

Maria Theresa Barbist

Interdisciplinary Artist

Miami, FL

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Bio

Maria Theresa Barbist (b. Schwaz, Austria) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work translates traumatic memory and emotional states into performative actions, moving images, and sculptural objects. Grounded in psychotherapeutic principles, her practice draws on her background as a clinical psychologist (PhD, University of Innsbruck) and her training in movement-based expressive arts therapy at the Tamalpa Institute.

Her work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions at venues including Taplin Gallery, Swenson Gallery, Atchugarry Gallery, Diego Rivera Gallery, MOCA North Miami, and Neue Galerie Innsbruck. She is a recipient of the Miami Individual Artist Grant and The Ellies Award by Oolite Arts, and has held residencies at Bakehouse Art Complex, ProjectArt, and The School of Making Thinking. Her work is included in the Miami International Airport Collection and private collections. She lives and works in Miami, Florida.

Education

MFA, New Genres

San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA — 2014

PhD, Psychology

University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria — 2005

Movement-Based Expressive Arts Education & Therapy

Tamalpa Institute, Kentfield, CA — 2010

Psychodrama Psychotherapy Training

University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria — 2009

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Performative Actions

Brockway Memorial Library, Miami Shores, FL — 2022

Kinderland

Taplin Gallery, Miami, FL — 2019

Fadenspiele

Swenson Gallery, Miami, FL — 2015

Fragile Connections

Paul Sack Still Lights Gallery, San Francisco, CA — 2013

Selected Group Exhibitions, Screenings & Performances

2026

Florida Prize in Contemporary Art, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL

DEERING CONTEMPORARY 2026: Here We Gather... What We Need, We Already Have, curated by Dainy Tapia, Deering Estate, Miami, FL

2025

Resist. Repeat. Reboot., SF Artists Alumni at TRYST Alternative Art Fair, Los Angeles, CA

Miami International Performance Festival, Edge Zones, Miami, FL

CATS! The Exhibition, Bridge Red Studios, North Miami, FL

2024

Women at Large, Atchugarry Gallery, Miami, FL

What They Saw, WOPHA at Miami-Dade Public Library, Miami, FL

Myriad – Faculty Exhibition, Rosemary Duffy Larson Gallery, Davie, FL

Influx: Recalibrating the Unknown, Museum of Northern California Art, Chico, CA

2023

Fall Faculty Exhibition, Rosemary Duffy Larson Gallery, Davie, FL

Intersections, New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL

Bluechip, Club Gallery, Miami, FL

305 & Havana Film Festival, Miami, FL

2022

Bluprnt, Bridge Red Studios, Miami, FL

Begrabung, Cucalorus Film Festival, Wilmington, NC

Foment, Studio Judy G, Watsonville, CA

Unusual Behavior, Carolyn M. Wilson Gallery, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

My Auxiliary Ego, Miami Performance International Festival, Bass Museum, Miami Beach, FL

Grass Stains 2022, The Curtiss Mansion, Miami, FL

Grants & Awards

Miami Individual Artist Grant
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs — 2022

The Ellies Award
Oolite Arts — 2020

Community Grant
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs — 2019

Awesome Foundation Grant — 2018

Residencies

The School of Making Thinking, Wilmington, NC
Grass Stains, Pioneer Winter Collective, Miami, FL
ProjectArt, Culmer/Overtown Library, Miami, FL
Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami, FL
Scrawl Center for Drawing, San Francisco, CA

Workshops, Lectures & Public Programs

Teen Art Force, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), North Miami, FL
First Aid Kit for Artists, Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami, FL
Live Virtual Local Views, Pérez Art Museum Miami
The Portfolio Review Series Online, Coral Gables Museum
MBUS Live Art Talk, Florida International University, Miami Beach, FL

Collections

Miami International Airport Collection, Miami, FL
Private Collections

Collaborative Projects

SF Artists Alumni — Community-based project (2020–ongoing)
My Auxiliary Ego — Music and performance project (2020–ongoing)
Rocking Chair Sessions — Podcast and exhibition series (2017–2020)

Selected Publications & Press

Local Artists Get a Tailwind Boost, Miami Airport News — 2020

The BABA Collective: Rocking Chair Sessions, Miami Herald — 2019

Studio Visit Magazine, Vol. 34, Open Studio Press — 2016

Miami Performance International Festival, Miami Rail — Fall 2014