

ALICE RAHON

(Chenecey-Buillon, France, 1904 - Mexico City, Mexico 1987)



Alice Rahon was a French-born Mexican poet and painter associated with the Surrealist diasporic movement. In 1941, she moved to Mexico City with her then husband Wolfgang Paalen and Swiss photographer Eva Sulzer.

After publishing three volumes of poetry illustrated by Yves Tanguy, Joan Miró and Paalen, she shifted her practice to the visual arts and spent her mature years working almost exclusively as a painter. Like her poetry, Rahon's paintings are thick with mythology, magic, memory, and language. Compelled by both prehistoric cave paintings and the Surrealist milieu in which she lived with her close friends Frida Kahlo, Leonora Carrington and Remedios Varo, Rahon wove symbols, colors, and textures together in delicate combinations of figuration and abstraction.

Rahon's work uniquely melded European Surrealist influences with the cultural vibrancy of popular and ancestral cultures in Mexico. Today her contributions to both visual art and poetry continue to be re-examined.

Rahon died in Mexico City in 1987.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2023** Alice Rahon: Impresiones, Museo Kaluz, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2020** Alice Rahon: Poetic Invocations, Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA
- 2009** Alice Rahon: Una surrealista en México (1939-1987), Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico; El Cubo - Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico
- 2004** Alice Rahon: Entramado de Sueños, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Unidad Xochimilco, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1986** Alice Rahon: Exposición Antológica, Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1965** Alice Rahon: gouaches, dessins, collages, Institut Français d'Amérique Latine, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1954** Salón de la Plástica Mexicana, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1945** Paintings and Drawings by Alice Rahon Paalen, San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, USA
- Alice Rahon Paalen: Abstractions, Pasadena Art Institute, Pasadena, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2024** Playing with closed eyes, 100 years of surrealism, Galería RGR, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2023** Eje Neo Volcánico, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico
Fabulas Fantásticas, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2022** Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernity, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy; Museum Barberini, Potsdam, Germany
Sólo lo maravilloso es bello: Surrealismo en diálogo, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2021** Surrealism Beyond Borders, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA; Tate Modern, London, UK
Sororidad: La otra mirada al arte en México, Museo de Bellas Artes, Toluca, Mexico
- 2020** Fantastic Women. Surreal Worlds from Meret Oppenheim to Frida Kahlo, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark
- 2019** I Paint My Reality: Surrealism in Latin America, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, USA
Art Latin_America: Against the Survey, Davis Museum at Wellesley College, Wellesley, USA
Les Femmes Surréalistes, Napa Valley Museum Yountville, Yountville, USA
- 2018** Leonora Carrington: Magical Tales, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico
Modern Couples, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France
El gran malentendido. Wolfgang Paalen en Mexico y el surrealismo disidente de la revista DYN, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico
Hacer el cuerpo, Colección Rogelio Cuéllar, El Cubo - Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico
- 2017** Los Modernos, Dialogues France/Mexique, Musee des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, Lyon, France; Museo Nacional de Arte, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2016** Paint the Revolution: Mexican Modernism 1910–1950, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA; Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
México 1900–1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, José Clemente Orozco and the Avant Garde, Grand Palais, Paris, France; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, USA
Sonja Sekula, Max Ernst, Jackson Pollock & Friends, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland

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- 2015** Frida Kahlo: Conexões entre mulheres surrealistas no México, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil; Caixa Cultural, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Caixa Cultural de Brasília, Brasília, Brazil
- 2013** La Danza de los Espectros, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico
De la Academia a la Modernidad, Museo Dolores Olmedo, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2012** In Wonderland: The Surrealist Adventures of Women Artists in Mexico and the United States, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA; Musée National des beaux-arts du Québec, Canada; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico
Surrealismo: Vasos Comunicantes, Museo Nacional de México, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2009** Reflejos del paisaje mexicano, Museo Dolores Olmedo, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2008** Historia de Mujeres, Artistas en México del Siglo XX, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico
- 2003** Women Surrealists in Mexico, The Bunkamura Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan; Suntory Museum, Osaka, Japan; Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya, Japan; The Museum of Art, Kochi, Japan
- 1987** La Femme et le Surréalisme, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1986** Los surrealistas en México, Museo Nacional de Arte, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1984** 18 artistas franceses en México, Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1982** Ficción Urbana, Foro de Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1975** La mujer como creadora y tema del arte, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico



COLLECTIONS

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA

Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, USA

BBVA Collection, Mexico City, Mexico

Citibanamex Collection, Mexico City, Mexico

Davis Museum, Wellesley, USA

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, USA

Eskenazi Museum of Art, Bloomington, USA

The Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, USA

Hood Museum, Hanover, USA

Kunst Museum Winterthur, Zürich, Switzerland

Lucid Art Foundation, Inverness, USA

Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico

Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

NSU Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, USA

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA

St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, USA

The San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, USA

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