

Marina Levitan

Born in USSR

Lives and works in Jerusalem

**EDUCATION**

- 2018, Land of Origins, Artist in Residence, Lazio, Italy
- 2014, Four Year Masterclass, Jerusalem Studio School, Jerusalem
- 2012, Master Class, Summer of 2012, Lazio, Italy
- 2013, Land of Origins, Artist in Residence, Lazio, Italy
- 2011, Chiave di Arco Master Class, Summer of 2011, Tuscany, Italy
- 2004, B.Des. - Bezalel, Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem Visual Communications Department

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 First place at ArtistTable online competition "Art in the Time of Corona"
- 2018 Partial Scholarship, Land of Origins, Lazio, Italy
- 2008 3rd place in the Golden Ratio 2008 Design Competition, Israel

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Salon ha Cubia, Jerusalem
- 2020 Skizzie Gallery, Jerusalem
- 2019 Haorgim Gallery, Holon
- 2017 Salon ha Cubia, Jerusalem
- 2017 Harmony Cultural Centre, 27, Hillel Street, Jerusalem
- 2016 Art Shelter Gallery, Jerusalem
- 2016 Tower of David Museum, Jerusalem
- 2015 Salon ha Cubia, Jerusalem
- 2013 In the Light of Italy, Livia Gallery, Jerusalem
- 2012 Masterclass Jerusalem Studio School Exhibition, Jerusalem

ARTIST STATEMENT

For me, painting is a tool that helps me understand the reality around me, examine it and communicate my understanding with the world. Reality, reflected in me, is internalized and processed within me and finds its way into painting. Because my painting clings to reality and its interpretations, it is mostly figurative, but in the last year, following the influence of external reality and my concentration on reflections and playing with light, my works have become more and more abstract.

I strive to find harmony in the simple things that surround me and show those things from an unexpected and interesting angle, to surprise myself, and with the help of painting to discover something new every time. I find poetry precisely in the trivial, banal things that we are used to not paying attention to. The biggest challenge for me is to capture that one unique, special and irreversible moment, and distill its essence, its uniqueness. If it is an ongoing work, in every "session" of painting, lasting several hours, I strive to capture the fleeting moment, to live it and understand it, to be here and now. I explore the home space and look for interesting angles and reflections that will inspire me. I

scatter objects in the home space and wait until they reveal their hidden side to me - maybe when a ray of light falls from the window at the right angle.

In my early works I concentrated more on the open space, that is, I painted urban landscapes: I went out to paint outdoors, and the sense of space I breathed in when being out there, I took with me to the works of still life that I did in the studio. In the past year I have only started working indoors due to the inability to leave the house, and the landscapes I have drawn or incorporated into my works have been the landscapes I can see from my window. The confinement at home changed my day-to-day work practice. Part of my morning warmup routine is to capture the moment each day and present a sequence of moments in a few days in a row.

I am currently working on a series of works exploring the subject of reflection. The reflection can be in the mirror or in any surface that allows it - a window or table, glass and the like. Watching a reflection for me is like peeking into the parallel world, where everything is reminiscent of our world, but different. Reflected objects look different, showing their lesser-known sides. What interests me here is finding the boundaries between the worlds, between the reflection and the reflected, and where those boundaries blur.

I work in oil colors and charcoal. The oil colors give space to the process, a physical expression of time, and allow great versatility at work, giving room for change and play. Coal also allows this, albeit in a slightly different way.

I love the childish and playful part of the process, and play with shapes and objects as if I were assembling a puzzle - moving and changing, until I feel that all the pieces of the puzzle connect in the most appropriate way to this moment in my life and thus perpetuate the moment. The next day, if I get up and continue the same work, I open things up again and start a new game. Thus, most of my works undergo countless changes until I feel I have reached a certain level of perfection.