

In the Place Where We Stand II

Alumni Exhibition Celebrating The Musrara School's 30th Anniversary

7.9.17 – 21.10.17

Doron Rosenblum | David Amuyal | Asaf Alboher | Moshe Stern | Nadav Ariel | Yael Horn Danino | Yael Shachar | Tamar Tzohar Harel | Or Tesema Avraham | Almog Gez | Tohar Lev Jacobson | Nikita Pavlov

Curated by Yael Brandt



The exhibition features Israeli artists, all of whom are alumni of [Musrara - the Naggar Multidisciplinary School of Art and Society](#), among them both recent graduates and those who completed their studies 20 years ago.

Musrara is a space of cultures and differences, identities in conflict, and these elements are interweaved into the students' work processes and in their development as artists who are aware and sensitive to the environment, who come from different places. Among them are native-born and immigrants, Jews residing in the settlements and Jews from all over Israel.

The artist **Almog Gez**, originally from an agricultural moshav in the middle of Israel, examines the traditional concept of the inheritance of land by sons, being the daughter of farmland owners in a family of only girls. The video work shows her dancer sister as she tries to hold and balance a bunch of bananas on her body on her father's farm. From another perspective, **Or Tesema Avraham** explores her own biography and observes the community she came from and Israeli society in general. The photograph is a self portrait of a young Ethiopian woman, dressed in men's underwear. Her knees bear signs of a struggle, or dust from the road, or some sort of genuflection - the signs of a physical and emotional plight. The work reproves Israeli and western society for accepting immigrants from third world countries and then treating them as foreigners or servants. It also refers to a self definition of identity and the search for independence as a woman in a strict patriarchal society.

The work of **Yael Horn Danino** provides a glimpse into the religious world from a female point of view. Yael is a mother and wife living in the Neve Erez outpost. She presents a photograph of her life as a woman living in a religious community, filming herself during her daily routine, with the activities and scenery that accompany her. **Moshe Stern** is also a photographer coming from a religious background, who documented a settlement during the time the settlers built their homes. Moshe's point of view of the political controversial action, as a man who is an "insider", giving the viewer a personal perspective and a spiritual - humanity connection between the man and the land.

The Israeli landscape is a main theme in **Nadav Ariel's** work. Nadav is an Israeli photographer, grew up in Kfar Adumim, a small community in East of Jerusalem. Nadav, inspired by the old masters of photography, is taking black and white pictures in large format, of young Israelis in different landscapes surroundings across Israel.

While traveling Rajasthan, India and using a 90 years old Russian made rangefinder medium format camera, **Asaf Alboher** crossed paths with a local boy. The tunnel behind him framed the background and Asaf signaled him from a distance, asking if he could take his photograph. He consented and Asaf took his picture. Each of them went his own way without saying a word. That simple photographic transaction, most common among tourists, manifested along-side with the optic defect of the old camera - an unknown human figure that won't ever get a chance to see his captured image. A human figure that asks us viewers questions about identity and territory.

Doron Rosenblum presents the photograph "Nimrod" from a body of works titled "Land, My Land", a project made up of staged photographs and an index of objects and landscapes. His work deals with the charged dialogue between the fragility of life and the betrayal of the body, and rebirth, together with intergenerational encounters, representations of local heroes and metaphors for the situation in Israel.

Yael Shachar, an artist and filmmaker, also engages in outdoor photography that shows her family in her parents' home in the Galilee. It is a family portrait from behind, in which we see Yael's family overlooking the view from her childhood. Yael also shows a self-portrait from 2000, in which she urinates in a fortress on the foothills of Jerusalem, marking feminine territory while overlooking the view.

Another family portrait, is shown by **Tamar Tzohar Harel**, who provides a glimpse into the religious world from an OTD (off the derech) perspective. Tamar was born and raised in a religious home, the daughter of Rabbi Tzohar from the village of Kfar Pines. In this photograph Tamar's family appears with their eyes closed while Tamar's eyes are wide open. This portrait reflects the personal processes that Tamar went through growing up, as she began develop a critical view of the society she came from.

In the context of Yael's self portrait and Tamar's reflective questions, we also meet **Tohar Lev Jacobson's** work. Tohar deals in his work with religious space. Tohar presents his documentary video work "A Fire Will Burn", filmed over a year-long period in the Sacher Park in Jerusalem. The park visitors, coming from a broad spectrum of religious backgrounds, are deeply steeped in a constant conflict of identities. This volatility leads to the creation of an unaffiliated public narrative that gives rise to new interpretations regarding the concepts of admiration for religious conventions and the sense of the sacred.

David Amuyal is a photographer dealing in his work with his sexual identity and laying out its complex relation to gender. In this photo, David is taking portraits of himself and his mother, a woman from a low socio-economical call. The portrait is taken in her personal environment, providing a glimpse to their complex relationship.

Nikita Pavlov is taking us to a Russian-Israeli family. Family is a frequent subject for Nikita, who was born in Russia and immigrated to Israel, now living in Berlin. In the family dining room, there is an apple, a wine glass, a family, and one man who is sitting on the stairs. This is Pavlov himself, who makes the photograph happen and takes part in it as well, responsible for it but also immersed in it. This series is titled "My Friends' Families." Their world is his world.

The various works featured, represent many levels of Israeli society, which are boldly revealed through the personal biographies of the artists themselves, through their internal perspectives and their curiosity, exposing a fascinating multicultural slice of Israeli society and of the young artists living in Israel today.

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Thursday 7.9.17 at 19:00 – Exhibition Opening

Thursday 12.10 at 19:00 – A Special event of live music played by the school's graduates Adam Ben Nun, Wizard Ashdod and Dane Joe

Image: Nadav Ariel, Almog, 2013



MUSRARA The Naggat Multidisciplinary School of Art and Society
مصرارة، كلية متعددة المجالات للفنون والمجتمع على اسم نجار مוסرרה، بיה"ס הרב תחומי לאמנות וחברה ע"ש נגור

CIRCLE1 Gallery
Mittenwalder Straße 47
10961 Berlin
Thursday - Saturday 12 - 6 pm
www.circle1berlin.com



This exhibition is supported by the Szloma Albam Stiftung
www.szloma-albam-stiftung.de

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