

Orit Livne (b. 1961, Israel)

Orit Livne's paintings transpire in the liminal space between visibility and disappearance. The material's anatomy, its physical presence, serves her in exploring the anatomy of the soul, the great unknown. A cluster of paintings from the series *War Diary*, created over the forty days of the war with Iran (one painting per day), consists of abstract landscapes. In a repetitive act, Livne covers the surface with layers of oil paint, subsequently erasing them with rags and turpentine. The traces of erasure mark the beginning of an imaginary spectacle that rustles across the paper, until the paintings appear to melt, dissolve, and transform into cocoons of light glowing from afar. In paintings from the series *Meanwhile* reveals an anatomical-botanical image of a flower emerging from the background through similar acts of erasing, subtraction, and addition. Diluted paint reinforces the traces of erasure, bringing spectral images to the surface of the paper. Their monochromatic presence lends them a camouflaged quality, like dying flowers of memory.