Martirene Alcántara was born in Mexico City. As a daughter of two fine art painters, she grew up infused by the visual world around her.

Alcántara studied Architecture, Art, and Photography in Mexico, USA and Spain. She is a visual artist working in photography, combining moving images, oil, charcoal, and sound, and has ventured into stage design.

Her artwork is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, as well as many private art collections.

Martirene has received various awards and recognitions in Mexico, Austria and the US; among them a Rockefeller/FONCA Grant for publishing her first book.

She is a Fellow of several Art Residencies, such as: Ucross, Brush Creek Arts, Salzburg Künstlerhaus, Serlachius, VCCA, Edward F. Albee, Willapa Bay AiR, and Nautilus Lanzarote.

She has participated in several solo and group exhibitions, in galleries and museums in Europe, Latin America and the United States.

Martirene has created a vast collection of images for museum catalogues, artists, and private collections; many published by Institutions such as Quai Branly, and Pinacotheque, in Paris; Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin; Rietberg in Zürich; Museo Nacional de Antropología, and Museo de Arte Abstracto Manuel Felguérez in Mexico; and the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome.

Alcántara has been a speaker at a TEDx Talk, and in various Universities, and taught photography in Mexico, the United States, Uruguay, and Spain.