



## **Over There**

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Zuzu Gallery, 2020

When the neighbor across the street exits his apartment into his balcony, he enters Michal's studio. His presence at the other side of the street feels invasive and makes it hard for Michal to paint. She feels uncomfortable and looks for a hidden spot to work at, she hides and closes the shutters. She looks for privacy. The neighbor is actually busy with his phone, but Michal hates it. Him. This invasion of her private space.

Covid made these feelings even more extreme, everyone was at home and the neighbor was a lot on his balcony. The series of works called The Neighbors Across The Street, started as an emotional response to the distress and frustration of living in a crowded city like Tel Aviv. In a short glimpses and free interpretation, the neighbor and his balcony were painted. "I couldn't paint him when I was sitting in front of him. I dressed him up in the painting with a white grandpa like undershirt, which brings to mind an archaic typical Israeli man. I brought a woman to his house, the image of Marina Abramowitz: The artist is present. I seated her with a dress and invented stories about them. I added to the balcony predatory and invasive plants and flowers, exactly like I felt they invaded my space.

As time went by, I got used to it...the neighbor's wife father started to learn painting with me. He didn't know that his daughter and her husband were a theme in my work. It was kind of a secret between me and the other students who knew about the process. But, from the moment he entered the studio, the stranger became familiar and all the hard feelings disappeared. I was obsessed with the situation and it just disappeared. Since then, my porch changed, tall plants grew in it and I can no longer see him.