

Karla de Lara

“I have never been strictly abstract or strictly figurative. What I represent is a symbiosis of the emotions... and these spaces that were left by important moments in my life.”

Karla de Lara (b.1972, Guadalajara, Mexico) is widely recognized as the “Mother of Hyperrealist Pop Art.” Trained at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, she developed a signature technique using wax and industrial dyes to create luminous, high-gloss enamel surfaces that blur abstraction and realism. Her work masterfully manipulates light, structure, and optical perception, transforming fragmented urban imagery, pop culture references, and emotional narratives into striking hyperreal compositions.

Over the course of her career, de Lara has presented more than 350 solo exhibitions across nearly 40 countries, with appearances at major international fairs including Art Basel and Art Miami. She remains the only living artist with work permanently housed in the Museo Nacional de Historia at Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City. Her achievements also include creating Jalisco’s largest mural at Expo Guadalajara, winning the Biennale della Nazioni in Venice, and serving as the official artist of the U.S.–Mexico Bicentennial diplomatic celebration—cementing her status as a defining figure in contemporary Mexican art.

