

Julia Aronson (b. 1980, Soviet Union)

A baby's soft, tiny mouth latches onto its mother's nipple in suckling, both of them enveloped in a symbiotic bond of dependency and closeness. While centered on the tactile, physical encounter between mother and child, Julia Aronson's drawing series *Horizon* transcends the boundaries of the body. Aronson continuously narrows her gaze on her subject, closely examining moments where breast and mouth appear locked together, as if in a kiss. The image recurs in various positions, while duplicated, disrupted, and concealed, until its corporeality and concreteness dissolve, and the bodily organs resemble abstract compositions. The proximity of the drawings, installed tightly side by side without gaps, gives them the appearance of a landscape. The face's curves—cheek, chin, nostrils, and accentuated lips—merge to chart the contours of a wadi, a valley, and a gorge. The blurring and abstraction of the tangible body are accompanied by deliberate optical distortions and shifts in perspective. All these convey a sense of disappearance and an attempt to grasp absence and loss, to hold onto that which was and is no more, now transpiring in memory, distant and unattainable.