

Mercè Ribera

Spain

Mercè Ribera, born in Rubí, Barcelona in 1964, had been exclusively engaged in sculpture until her discovery of photography in 2019, an encounter that proved to be profoundly transformative. The interplay of light and the boundless potential of its language captivated her. She developed a unique approach that skilfully combined the finest aspects of both disciplines, seamlessly blending the creation of imaginary scenarios with their photographic equal. Central to her approach was the use of light as a defining and unifying element.

With her dedication to photography, a new creative vitality surged was born. Beginning with a mentoring scholarship, Ribera embarked on a journey that saw her accomplishments grow. Numerous solo exhibitions followed which have showcased her work, and her participation in contemporary photography festivals stands as a testament to her skill.

www.merceribera.net

From the series *Rapsòdia*





From the series *Rapsòdia*

From the series *Perplexitat*

When asked about how she expresses herself, Ribera goes on to explain how she places importance on the injustices that we have to experience, “I strive to take the sensitivity, beauty, and also the pain that we all share, and through introspection and assimilation of how they impact us, transform them into images to communicate.”

Her approach to work is unique, she works on a 2x1 table where she creates small scenarios about the topics that concern her, “I use dolls, various

objects to scale, and anything that seems relevant to convey the idea or emotion that’s on my mind. Once the scene is set, the magic of photography begins, the wonder and potential of light. Which angle to use? What perspective? How will I illuminate it? How many lights and what type? Hard light or soft light? Will I blur the background or keep it sharp? Will I shoot from above or at eye level?” These questions are only emphasized and even more influenced by the theme that she is aiming to address and/or give value to at the time.



From the series *Perplexitat*

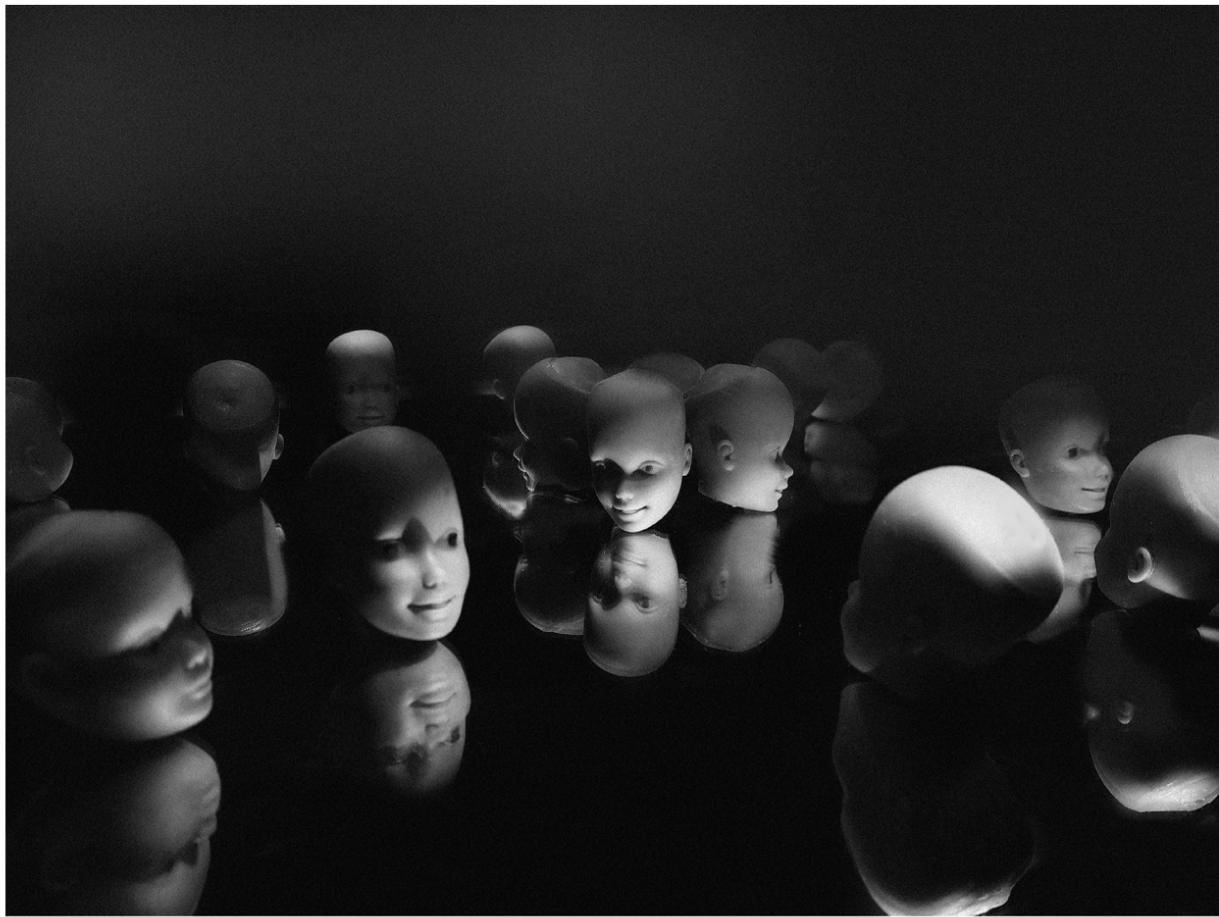
“I’m interested in the imprint that what we experience leaves on us. That subjectivity which, when captured, becomes even more universal than objective reality. I’m concerned with and preoccupied by eternal questions: Who are we? Where are we going? How do we relate? Loneliness and dignity. The way we treat the world and ourselves.”

From the series *Bruma*



From the series
Perplexitat

From the series
Perplexitat



From the series *Bruma*



Ribera's education encompasses a broad spectrum of art history, accumulated and digested over many years. In recent years, it has expanded to include photography, always with a humanistic perspective. Ribera is drawn to numerous photographers for their unique treatment of light, but the body of work that has had the most profound influence on her is more aligned with artists such as Gilbert Garcin, Robert and Shana Parke Harrison, Geir Floede,

Allan Tejer, Tommy Ingberg, Lewis Chamberlain (who is both a draftsman and photographer), and Paolo Ventura (a painter and photographer). In essence, her affinity lies with the realm of scenic photography.

Ribera's approach to work has evolved over time, but fundamentally, there have always been two modes that coexist: "when I have an image in mind or when I'm overwhelmed by an emotion, concern, or feeling."



From the series *Perplexitat*

Perplejidad, her first series, was a frenzy, a series of works about discovering the magic of photography, tapping into everything within her that yearned for expression, she goes on, “I couldn’t stop. Images kept flowing, demanding their space and language. I played, discovered, imagined, and let myself be carried away by the cascade of sensations and revelations that the world of photography brought me. It was my most visceral and playful moment.” *Rapsodia* was a deliberate choice whereby she opted for photography and its language with a strong determination to exploit tabletop photography.

From the series *Rapsòdia*





From the series *Perplexitat*

Photography entered Ribera's life serendipitously: a change of residence, a photography course, and upon realizing its immense potential, she fell head over heels in love and her entire universe expanded, "Everything became achievable, and there are no limits beyond our imagination and the love that art unveils to us."



From the series
Perplexitat

From the series
Rapsòdia







From the series *Bruma*

“My models are inanimate, yet to me, they hold life; I communicate with them as I succeed in having them convey what I desire. When I set up a scene, I have to sense its vitality, where size becomes inconsequential, and it effectively conveys what I intend.”



From the series
Rapsòdia

From the series
Rapsòdia

From the series *Bruma*

