

## Artist Statement

My body of work consists of large figurative oil paintings, small sculptures and charcoal drawings. I create surreal scenes that extend between imaginary domestic spaces and local landscapes while adding tributes to art history, my own immediate environment and specific subcultures, such as heavy-metal music, online iconography, as well as post-internet culture and aesthetic tropes from horror films.

My works engage with representations of femininity entwined with those of the animal kingdom in various cultures and languages. I explore demonization and dehumanization as covert empowerment or alternative positions of power while posing questions about definitions of humanity, hierarchy, power relations, sexuality, and violent desires—in society, culture, and the soul.

The characters and objects in my work relentlessly change form and roles, extending or reflecting each other. The combination of this panoply of characters, creatures, and familiar objects with the aggressive, sexual, and violent elements creates conflicting layers of existence that blur the distinction between humanity and monstrosity. They express ambiguous emotions and dark impulses that I cannot utter as a woman in a civilized society.

Oftentimes I portray relationships between human figures and monsters seeking refuge from a war-torn reality, straddling the line between love and self-destruction. Through them, I aspire to mark the possibility of picking at scabs and embracing inner demons while engaging in a dialogue with artists (such as Paula Rego, Aleksandra Waliszewska, and Balthus) and with patterns and notions of diverse visual cultures - ancient and contemporary alike.

## Bio

**Izabella Volovnik** (b. 1995, Jerusalem, IL) holds a B.Ed. F.A. from the Faculty of Arts, Hamidrasha, Beit Berl College; She is the recipient of the **Ministry of Culture Award for Young Artist** (2025), Izabella Volovnik received the **Lauren & Mitchell Presser Contemporary Art Grant**, in support of her exhibition at the Museum “Three Scratch Marks and a Love Letter”, received the **Baruch and Ruth Rappaport Award – Acquisition Fund for the Tel Aviv Museum of Art** (2021), and the **Corona Diaries Award – Acquisition Fund for the Herzliya Museum of**

**Contemporary Art** Collection, generously supported by the Prof. Michael Adler Foundation and the Association for the Herzliya Museum (2021). In 2020, she was selected for the **Edmond de Rothschild Foundation Professional Artist Development Program**. Volovnik is a recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Award (2018), was recognized on the Dean's List of Excellence and received the Rafi Lavi Award (2017, 2018), and was honored with the Israel Museum Award as part of the exhibition 'On the Verge' – Selected Graduate Works (2015).

Izabella Volovnik presented her solo exhibition 'Three Scratch Marks and a Love Letter' at the **Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art** (2024). Her solo exhibition 'Bitchcraft' was exhibited at the Haifa Museum of Art (2019-2020), while her solo exhibition 'Bitches' was simultaneously displayed at Rosenfeld Gallery, Tel Aviv (2020). She exhibited the solo exhibition 'Long Fingers' at Rosenfeld Gallery's project space (Rosy), alongside the duo exhibition 'Lies and Laundry Powder' with Zamir Shatz (2018). She also presented the duo exhibition 'Dancing with the Devil' with Noa Ironic at adhesivo contemporary gallery in Mexico City, Mexico (2023). Her work has been featured in several group exhibitions, including 'Days Beyond Time' at D10 ArtSpace in Geneva (2023), 'Skein' at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2021), 'Zoom – Young Israeli Artists' (2019) at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv (in collaboration with the Israel Museum), and 'Shop It!' at the Haifa Museum of Art (2018).

Her works are included in private collections, including the **Edmond de Rothschild Foundation Collection**, and in museum collections such as the **Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art Collection**, the **Rappaport Collection at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art**, and the **Haifa Museum of Art Collection**.