

irene grau [1986, Valencia]

lives and works in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Irene Grau holds her PhD in Fine Arts from the Universitat Politècnica of Valencia. In 2010 she received an Academic Excellence Scholarship, and from 2011 to 2015 a scholarship from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports to carry out her PhD studies. Recognized by national and international Awards such as Generaciones 2018, the 2018 Foreign Scholarship awarded by A Coruña Museum of Contemporary Art, the Isaac Díaz Pardo and the Mardel Visual Arts Awards, as well as the 2015 PhotoEspaña Off Festival Award. In 2016, she was included in Forbes' List "30 Artists under 30 – Europe". Her work was the subject of individual exhibitions in European and American institutions and galleries, such as the Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts (AEIVA) in Birmingham, US; Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) in Madison, US; Projeto Fidalga in São Paulo, Brazil; Heike Strelow gallery in Frankfurt, Germany, and the Alcobendas Art Center in Alcobendas, Madrid, Spain; as well as in group exhibitions at La Casa Encendida in Madrid, Spain; the CaixaForum in Barcelona, Spain; the Centro de Arte dos de Mayo Museum (CA2M), Madrid, Spain; and at CDAN Art and Nature Centre, Huesca, Spain. Grau has shown specific projects most recently at Bombón Projects in Barcelona, Spain; the IVAM (CADA) in Alcoi, Spain, the DIDAC Foundation in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and at the Cerezales Foundation Antonino y Cinia (FCAYC) in León, Spain. Her next project scheduled for 2022, will be presented at APPLETON Square in Lisbon, Portugal. Her work can be found in collections as Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA), Madison WI, United States; CA2M Museum, Madrid, Spain; Cerezales Foundation Antonino y Cinia (FCAYC), León, Spain; MASAVEU PETERSON Foundation, Madrid, Spain; DKV Foundation, Valencia, Spain; the OTAZU Foundation, Navarra, Spain; and in numerous private collections in Europe, Asia, and the U.S.

Irene Grau's work speaks about painting and landscape, of process and displacement through rigorous research into the possibilities of monochrome painting and its relation to landscape as both genre and framework, but above all as experimentation; as a way of seeing specially through walking. All of which is intermixed following the traditions of radical monochrome painting, mural painting, but also the performative processes and the genre of landscape art. Often her work develops in series which are the result of a long site-specific research in nature, followed by an extensive work period in her studio where she experiments with different materials and techniques, to be finalized in the exhibition space, where the work is again transferred and transformed in order to create an entity with the specificity of the space. The title of her recent doctoral thesis, 'The Painter on the Road', perfectly sums up her interest and attitude toward the medium of painting, and Irene Grau's process could perfectly be described as a conceptual pleinairist, who states that her work is "what remains" of a wider experience, going far beyond the physically traveled landscape or an explored architectural structure. Solely transmitting an experience may well lack of concrete information, yet her work leaves enough hints to the viewer to allow access through process, intervention, and the document thereof, in order to visually and conceptually understand the artist's modus operandi and artistic questioning and concerns.

Education

2016 PhD in Fine Arts from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (ES)

2011-15 FPU Fellowship (PhD), UPV. Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (ES)

2009-10 MFA in Artistic Production. UPV (ES)

2010 Scholarship for Academic Excellence. UPV (ES)

2007-08 BFA studies at Accademia di Belle Arti di Palermo (IT)

2004-09 Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. UPV (ES)

Solo exhibitions (selection)

2022

Appleton Square, Lisbon [scheduled May 2022] (PT)

2021

traveling exhibition. Maus Contemporary, Birmingham, AL (US)

2019

incohérent walk. Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts (AEIVA), Birmingham, (US)

on what is left. Galerie Heike Strelow. Frankfurt (DE)

22 days in Bombon. Bombon Projects, Barcelona, (ES)

incohérent walk. Fundación DIDAC, Santiago de Compostela, (ES)

2018

construction season. Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA), Madison WI, (US)

Caer y rodar. Projeto Fidalga, São Paulo (BR)

natural structure. Robert Henry Contemporary, Brooklyn, New York (US)

2017

≠ . Maus Contemporary, Birmingham, AL (US)

2016

Blind Wall. Former sawmill of J. B. Negro, site in Agolada, Pontevedra. Curated by Álvaro Negro. (ES)

-metría. Centro de Arte Alcobendas. Madrid (ES)

2015

▲. beta pictoris gallery, Birmingham, AL (US)

Lo que importaba estaba en la línea, no en el extremo. Ponce+Robles, Madrid. [PHotoEspaña Prize, Festival Off PHE'15] (ES)

Group exhibitions (selection)

2021

'A punto de ser nada', FCAYC - Fundación Cerezales Antonino y Cinia, León (ES)

'Sensing Nature', Galerie Heike Strelow. Frankfurt (DE)

'Una historia del arte reciente (1960-2020)', Fundación Juan March, Cuenca (ES)

'Art Contemporani de la Generalitat Valenciana'. CCCC, Valencia (ES)

'Camiños I', CGAC, Santiago de Compostela (ES)

2020

'La cuestión es ir tirando'. Curated by Ángel Calvo Ulloa, CCEMX, Mexico DF, (MX)

