

Mariana Malheiro

[Caos com Carinho]

Solo Exhibition
23.09.2025_15.11.2025

Caos com Carinho

Mariana Malheiro
September 23 - November 15,
2025
Galeria Belard, Lisbon

Mariana Malheiro paints life as it is: messy, contradictory, and profoundly human. In *Caos com Carinho* (Chaos with Care), domestic spaces become territories of conscious choice where figures inhabit their own narratives with unguarded intimacy, revealing how care emerges not despite chaos, but through it.

Her compositions resist emptiness with deliberate abundance. Interiors overflow with floral patterns, wallpaper, teacups, and wine bottles—the debris of both quiet afternoons and restless nights—speaking of lives fully inhabited. Figures move through these rooms with unselfconscious authority, equally at ease in solitude and communion, navigating between expectation and desire without apology.

Drawing has always been Malheiro's first language. She layers thick oil paint beneath swift, spontaneous gestures, creating surfaces that feel both painted and drawn. The materiality of Auerbach and Kossoff's philosophy of "drawing with paint" provides a point of departure, but it is in her personal transformation of these legacies that her voice gains its weight.

The dialogue with Cecily Brown is equally evident: both share an unbridled energy that embraces figuration, transforming the act of drawing into a dance between control and abandon. Like Brown, Malheiro fuses body and space into one. Echoes of Alice Neel's psychological candor surface in her refusal of idealization, while Paula Rego's narrative force resonates in the latent tensions of the domestic stage. The result is a pictorial language that binds the physicality of gestural painting to a distinctly contemporary sensibility.

Books recur throughout her work, not as instruments of intellectual pursuit but as objects of comfort—companions that soothe even when unread. In one sculptural piece, a painted notebook reveals not words but a paint-stained rag, suggesting that visual language has displaced the written word entirely.

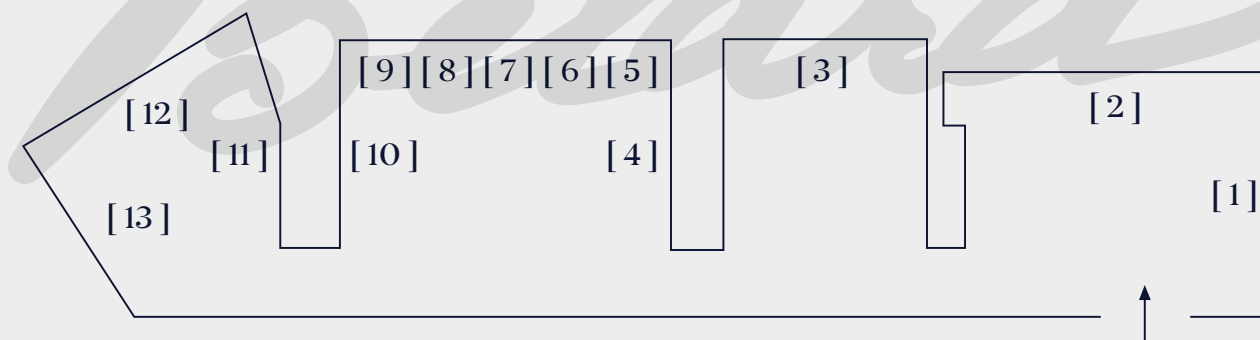
Malheiro's painted drawings pulse with immediacy while sustaining contemplative depth. They hold space for clutter and tenderness, for humor and melancholy, for the contradictory beauty of lives lived authentically. In her vision, the domestic interior becomes neither sanctuary nor prison, but a stage where women—past and present—reclaim their complexity with chaotic care.

Mariana Malheiro (Lisbon, 1995) is a visual artist working primarily with drawing and oil painting. She graduated in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Lisbon, and studied at Kunsthochschule Kassel, Germany. In 2024, she participated in an artist residency at Kunstraum L LC, New York, supported by the Luso-American Development Foundation. Her work is part of institutional and private collections in Portugal, Brazil and United States of America, and has been exhibited in solo and group shows across Portugal, Germany, and the United States. Her work has been featured in publications such as Umbigo Magazine, DOSE, and Portuguese Emerging Artists 2023.

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1. [Celeste] 2025

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
30 × 24 cm | 12 × 9 in
(MMA 24)

2. [Um debate e seus ouvintes] 2025

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
120 × 150 cm | 47 × 59 in
(MMA 20)

3. [Memorabilia] 2025

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
170 × 200 cm | 66 7/8 × 78 3/4
(MMA 12)

4. [After] 2024

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
125 × 115 cm | 49 1/4 × 45 1/4 in.
(MMA 11)

5. [Luzia] 2025

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
30 × 24 cm | 12 × 9 in
(MMA 22)

6. [Mia] 2024

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
30.5 × 23 × 1 cm | 12 × 9 × 3/8
(MMA 3)

7. [Dulce] 2025

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
30 × 24 cm | 12 × 9 in
(MMA 25)

8. [Madalena] 2024

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
30.5 × 24 × 2 cm | 12 × 9 1/2
(MMA 1)

9. [Amy] 2024

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
30 × 24 cm | 11 3/4 × 9 1/2 in.
(MMA 7)

10. [Longas Noites] 2024

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
100 × 133 cm | 39 × 52 in
(MMA 18)

11. [Melancolia II] 2025

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
35 × 27 cm | 14 × 11 in
(MMA 16)

12. [Festival] 2025

Oil on canvas | Óleo sobre tela
120 × 150 cm | 47 × 59 in
(MMA 21)

13. [Cadernos de notas, capa marmoreada I] 2025

Oil and modeling paste on canvas / óleo
e pasta de modelar sobre tela
(MMA 33)