

NIKKI DE LEÓN (she / her)

Painting – Sculpture – Text

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Nikki de León's practice spans painting, sculpture, and text, driven by an act of architectural self-assertion. Drawing on her background in technical construction and metal fabrication, she explores how structure and space inherit strength when built from the unknown. In her paintings, de León rejects the empty canvas for an absolute blackness, forcing color to emerge as sharp forms executed freehand with visceral precision. Her sculptural works play with precarious equilibrium, holding together opposing forces—structure and intuition, weight and lightness. Her work creates spaces where contrasts coexist, inviting viewers to experience them not as conflict, but as resilient, steady forms of strength.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Lego Tour, City Management, Saarlouis, Germany

2024

Construction of Reminiscence, Kunsthafen, Cologne, Germany

2023

Happy Places, Studio Feld, Cologne, Germany

2022

Blackmarket - Cash Only, Covid Studio, Cologne, Germany

2021

Selected Works, N°59, Cologne, Germany

2019

New Post – Offline, Rosebud Bar, Cologne, Germany

EDUCATION

MA Interior Design – 2018

Product- Furniture- and Exhibition Design

University of applied Science, Trier, Germany

BA Interior Architecture – 2017

Construction in Existing Context

University of applied Science, Trier, Germany

Interior Design Studies, 2013 - 2017

Architecture Studies, 2009 - 2013

University of applied Science, Trier, Germany

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

Hafenhustle, Kunsthafen im Rheinauhafen Cologne, Germany

2023

Nice Dry, Kultur & Gut, Hamburg, Germany

2021

Platz des Zusammensitzens, Hannover, Germany

2020

Streetchairs w/ El Warcha Collective, MAKK, Cologne/Tunis, Germany/Tunisia

2020

Faux Naïf, Passagen, Martin Glanz, Cologne, Germany

2019

X99-hibition, Marmeladenfabrik, Cologne, Germany

RECOGNITIONS

2018

GDA Newcomer Nominee 2019, issued by Rat für Formgebung Frankfurt, Germany

2017

Honored by BDIA for Outstanding Exposition, Campus Art & Design Trier, Germany

TEACHING

2022

Computer generated Abstracts – Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen, Germany