Hotel Arts Barcelona

THE ART WITHIN

‘Cartografia i memòria’ by Rosa Cortiella





‘CARTOGRAFIA I MEMÒRIA’

Rosa Cortiella, 2026

To encounter this work is to enter a landscape shaped by geography and memory.

In *Cartography and Memory*, Rosa Cortiella translates Barcelona into relief, not through literal depiction, but through the language of maps, material and form. Inspired by ancient cartographic charts, maritime routes and the city’s aerial views, the art piece reimagines Barcelona as a tactile composition where history, territory and imagination converge.

Suspended between painting and sculpture, the ceramic relief unfolds as a topographic interpretation of the city. Barcelona emerges through a rhythmic grid of stylised squares, an homage to the unmistakable order of the Eixample. Geometry establishes structure; gestural lines disrupt it. Order converses with chaos, echoing the vibrant contradictions of Mediterranean urban life.

Look deeper and the sea reveals itself leading the composition. Organic shapes, inspired by water and marine life, move gently across the surface, while fine geometric lines recall antique nautical maps and historic shorelines. Here, the Mediterranean is felt as the force that shaped the city’s culture and history.

A painted, sand-toned band softly traces the coastline, gently bridging sea and city.

Crafted in porcelain, the modular relief remains refined and understated. Light reveals shifting textures and delicate details over time.

Barcelona becomes a sensory map here — a city expressed through texture, rhythm, and form.

Discover the process and
step inside the artist’s mind

Located at the Group Entrance · Level 1
Porcelain and acrylic



Rosa Cortiella is a leading figure in local craftsmanship and one of Barcelona's most internationally recognised ceramic artists. Her work reflects the rich blend of styles that define the city, capturing its essence through unique, one-of-a-kind creations.

Her piece 'Between Cartography and Memory', created for Hotel Arts Barcelona, explores the city's contrasts through ceramics. It draws on Barcelona's cartography to interpret its shifting urban landscape. Through layered textures, the work evokes the tension between order and chaos. It also reflects the dialogue between nature, movement and civilisation, shaped by the city's history. The result is a tactile and sensory interpretation of Barcelona's evolving identity.




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BARCELONA