

Izabella Volovnik

<https://www.izbellavolovnik.com/>

Artist Statement:

My body of work consists of figurative oil paintings, sculptures and charcoal drawings. My practice serves as a territory in which I can contemplate the power relations relative to my own engagement with the world, about demonization and dehumanization as covert empowerment or as an alternative position of power. The same territory signifies for me the possibility of scratching at wounds and embracing inner demons while engaging in a dialogue with artists (among them Paula Rego, Balthus and Virginia Woolf), as well as specific patterns and concepts drawn from different visual cultures.

Most of my works touch on the connections that exist between images of animals and representations of “femininity” in various cultures and languages. I am interested in archetypes of wild, demonic women that often inhabit the seam between (obedient) pet and “evil beast,” or that rely on visual models of lethal women such as the “femme fatale.” Through them, I endeavor to raise questions about hierarchies and erratic violent passions—in society, culture, and the psyche. Internet culture and virtual space also play a significant role in the world in which my characters operate—a maze that fluctuates between imaginary domestic spaces and local landscapes.

My bitch-women may bark and growl, bare their sharp teeth with a smile, weaponize their femininity, or wait like a good doggy for the viewer’s gaze. They express ambiguous feelings and dark impulses that I cannot utter as a woman in civilized society.

Bio:

Izabella Volovnik (b. 1995, Jerusalem, IL) holds a B.Ed. F.A. from the Faculty of Arts, Hamidrasha, Beit Berl College and has been represented by **Rosenfeld Gallery** since 2019. She was the recipient of the **America Israel Cultural Foundation Award** (2018), the Rafi Lavie Dean’s Award for Excellence in 2017, 2018, and received an award from the **Israel Museum** as part of the exhibition “On the Verge” – Selected Works by Graduates of High School Art Programs (2015). Her solo exhibition “Bitchcraft” was presented at the **Haifa Museum of Art** (2019–2020), contemporaneously with her solo exhibition “Bitches” at Rosenfeld Gallery (2020). Her solo exhibition “Long Fingers” was presented in the Rosenfeld Gallery’s project space (Rosie), alongside the joint exhibition with Zamir Shatz, “Lies and Washing Powder” (2018). She has participated in several group exhibitions, including the exhibition “Zoom 2019,” Steinhart Museum of Nature, Tel Aviv (in collaboration with the Israel Museum) and the exhibition “Shop It!” Haifa Museum of Art (2018).

Her works are included in both private and **museum collections** including the **Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art**; Rappaport Collection, **Tel Aviv Museum of Art** (the work was exhibited in the exhibition Skein in 2021); and the **Haifa Museum of Art**.