

Charmaine Mc Mahon

Visual Artist

Zurich, Switzerland

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Biography

Charmaine Mc Mahon is a contemporary visual artist based in Zurich, Switzerland, with cultural roots in Ireland and South Africa. Her practice centres on portraiture and the human condition, exploring themes of perception, identity, and personal narrative through an evocative blend of abstraction and realism. Working primarily in acrylics, oils, and ink, she creates emotionally charged artworks that reflect both psychological insight and aesthetic nuance.

Charmaine's artistic foundation was shaped by a formal education in Fine Art and Graphic Design at the Durban University of Technology, followed by a multifaceted career in graphic design, illustration, and print media. After a period dedicated to family life and relocation abroad, she reconnected with her artistic calling through continued creative exploration and international studies. A pivotal turning point came in 2018 during a sabbatical at Metàfora International Studio Arts in Barcelona, which reignited her conceptual approach and commitment to a full-time art practice.

Since then, Charmaine has exhibited her work in both solo and group exhibitions across Switzerland, France, Spain, and South Africa. Her paintings and illustrations have appeared in respected platforms such as VOGUE UK, The World of Interiors, and Home & Garden UK, and are held in private collections throughout Europe, the UK, and Southern Africa.

Her recent exhibitions include “Harmony in Flux” (Schaufenster Galerie, Zurich), ARTEXPO Paris (Galerie Agnes Nordin), and a curated project at the Hyatt Regency Zurich Airport, among others. As a jury member of the Zurich Artists Association (KVZ), she is an active contributor to the local art scene while building an increasingly international presence.

Charmaine’s vision is to collaborate with curators, collectors, and established galleries that share her dedication to meaningful, introspective art. With a steadily growing body of work and a deeply personal yet universal voice, she seeks to present her work on international stages that support artistic integrity and critical engagement.

Selected Exhibitions

2025 – Group Exhibition, “Nothing Lasts Forever”, Galerie Art & Business, Zurich, Switzerland

2024 – Solo Exhibition, „Harmony in Flux“, Schaufenster Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland

2024 – Group Exhibition, „Neue Wege“, Werkschau 2024, Galerie Art & Business, Zurich, Switzerland

2024 – Group Exhibition, “ARTEXPO Paris”, ARTBOXY, Galerie Agnes Nordin, Paris, France

2024 – Project Commission, Hyatt Regency, The Circle, Zurich Airport (Theme: International Tourism & Travel)

2024 – Private Exhibitions in Zurich and Cape Town (Gallo Studio, Petit Filou, K. Institute, Art & Coffee)

2021 – Group Exhibition, SWISSARTEXPO, Zurich Main Station, Zurich, Switzerland

2020 – Group Exhibition, SWISSARTEXPO, Zurich Main Station, Zurich, Switzerland

2019 – Solo Exhibition, A1 M.O.V.E, Zurich, Switzerland

2016 – Group Exhibition, “Complete Nothingness”, Untitled Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

2010 – Private Collections in UK, USA, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Southern Africa

Publications

2025 – “Home & Garden UK”, The Art Edit & Digital Editions (Aug–Oct)

2021 – “VOGUE UK” & “The World of Interiors “, The Art Editorials (Jan & Feb)

2020 – “VOGUE UK”, The Art Editions, (Dec Edition)

Online Press: NewsFox, Presstext, Limmattaler Zeitung

Professional Membership

Künstlervereinigung Zürich (KVZ), Member since 2019, Jury Member since 2024

SWISSARTEXPO | ARTBOXY.com

Affiliated: ARTBASEL.com (via UBS), TATE Modern (UK), The National Gallery (UK), Artsy.com

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts & Design, Durban University of Technology, South Africa

National Diploma in Fine Art & Design, Durban University of Technology, South Africa

National Senior Certificate in Art, Durban Commercial High School, South Africa

2016 – Studio Arts Program (Conceptual Art), Metàfora International, Barcelona, Spain

Selected Studies & Workshops

2024 – Gold Leafing Workshop, Dietmar E. Feldmann, Atelier Boesner, Switzerland

2022 – Landscape & Culinary Art Retreat, Ajaysart, Paternoster, South Africa

2016 – 2020 Figure Drawing, Atelier Peter Grenacher, Zurich, Switzerland

2014 – 2015 Mixed Media Workshop, Natasja De Wet, Cape Town, South Africa

2014 – Landscape Workshop, Dale Elliot, Cape Province, South Africa

2010 – Figure Drawing, Royal Academy, London, UK

Additional training in mixed media, aquarelle, landscape oil, anatomy, and contemporary figurative practice (various instructors)

Selected Employment

Graphic Designer & Illustrator, Metal Box Company (Nampak), Durban, South Africa

Head of Illustration & Production, Greatermans & Stuttford's, Durban, South Africa

Layout & Graphic Designer, Independent Newspapers (e.g. Natal Mercury, Sunday Tribune)

Freelance Designer & Illustrator for lifestyle publications (Fairlady, Cosmopolitan, SA Garden & Home, etc.)