Tree Stance / / Kochi Levy

Curator: Nitza Cohen Mohr

Between what is fractured and what whole,
Between what is broken and the forces of life,
I seek a stance that is not stagnation -
But a movement which is alive.

In Norse mythology, forests are the abode of magical forces, the source of life itself, and the setting for fateful events. Much like the story of Noah, Norse mythology tells of the last human couple, Líf and Lífþrasir who hide in Hoddmímir Forest, survive the cataclysm, and repopulate the world.

Kochi Levy's encounter with ink began about seven years ago. At first, it was a discovery of the medium's spontaneous capabilities. Moments of surrendering control and observing a process of creation unfolding before her eyes. The first forests she created felt, in her words, almost like the product of a dream, with her acting as a vessel through which the painting was revealed. The ink flows and spreads, leaving traces, and the painting transforms into a field of listening.

The works in the exhibition are between landscapes and states of consciousness - forests, trees, and expanses that have been damaged or burned. Some were encountered by Kuchi Levy in physical reality, while others emerged from within her. The images seek to create a space, their narrative is complex and ambiguous. Alongside the forests are portraits of a place, a woman, and a state of being. They touch upon the natural landscapes surrounding the artist, yet even more so, they address her inner nature, realms of the soul that dare to exist, observe, and simply be, yet at times retreat inward, withdrawing as if in search of rest, a chance to process, and a moment of quiet.

The exhibition seeks to examine "standing" as a way of remaining in contact with unfolding events. Levy, an artist and art therapist, explores her own capacity to stand, as well as ours and that of the surrounding nature. Through her artistic process, she examines her position as an artist and as a woman, amidst landscapes of devastation, and reflects on the choice to remain and to witness movement and life. Much like in Nordic tradition, Levy views forests as places that are frightening and dark, yet even more so, as arenas for renewal. This exhibition is an invitation. An invitation to encounter reality, a personal reality deeply connected to our shared one. It is an invitation to draw near, to observe and to listen, as the act of lingering transforms into a state of presence, and presence becomes an act of standing, of being.