

# Waymarks

Aya Eliav







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Thinking about the works I have created along the years, I realize they were all linked, in one way or another, to the search of an utopian “home”, a place where I could feel protected and comfortable, a place where I could walk naked as if I were dressed, or dressed as if I were naked. Which are the landscapes and situations, artificial or natural, that makes us feel that way?

I am a nomad. My gaze is nomad, is fugitive, it is always unconsciously jumping from one thing to another, trying to find a better place to rest (full of meaning and brightness). I was born in Israel, late 70's, when the country was just 29 years old. Since then and up until today, the country has no permanent boundaries, no clear territory definition. Even its interior lacks of sharp edges: city, countryside and desert, Arabs and Jews—laity, orthodox, conservative, reconstructionist, etc. — they look like mixed objects copulating with each other, transforming into the other and swallowing each other. Living in that situation means getting used to an aesthetic of confusion: Some areas of my town were mine and not mine, there were neighborhoods I never visited, passages I didn't take, doors I never opened. My paintings, I think, reflect these opposing feelings inspired by places and objects, which are seen from outside and within, which are familiar and strange, beautiful and sinister at the same time.

After graduating from the fine art academy Bezalel in Jerusalem, I moved to Italy, and later on to Spain. Relocations had dropped the ground under my feet. Each place diluted part of my identity and gave me a new one. Coming here to Napa Valley was a new inspiring dislocation I had to deal with: living and working in an environment I am not familiar with, speaking a different language, being away from my habits, my family, etc. My artistic residence in Napa Valley is a break in my daily life, a break which I use in order to investigate peripheral objects of my new field of vision: dry leaves and branches, arboreal structures, shapes of gravel, burned roots, traces of the path. These relics of the past, under a watchful eye, come to life as if they were withered African Acacias, which with a few drops of water suddenly blooms to offer the gift of their seeds. These objects in hibernation, with the only nutrient of our gaze, are revealed to us as secret agents carrying significant messages about our place in this world. “The reality talks to us”, said the bird, “but human being hardly supports a little consciousness”.



**Tree #01**  
Acrylic on canvas, 72x48" / 122x183 cm, 2018





**Branches #01** triptych  
Acrylic on canvas, 72x108 " / 183x273 cm, 2018







On the left:

**Surface #01** Plaster cast in a wooden box,  
6x6 " / 15x15 cm, 2018

**Surface #02** Plaster cast in a wooden box,  
6x6 " / 15x15 cm, 2018

Below:

**Surface #03** Plaster cast in a wooden box,  
6x6 " / 15x15 cm, 2018

On the right page:

**Stone #02** Oil and acrylic on canvas,  
16x16 " / 40x40 cm, 2018





**Stone #01**

Oil and acrylic on canvas,  
16x16 " / 40x40 cm, 2018

On the right page:

**Stone #03**

Oil and acrylic on canvas,  
10x10 " / 25x25 cm, 2018

**Tangle #02**

Oil and acrylic on canvas,  
8x8 " / 20x20 cm, 2018







Above clockwise: **Round Landscape #04** Acrylic on canvas, 12x12 " / 30x30 cm, 2018  
**Round Landscape #03** Acrylic on canvas, 8x8 " / 20x20 cm, 2018  
**Round Landscape #02** Acrylic on canvas, 10x10 " / 25.5x25.5 cm, 2018

On the left page: **Round Landscape #01** Acrylic on canvas, 20x20 " / 50x50 cm, 2018





***Petrify #07***  
Plaster cast in a wooden box, 10x15 " / 25x38 cm, 2018



***Petrify #05 / white***  
Plaster cast in a wooden box, 10x15 " / 25x38 cm, 2018



***Petrify #04 / white***  
Plaster cast in a wooden box, 10x15 " / 25x38 cm, 2018





**Petrify #05**, Plaster cast in a wooden box, 12x12.75 " / 31x35 cm, 2018

On the right page:

**Four objects**, mixed media, 36x24 " / 91x61 cm, 2018









On the previous page:  
**Woods #1019** triptych  
Acrylic on canvas,  
77x142 " / 195x360 cm, 2018

