

## Avital Cnaani: One Foot in the Sea

A breeze sneaks inside through a glass door, its light gust traversing the large blue papers that are floating mid-air.

The large-format drawings in “A Foot in the Sea,” an exhibition by Avital Cnaani, are hung side-by-side from the ceiling, at eye level, joining in a flow of motion that sweeps off from the gallery’s entrance all the way to its corner. The space of this exhibition is underwater, right above the seabed, where silence is all-enveloping.

The papers were dipped in watery colors – clear blues, sand colors, rosy shades too. They were drawn over with organic imagery of body parts and rocks in graphite and ink, using large, spontaneous, and sometimes casual gestures.

As in many of her previous works, Cnaani places corporal imagery and physical sensations on one level of perception. Here, feet are left without a body; they drown, float, attempt to guess the depth bellow them. Yet the upper part of the absent body points to the primary instinct which keeps humans afloat. The long feet perceptible in the window, facing a street where many walk in on their way to the sea, lie flaccid, placed there apart from the body, hesitantly pointing in the direction of the sea.

This drawing installation hangs at eye level – amid the waves, half immersed in water and half in the air, lightly swaying, unstable, joining sizable objects beyond and below sea level and fragments parsed by the horizon into a single realm. As an artist whose drawing and sculpting naturally seep into one another, in this exhibition of Cnaani’s they coalesce into a wave, a frequency, an underwater whirl.

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