'Essential Reduction'. Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt (DE)

'Salón Miami'. Espacio Valverde, Madrid (ES)

2019

'The achievement society', curated by Sandra Moros, IVAM CADA, Alcoi (ES)

'One Day I Stumbled Upon a Meteorite', curated by Carolina Ciuti, Fabra i Coats Centre d'Art Contemporani, Barcelona, (ES)

'Durante la construcción de la muralla china', curated by Ángel Calvo Ulloa, Luis Adelantado Gallery, Valencia, (ES)

'mapa-suelo-paisaje', Nieves Fernández, Madrid (ES)

2018

Bajo el brazo: entre la palma de la mano y la axila, curated by Ángel Calvo Ulloa, CaixaForum Barcelona (ES)

Generaciones 2018, La Casa Encendida, Madrid (ES)

2017

Minimal Gestures, Galerie Heike Strelow. Frankfurt (DE)

Caminar, pensar... derivar, CDAN. Huesca (ES)

La creación del paisaje contemporáneo, Fundación Valentín de Madariaga y Oya. Sevilla (ES)

13 Bienal de Lalin, curated by Angel Calvo Ulloa, Lalin Museum, (ES)

Prelude to a Landscape, curated by Martim Dias, Carlos Carvalho. Lisboa (PT)

On Translation, curated by Johanna Caplliure, Centre del Carme. Valencia (ES)
Colección XIV. Pública. CA2M Museum, Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo. Madrid (ES)

2016

terreno áspero | rugged terrain. Maus Contemporary. Birmingham, AL (US)
El curso natural de las cosas, curated by Tania Pardo. La Casa Encendida. Madrid (ES)
MAP / Manifestation d'Art Public #5, programmée par Shandynamiques. Cerbère (FR)
La fotografía ha muerto. Colección Alcobendas. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Huarte, Navarra (ES)
Forjando el espacio. Colección DKV. MUPAM, Málaga (ES)
Cuestionamiento I: Territorio. Curated by Martim Dias. Sala de Arte Joven de la Comunidad de Madrid (ES) / CCVF, Guimarães (PT)>

2014

Los ojos de las vacas. Curated by David Barro. Ponce + Robles Art Gallery, Madrid (ES)

2013

Idolatria Va. Curated by Marcelo Campos. Galeria Laura Marsiaj, Rio de Janeiro (BR)
In medias res. Palau Ducal dels Borja, Gandia (ES)

2012

Mutatis Mutandis. Curated by Marcelo Campos. Galeria Moura Marsiaj, Sao Paulo (BR)
FERRAN GISBERT / IRENE GRAU / RAFA MORATA. The Northwest Passage. Galería I Leonarte, Valencia (ES)

2011

Cartografías de la Creatividad. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales (CDAV), La Habana (CU)

2010

Cartografías de la Creatividad. Centro del Carmen, Valencia (ES) / Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Santo Domingo (DO)
I. GRAU / P. FISCHER / K. ZUZACOVA. Michele Balmelli Gallery. Belinzona (CH)

2009

GRAU / ROBERTSON / WIDMER. Rätus Casty Gallery . Davos (CH)

Collections (selection)

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA), Madison WI, United States.

CA2M Museum, Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid (ES)
FCAYC - Fundación Cerezales Antonino y Cinia, León (ES)
M. C. MASAVEU PETERSON Foundation, Madrid (ES)
MONTEMADRID, Madrid (ES)
DKV Foundation, Valencia (ES)
Centro de Arte Alcobendas, Madrid (ES)
Iberdrola Collection, Madrid and Bilbao (ES)
RICE ATLANTIC Collection, Hong Kong(CHN)
Generalitat Valenciana Contemporary Art Collection, Valencia (ES)
MARDEL, Valencia (ES)
Fundación OTAZU, Navarra (ES)
Diputación de A Coruña (ES)
UPV, Valencia, Spain.
Private collections in Europe, Asia, and the United States.

Prizes and Fellowships/ residencies

2021

Isaac Díaz Pardo Visual Arts Award, Diputación de A Coruña, Spain.

2020

CONVOCATORIA CULTURA ONLINE #CMCVaCasa, Valencia, Spain.
Ayudas a la Creación 2020 de Vegap, Spain.

2019

2nd prize at the Bienal BMMN19, Valencia, Spain.

2017

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) Residency and exhibition (2018), Madison, WI, United States.

Becas de Creación Artística 2017, MAC, Contemporary Art Museum, A Coruña, Spain.

Generaciones 2018 Prize, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain.

Mardel Visual Arts Award 2017, Valencia, Spain.

2016

Résidence Artistique Shandynamiques, Cerbère, France.

Inclusion on the Forbes list 30 under 30 in the section Arts-Europe 2016

2015

Solo exhibition 'Lo que importaba estaba en la línea, no en el extremo' ('What mattered was on the line, not at the end'), won the Award for best exhibition project of the Off Festival PhotoEspaña'15 with the Ponce+Robles gallery in Madrid, Spain.

2014

Résidence Artistique Centre d'art et de photographie of Lectoure (CAPL), France.