**Grapevine** diptych  
Oil on wooden panel,  
36x48 " / 91x122 cm, 2018



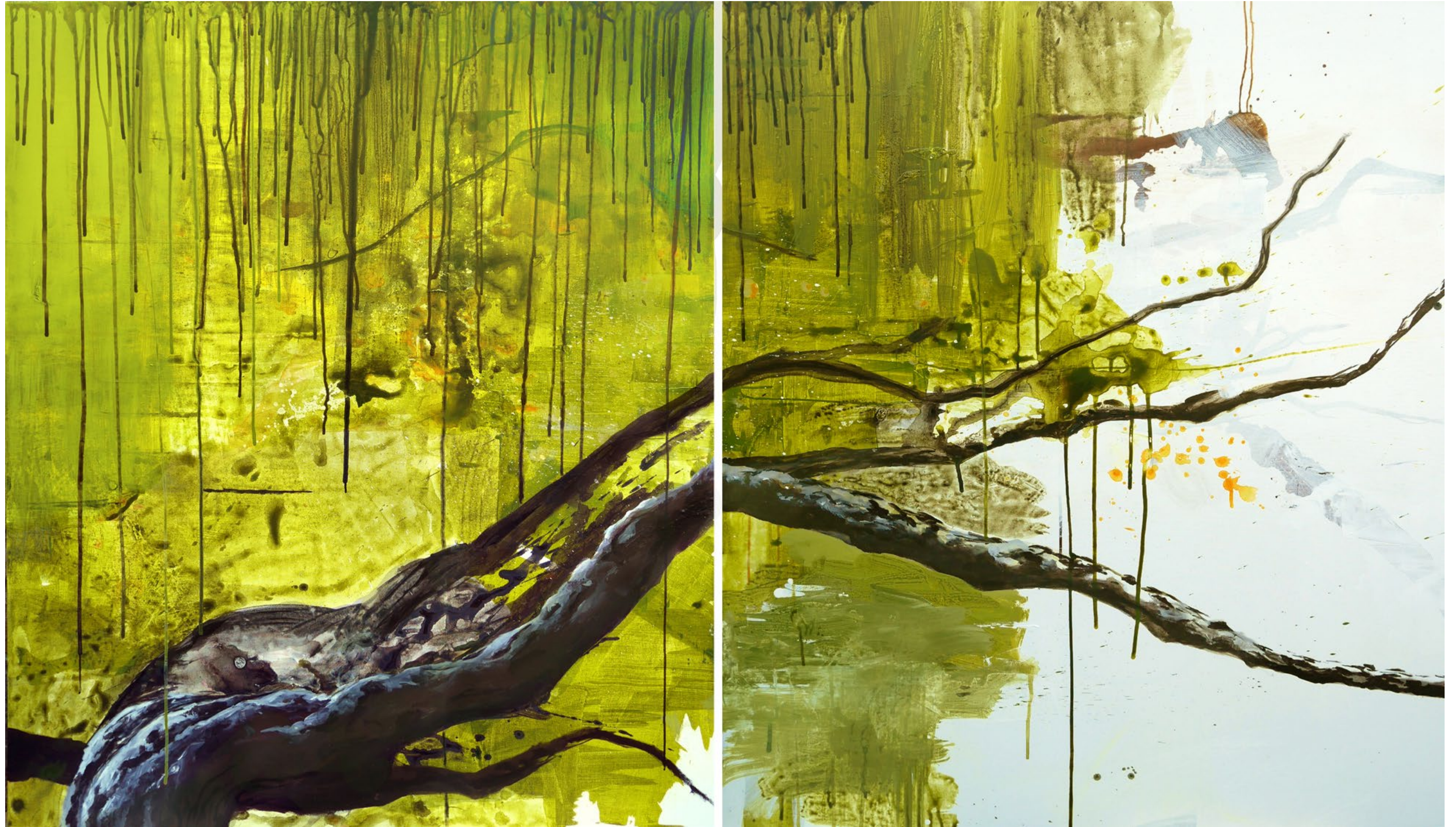


**Tree #02**  
Acrylic on canvas, 72x48 " / 183x122 cm, 2018





**A trunk** diptych  
Acrylic on canvas, 68x96 " / 172x243 cm, 2018







Art Ventures Gallery

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