

Yael Hovav: Anti-Meditation

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Curator: Maya Frenkel Tene

My painting stems from an emotional state of excessive thinking. The creative process, likewise, can be feverish, at times culminating in an overflow of work. My works are created in the gap between deep skepticism and persistent faith, almost fundamentalist one, with regards to the possibility of giving something a name: the act of giving something a shape, or words. I paint as if there is something that awaits me beyond the canvas - a revelation of sorts, a solution perhaps - yet, at the same time, I am well aware that painting is not merely a simple conundrum. In this way, my paintings provide evidence for my struggles: they absorb my thoughts and capture the traces of my experimentations through them. The result is oil on canvas paintings made using thin and quick layers, that pile one on top of the other like repetitive thoughts. The work is made by hand with a brush, in thin blotches of paint through meticulous drawing gestures. The images I choose to paint stem from a shift in my gaze, a shift that happens once I move from the question "what is there?" to questions like "what if?" and "what else?" - as if further going inwards, further pushing outwards. When I paint my pile of laundry, for example, I am also curious by what may be happening in the car junkyard outside my window - and vice versa. Figurative painting may still be identified with the idea of "exposing the truth"- yet, I believe that in reality it actually creates a parallel presence of sorts, one that is unrealistic. Therefore, my implementation of images that only seem to brush with reality, can only allegedly serve my emotional need to drive a stake through the illusive nature of truth. Even the encounter I'm preparing for the viewer with the painting is meant to be complex: one that slows down their gaze, suspends judgement, and does not allow to extract the human experience from it.

Yael Hovav, 2022

Yael Hovav (b. 1993, Jerusalem) lives and works in Tel Aviv. She holds an MFA from Glasgow School of Art (2020), a BFA from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design (2019) and had graduated from an Exchange Program at The State Academy of Fine Arts, Stuttgart (2017). Won numerous awards and scholarships as part of her studies - she is a two times winner of The Haim Shiff Prize for Figurative Realist Art Students, The Baden Württemberg Stipendium- an excellency scholarship for students in exchange program, and The Ranald & Jennifer May Postgraduate Painting Scholarship. Hovav exhibited her works in numerous exhibitions, among them at The Jerusalem Biennale, 1000 Meter art event, Tel Aviv, and a three person show at Hamifall Gallery, Jerusalem. Her works are included in private collections in Israel and abroad.