

Marion Colomer,  
*French artist living in Washington D.C.*

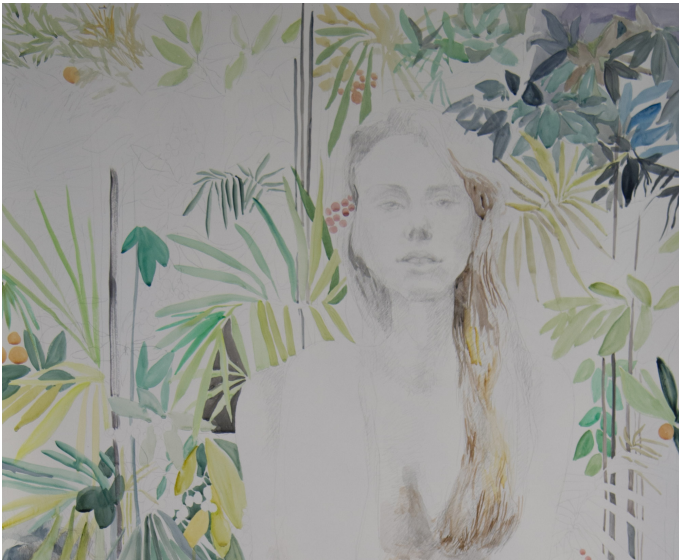
**MELANCHOLIA** by Marion Colomer  
**Arlington Art Center, part of the Fall Solos 2016**

3550 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201  
Metro : Virginia Square, orange and silver lines.

**on view: October 15 - December 18, 2016**

*Opening night: Saturday 15th October 2016, 6 to 9pm.*





Detail, A woman, Watercolor on paper and embroideries. 2015, 78x' 42.5'



Dana El Masri in her studio, working on creating a « wet earth scent » for *Melancholia*. 2016



Preparatory composition drawing. 2016

In Marion Colomer's recent work, *Melancholia*, beauty oscillates between daydreaming and doubt. Colomer's large-scale watercolors guide the viewer toward a different perspective of the intimate. The work is in constant tension of regression, double meaning, and contradiction. In moments of narrative, sometimes the artist presents the Edenic lush jungle, where other times nature is all-consuming and dangerous, speaking to the threat of death that awaits us. Images of raw sexual desire are at once divested of meaning, lifted out of the realm of the pornographic, and detoxified in the soft renderings of drawn bodies, their expressions reflecting the melancholy of lost desire. The bodies are left blank, present in their absence as if their fragrance and essence faded. This series started with the sensuality of a scent, a perfume that would, to some, smell like a lost paradise, with a fragrance of green leaves and rainforest, while others would experience within this effluvia something dangerous, a smell of dampness, or of decomposing soil. For this immersive installation Colomer collaborated with Dana El Masri, NYC based perfumer, creating a original scent.



A Man, Watercolor on paper and embroideries. 2016. 78x' 42.5'



A couple, Watercolor on polyethylene paper and embroideries. 2016. 78'x 60'

Marion Colomer, a French painter, has been based in Washington, DC since 2013. She has lived in Paris, New York, and New Delhi, and has had numerous exhibitions in France and India. Colomer graduated from Paris' Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts in 2008 with a Masters of Fine Arts specialized in paintings. She is currently working as a painting conservator at the US Capitol, restoring the Brumidi Corridors murals. Most recently Colomer was named an S&R Foundation fellow at the residency program for DC artists, housed at the Fillmore School in Georgetown.



Colomer's work is rooted in the question of intimacy, treated with sensuality and turned towards the "other." Colomer's paintings reflect an interest in the hand and traditionally female crafts, in which ornamentation and beauty are rendered in layers of bitter and acerbic meaning.

