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Galia Pasternak
Oil on canvas, 80 x 100 cm, 2013

Gal a Pasternak was born in Tel Aviv in 1977 and currently lives and works in Givatayim.

Her art studies began at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem (2001–2005), where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with distinction. She then continued at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Tel Aviv, graduating in 2007 with a master in Fine Arts. She spent a year at the Slade School of Fine Art in London and at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris as part of a student exchange program. Her work has appeared in both solo and group exhibitions in Israel and abroad, and she has received several awards.

The scenes she creates depict a journey of female figures – as creators, inventors, models, observers and educators. She uses painting and drawing to tell stories, create scenes and freeze key moments. Her work is clearly influenced by Matisse, Gauguin and Picasso.

Regarding the picture shown here, Pasternak says, “Back in 2013, I used meditation and awareness exercises before starting to paint. As I entered my studio I sat still with my eyes closed, silently clearing my mind, evacuating all the bothers, the flickering images and other voices. Then pure visions and fresh compositions came to my mind. Reunion was created right after one of those meditations. A female figure, me perhaps, is planted in the woods. There is a moment of pure synergy, when the woman’s flesh reunites with nature, all is glittering, flooded and radiating. It is a moment I dream of. That never happened in real life but I know and remember how it feels even so. Uniting with all there is.”

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