

## CONTINUING AND RECOMMENDED EXHIBITIONS

April, 2008

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Rhea Carmi "Upheaval," 1980, mixed media on panel, 20" x 28".

Israel-born artist **Rhea Carmi** pays homage to Israel's 60th anniversary in a mixed media series entitled "Light in the Dark." Carmi develops the theme of life cycles as she takes us back to last year's Israeli war with Lebanon and the many other wars Israel has experienced. Abstract shapes, space, color, and texture are well handled, but she is especially skilled with the subtle, less noticeable features that transform each piece into a gripping work of art. Along these same lines, Carmi seamlessly integrates real materials into an abstraction. The viewer, absorbed in the poetry of each drama, may not notice the distinction between real object and illusionary paint. Carmi begins with the concept of nature and the eternal land: mature trees shedding their real leaves and sycamore seeds planted in real dirt.

She moves us to the here and now with the faceless soldier who endures bullets, bloodshed and the chaotic upside down peculiarities of war, while the spirit of the dead hovers over the living. In one work, Carmi draws with wires to give the impression of being caught in the maelstrom that war brings about. This chilling work is nonetheless saturated with great deal of hope. Carmi, who is married to a Holocaust survivor, ensures that the light shines through the darkness ([Frank Pictures Gallery](#), Santa Monica).

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