

Melania Trejo (b. México city, 1977), is an artist, activist and educator. By choice, a mother, a wife and a migrant.

Melania's thinking takes place at the intersection of psychology, queer and feminist theory and indigenous knowledge. This interdisciplinary approach is reflected in her practice alongside an element of autobiography, showing an inclination for self-reflectivity and a constant attitude for situating herself across time and space.

In her practice, Melania explores the fight for personal and political freedom amidst hyper-capitalism and the climate crisis. She employs an unexpected range of language, imagery and material research to raise questions about the feminine, community building and the pursuit of ecological reimagining. Her work takes shape through workshops, installations, research, writing and collaborations.

Melania has a BA degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Global Health. She is a social justice advocate with 20+ years experience working with civil society, governments and international organisations to protect and promote human rights, and recently graduated BA Fine Arts at the Royal Academy of Arts, The Hague.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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EXHIBITIONS

Re:Generation (group), The Grey Space in the Middle, The Hague. Nov 2025

Graduation Show (group), Royal Academy of Art The Hague. July 2025

Somersault (group), Megastores, The Hague. April 2024

EDUCATION

2021 – 2025	BA Fine Arts, Royal Academy of Art The Hague (KABK)
2020 – 2021	Preparatory year, Royal Academy of Art The Hague
2019 – 2019	Orientation Course, Royal Academy of Art The Hague
2009 – 2011	Master Degree in International Health, VU University/Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam
1999 – 2004	B.A. Psychology, Social Sciences, Universidad Iberoamericana, México City

TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS

2025 – ongoing	<i>The meaning of Home, a perpetual state of displacement</i> In collaboration with the Birzeit University (PS), Sint Lucas School of Arts Antwerp (BE) and Dutch artists (NL) we reflect on the meaning of home and belonging to a place. What does home mean when people are forced to
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move out, to carry and reconstruct them anew each time? How can we see home as a memory beyond a place and tool of survival? How can art and design build creative resistance in subverting colonial narratives, particular in the context of war and genocide? How can art and design raise social impact while working with limited resources?

- 2023 – ongoing *Ginkgo, Growing in KABK Green Office*
Co-founder of Ginkgo, a student's led initiative working together with staff members and the KABK management to promote sustainability and responsible ways of art making and living. We reflect on perspectives related to art education & climate change and examined the following question: *What are the possibilities for an institutional transformation that considers ethical aspects, embraces other forms of relationships, recognises ecological impasses, values diversity and collective action?*

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- 2025 'RADICAL CARE', graduation work KABK. Shortlisted for the Global Creative 2025 Graduate showcase.
- 2025 'Common Ground, Common Care', winner of the national Duurzaamheid het Onderwijs challenge by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), NL. In collaboration with KABK student union, KABK garden community and Ginkgo. The funding awarded will serve to implement monthly activities around shared food, collective practices and sustainable making during the academic year 2025-2026.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 *ROOT - ROT - REGENERATE - REPEAT. A practice of Radical Care.* Thesis BA Fine Arts, Royal Academy of Arts The Hague
- 2011 *Between two borders: Social vulnerabilities and risks to health among undocumented Central American immigrants in México.* Thesis MA International Health, Royal Tropical Institute and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE PRIOR TO ART

- 2020 – 2024 Board member at Salud for Derecho (Spain) and Red Somos (Colombia)
- 2015 – 2020 Independent Consultant, The Open Society Foundations- public Health Program, NY.
- 2012 – 2015 Program Officer, Latin America and the Caribbean, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva.
- 2007 – 2008 Program Officer, Gender and Youth specialist, Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Guatemala.
- 2006 – 2006 HIV/AIDS Specialist, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Nairobi.
- 2003 – 2005 Child Protection Officer / Street Outreach Educator. Melel Xojbal, San Cristobal de Las Casas, México.