

NICOLINA MORRA

Born in 2003, Huntington, New York
Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Nicolina Morra is a painter who investigates longing as a driving force in the human experience. She graduated from Florida State University in 2025 with a BFA in studio art and an emphasis on painting. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Disillusionment with current conditions, coupled with the desire for an unattainable ideal, can manifest in a search for meaning through secular forms of worship, where power and hope are ascribed to certain figures, rituals, and objects. Morra's work examines how these forces of longing and devotion reflect the search for transcendence in the everyday. Central to her practice is the re-contextualization of images drawn from her expanding personal archive, sourced from films, found photographs, and online forums. The original context of these images is disrupted and imbued with new layers of meaning through selective cropping and a blurred painting technique, often paired with hyper-realistic depictions of things that play with the tension between what is within and just out of reach. This process situates her work between the archive and the altar: the archive as a repository of collective memory and imagery, and the altar as a space where these fragments are elevated into symbols of contemporary secular worship and the pursuit of something more. Her work has been featured in several exhibitions in various institutions and independent spaces in the United States, including Latitude Gallery in New York (2026), Algorithim House, Hollywood (2025), Impossible Currency, Atlanta (2025), LeMieux galleries, New Orleans (2025) and a solo exhibition at Ruby/Dakota gallery, New York (2025).

EDUCATION

2025 Bachelor's in Fine Arts, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 Ruby/Dakota gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Enari Gallery, Amsterdam, NL, *"Sweet Surrender"*

2025 The New York Academy of Art, New York, NY, *"The AXA Art Prize US Exhibition"*

	Impossible Currency, Atlanta, GA, <i>"Blue Blue Blue Blue Blue"</i>
	LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, LA, <i>"So Real"</i>
	Working Method Contemporary, Tallahassee, FL, <i>"Everything I've Ever Known"</i>
	Point Blank, Chicago, IL, <i>"Slipcover"</i>
	Venvi Art Gallery, Tallahassee, FL, <i>"Locust Technician"</i>
	Bascom Centre for the Visual Arts, Highlands, NC, <i>"Emergence"</i>
	Field Projects, New York, NY, <i>"Echo Locator"</i>
2024	Art Centre Sarasota, Sarasota, FL, <i>"Trompe L'oeil"</i>
	Jag Gallery, Key West, FL, <i>"Small Works"</i>
	Phyllis Straus Gallery, Tallahassee, FL, <i>"Reserves"</i>
	La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, <i>"Everything But the Kitchen Sink"</i>
	Thomasville Centre for the Arts, Thomasville, GA, <i>"THOM Collective"</i>
	Gadsden Arts Centre & Museum, Quincy, FL, <i>"Bite From the Apple"</i>
2023	William Johnston Building Gallery, Tallahassee, FL, <i>"Paracosm"</i>
	Phyllis Straus Gallery, Tallahassee, FL, <i>"Flowing Substances"</i>
2022	Phyllis Straus Gallery, Tallahassee, FL, <i>"Art From the Home"</i>

AWARDS & HONORS

2025	AXA Art Prize Finalist
2025	Honors, Scholars, & Fellows Excellence in Visual Arts Award
2025	Career Preparation in the Arts Fund Scholarship
2024	Mary Brown Ostlund Award
2024	Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award
2024	IDEA Grant Undergraduate Research Award

PRESS

2025	Serena Hanzhi Wang, <i>"Precise, Controlled Weirdness at Ruby/Dakota"</i> , <i>Cultbytes</i>
	Karla Menendez, <i>"This Is the One With Magic"</i> , <i>Primary Colors Substack</i>