

**HECTOR DIAZ**

**Daniela Kovačić**  
Biography

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Daniela at her studio in Illinois, United States | Art & Photo © Daniela Kovačić

## **Daniela Miljana Kovačić Muzio**

B. September 24, 1983 - Punta Arenas, Magallanes, Chile.

Daniela Kovačić is a Chilean figurative painter whose preferred medium throughout her career has been oil over canvas or linen.

She was born in 1983 in the southernmost area of Chile and lived there until she was 18 years old, in front of the Strait of Magellan.

The secluded place where she grew up is essential to the construction of her character and vision of the world. Her main exposure to art came through the ever present art books in her home, her father's paintings, her mother's embroideries, and her maternal grandmother's paintings. Her father was an architect by profession but a self-taught painter on the side. Therefore, her technical knowledge of oil painting started from a very early age, by her father's instruction.

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To study her career Kovačić moved north to the capital of Chile, Santiago, to study Visual Arts at the Finis Terrae University, as that kind of education wasn't offered in her natal town. There she graduated with a major in painting with honors, even though her initial intention was to pursue printmaking.

Her passion and talent for art were noticed at a very early stage in her career. She started to exhibit her work professionally since 2005, mainly in the capital of Chile. Her work was shown at the Museum of Visual Arts (MAVI), the Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC) and at Animal Gallery. In Chile she stood out within the most important press being on the front page of the cultural section of the national newspaper "La Tercera", cover of the magazine "Arte al Límite", and an interview in CNN Chile. She continued this rout until 2010 where she felt a strong portfolio was built to back her pursue to study abroad.

After obtaining the "Fulbright" scholarship together with the Chilean governmental through "Becas Chile", she was able to travel abroad to the United States to study a Masters in Fine Arts at the New York Academy of Art. Her main attraction to this program was the association that Jenny Saville had with that school and therefore would be able to study under this artist; she only got to attend one master class with Saville, which was cut short because of Hurricane Sandy. During this period Daniela's work got several recognitions from the Academy, including the Channel Scholarship, the Robert Gamblin Painting Award, and the Artist Residency in Giverny, France.

After graduating from the MFA in New York she went back to Chile, as a requisite of the scholarship she previously obtained in her country. She went back to her homeland from 2013 to 2016, where she was the Project Lead and Creative Director of the Visitors Center "Parque del Estrecho de Magallanes". When that project finished, Daniela moved to the United States again where she is currently living and working in the Chicago area.

During her last period in the United States, Daniela's work has been exhibited in the Museu Europeu d'Art Modern (MEAM), in Barcelona, as part of the prestigious Contest "Figurativas 2023", in The Musekon Museum of Art, in The Reading Public Museum, and the Scarfone Hartley Gallery of the University of Tampa, as part of the Bennett Prize 2019. She won the Eben Demarest Award in 2021.

Daniela approaches her work as an ongoing organic story; she doesn't set in one subject specifically but chooses to work through series to explore different themes, usually through the depiction of women and children. In a way, she makes sense of her internal and external world through painting.

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