

Miriam Munk (b. 1987, Israel)

Miriam Munk's pair of paintings, *How the Stars Emerge (#1, #2)*, can be read as stage set for a dream. The meticulously crafted spaces depicted in them are saturated with signs and symbols. Birds, snails, a rabbit, a cat, orchids, mirrors, apertures, and a withdrawn female figure who appears to carry a house on her back—all function as symbolic clues in an internal exploration of memory, identity, and transformation. The two paintings may be construed as the interiors of a single, identical space, viewed from different perspectives. Another small and enigmatic painting is displayed next to them, centered on a female figure whose presence cuts across the pictorial space, dividing it into an interior and an exterior. Her head is absorbed and swallowed by a green "halo" bordered by a pink line, as if the head were an island or a continent floating in a blue sea. In Munk's paintings, the line between realism and surrealism dissolves. This world of symbols and images invites viewers to merge with the dreamy décor, and discover echoes of the human mind's innermost states.