale compositions are thought as a body of visual research on portraying feminine archetypes with a strong focus on how these subjects were depicted overtime as angelic beauty icons, grotesque monsters or recently as animated plastic simulacra. Ioana's urban goddesses are surrounded by fantastic landscapes decorated with cosmic elements, wild fauna all of them shrouded with artificial lights.

Education

2012-2015 | Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts Painting, National University of Arts, Bucharest

2012-2015 | Bachelor's Degree in Teaching Training Department, National University of Arts, Bucharest

2016-2017 | Master's Degree Scholarship in Fine Arts, Brera Fine Arts Academy Milan

2015-2017 | Master's Degree in Strategies of Creation in Painting, National University of Arts, Bucharest

2018 | Postgraduate Scholarship - Gallery Assistant in Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall, London

Solo Exhibitions

2024 | Fantastyfroolia - A Painted Tale with Tints of Marzipan, IOMO Gallery,

2023 | Feast of the Immortals, Maggio Art Consultancy x Artsy

2015 | Anima Damnata, Go Contemporary Gallery, solo show, Bucharest

Group Exhibitions

2024 | „Hey! Teacher! Leave us kids alone!“, a66Gallery, Mallorca, Spain

2024 | *Sound and Vision*, 180 Studios x Art on a Postcard, London

2024 | *Midsummer Group*, a66Gallery, Mallorca, Spain

2024 | *Hair Stories*, Art Safari, Bucharest,

2024 | RAD ArtFair, Caro Hotel, Bucharest

2023 | The passerby who stays, group show, Koppel X

2022 | Selected vol 2, London Paint Club, group show, Koppel X

2022 | Arte Vi.Ve, Biennale of Viterbo, group show, Venice

2022 | Tendencies in Painting, London Paint Club, group show

2022 | Metaverse x Maggio Art Consultancy, London

2020-2021 | RA Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London

2019 | Look at me for the last one time, Elite Art Gallery, Bucharest

2019 | Alpha-Theta, Art number 23, group show, London

2018 | Group exhibition, Candid Art Trust, London

2016 | Art Safari Exhibition, Go Contemporary Gallery pavilion, Dacia Palace, group show, Bucharest

2016 | Art Safari Go Contemporary Gallery Dacia Palace, Artist Presentation Bucharest

Publications and Media

2023 | Women: From Unicorns to Pets, Artmajeur Magazine,

2022 | Issue no 2 'Tendencies in Painting', London Paint Club

Honors and Awards

2022 | Shortlisted at Zealous Amplify: Mental Health and Wellbeing, London,

since 2022 | Member of London Paint Club

2022-2023 | Contemporary Art Collectors Programme

2022 | Honorable Mention, Chelsea International Fine Art Competition, New York

2019 | Shortlisted - Second Round, 'ArtRooms London', London