

Marina Batel Levitan (b. 1979, Soviet Union)

Painting for Marina Batel Levitan serves as both a journey and an anchor, a means through which she experiences reality, observes, and situates herself in the world. With heightened alertness, she tracks manifestations of light, both tangible and symbolic, mends fragmented memories using images from her imagination, and formulates a visual lexicon that shifts between realism and mystical expression. In multilayered oil paintings, she explores the domestic space through projections and refractions of natural light filtering in from the outside. At times, she scatters objects throughout the house, waiting for their hidden aspects to reveal themselves the moment a beam of light strikes them, orchestrating a new play of reflection, shadow, flattening, or volume. In addition to the oil paintings, nocturnal acrylic works on paper reveal a freer painterly approach that seeks to swiftly capture, with snapshot-like immediacy, an elusive moment unfolding in the landscape. Looking out from her window, she observes the last rays of sun, a glowing streetlamp, or the glimmers of light emerging in the darkness from neighboring communities, merging to form a constellation of light.