

Olivia Rogalla

Bio

Born in the U.S. to a Brazilian mother and a German father, I grew up across several countries, which left me with a lasting sense of being in-between. This fluid way of moving through the world first led me to theatre, where I explored identity and human behavior through observation and play. From 2016 to 2020, I studied dramatic arts at SFSH in Hamburg before discovering visual art as the language I had been searching for, a way to make sense of human contradictions, the humor of everyday life, and the quiet stories that often go unnoticed

Artist Statment

Since childhood, I've been fascinated by the way we assign value and emotion to objects. I grew up in a home where furniture had personalities and symbolic roles. "Tante Tona's Wardrobe," for example, wasn't just a wardrobe, it carried the presence of a woman who never married, read compulsively, and searched for truth in the details. From these inherited objects, I learned that things carry stories, and sometimes they are the ones telling them.

I've always wondered about the abandoned objects that appear on city streets, neighborhood monuments whose histories we can sense but never know. We project narratives onto them, just as we do onto people. My work plays with these imagined stories and with the tension between what we know, what we assume, and what we invent.

My practice took shape during the early months of the pandemic, when living 24/7 with our belongings made their silent presence impossible to ignore. Bottles looked like crying figures, fruits had startled faces, plates slumped like tired bodies. My human figures turned into objects, and objects began to behave like people. This became the root of my visual language: a space where the human and the material blend, blur, and exchange roles.

During lockdown I also began placing small works in the streets, my first contemporary ex-votos. Borrowing from traditions in Brazil, Mexico, Japan, and Europe, these pieces turn emotion into physical offerings and connect people, space, and time. Many of my works are created on found materials like old signs, discarded boards, and used canvases, giving new life to objects that have already lived a story of their own.

Being a third-culture kid, German and Brazilian, born in the U.S., raised across several countries, has shaped my sensitivity to cultural patterns, hybrid identities, and the ways people project meaning onto objects. Always being the recognizable outsider taught me to look closely, to notice what is overlooked, and to perceive life in unexpected places.

My work lives where intimacy and absurdity meet. Through humor, tenderness, and personification, I invite viewers to see the everyday world as a living stage, one where people, objects, and spaces speak to each other, if we learn to listen.



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Exhibitions & Residencies

Solo Exhibition: Caffeinated Sky

Madrid - 06.06.2024-08.07.2024 - Curated by STUDIO 67 and A.B Contemporary for Espresso Coffe Shop

Group Exhibition: Pandoras Playground

Madrid - 08.02.2024-08.03.2024 - Curated by A.B Contemporary for STUDIO 67

Group Exhibition: Millentor Gallery

07.07.2020-10.07.20 - Viva con Agua Arts

Other Projects

MURAL for ORA Contemporary

Madrid - 10.06.2025-20.09.2025

Deepchats x ORA Contemporary: Artist talk with Olivia Rogalla, dialogue on Identity

Madrid - 22.06.2025 - Unique Deep Chats session

TheExoticBread Interventions

Hamburg / Munich / Madrid - 30.03.2020-30.04.2022 - Independent Project

Art Residency - Cologne

28.02.2019-03.03.2019 - Machma Art - 3-Day Art Residency in Cologne, exploring the subconscious in creation across different mediums.

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Socials

[@oliveyourlifee](https://www.instagram.com/oliveyourlifee)

[@oliveisoutofoffice](https://www.instagram.com/oliveisoutofoffice)

Languages

Español	100%
English	100%
Deutsch	100%
Português	90%
Français	50%
Italiano	20%

Education

2016-2020
Studies in Dramatic Arts
SFSH-Schule Für Schauspiel
Hamburg