

VIVARIUM

Alicia Martín López

Tönnheim Gallery, Calle Valencia 17, Centro / Madrid

15th of October – 15nd of November 2026

VIVARIUM

Tönnheim Gallery is delighted to present *VIVARIUM*, Alicia Martín López's first solo exhibition with the gallery, on view from October 15 to November 15. The opening will take place on Thursday, October 15, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

We must learn to inhabit waiting. To protect questions from the need for an answer. To persist does not mean remaining still, but to surrender to movement without asking where it leads. To touch objects, air, time; to approach things slowly, allowing their mysteries to unfold. To recover a form of attention that existed before the need to understand: to walk with the certainty that something invisible accompanies us, to play believing that universes exist.

To leave a foot print is not to mark an ending.

Do things ever come to an end?

They simply happen.

They continue to persist.

Matter transforms. Form changes. What cannot take shape gives way to what insists on remaining. Existence thus unfolds as a continuous process of transformation: making and unmaking, appearing and disappearing, persisting and letting go.

Vivarium emerges from a state of suspension: a space where forms seem to inhabit a system whose rules we can sense, but never fully comprehend. Painting builds this system through relationships, repetitions, and deviations, keeping the image suspended between the recognisable and the strange. It is a space for that which cannot yet be named, because it is still becoming.

Text by Victoria Ulloa

Alicia Martín López invites us to look without seeking to possess. Her painting does not represent the world; it gestures toward the idea of one. It does not emerge solely from what is seen, but from what is lived through. Its lack of definition is not absence. Faced with that which has not yet finished taking shape, Lyotard's question, posed before all determination, resonates: Does it happen? *Vivarium* opens the door to a place where we still do not know what is being born or what is disappearing. Where matter decomposes only to reorganise itself. Where one form ends to make room for another. Where the body transforms without ceasing to be a body.

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BIO

Alicia Martín López (Plasencia, 1982) is a visual artist based in Madrid. She holds an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York, where she studied as a Fulbright Scholar, developing a painting practice that combines traditional and digital processes. Her work approaches painting as a process of material editing, in which images are constructed through layers, superimpositions, and assemblages. Working through this logic, she develops compositions with an almost sculptural quality, where the organic, the architectural, and the corporeal come together within an ambiguous figuration. Her practice explores the instability of form and the ways in which matter, perception, and imagination participate in the construction of the visible.

She has held solo exhibitions at Kutxa Kultur/Tabakalera (San Sebastián), Sala Portalea (Eibar), Centro Cultural Las Claras (Plasencia), Bastero Kulturgunea (Andoain), S Gallery (Madrid), Un Lugar (Madrid), and Tönnheim Gallery (Madrid). Her work has also been presented at institutions such as Fundación Cristina Enea (San Sebastián), at art fairs including CAN Art Fair and Hybrid Art Fair, and at the Salón de Dibujo e Ilustración at Museo ABC (Madrid), as well as in group exhibitions at galleries in New York, New Jersey, San Francisco, and Madrid.

Her grants and recognitions include the Visual Artists Grants from the Junta de Extremadura (2025) and the Paula Rhodes Memorial Award from the School of Visual Arts in New York (2012).

Tönnheim Gallery's mission is to examine the idea of the painterly, be it also through related media such as photography, sculpture, installations, video and drawing, in order to understand and to promote the direction of painting and its relevance to contemporary visual culture.