

The Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery

Potent Wilderness

Works from the Igal Ahouvi Art Collection

Curator: Sarit Shapira

5.7.14 – 5.9.14

The exhibition Potent Wilderness, the second part of the Babylon Trilogy, deals with the scorched earth on the one end, and the remnants of life on the other, left after the 'fall of the towers' of Western culture in the modern age.

The exhibition features works that assess a chain of disasters from the distance of time and through a memory that also offers processes of forgetting-amnesia-partial erasure of national and personal tragedies. It emphasizes the engagement with 'catastrophe' from the distance of time, through works by young 'second' and 'third generation' artists and, on the 40th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, features works that deal with the pain and the loss that accompanied the events of that war, employing a conceptual language crystalized in the 1970s.

The show, comprising installations, video works, projections, painting, sculpture and photography by renowned international artists and established and up and coming Israeli artists, reveals the collection's devotion to foundational and ground-breaking figures in the history of Israeli art.

The show includes works by the artists:

Gabriel Orozco, Charles Avery, Darren Almond, Richard Artschwager, Joseph Beuys, Avner Ben Gal, Ido Bar-El, Yair Garbuz, Tamar Getter, Rodney Graham, Dror Daum, Christopher Williams, Andy Warhol, Elad Lassry, Bruce Nauman, Ido Michaeli, Christian Marclay, Ruti Nemet, Eli Petel, Moshe Kupferman, Jean Cocteau, David Claerbout, Martin Creed, Elham Rokni, Efrat Shvili, Gil Marco Shani and others.

A major part focuses on minimalist and conceptual works included in the collection, by artists such as **Joseph Beuys, Martin Creed, Darren Almond, Bruce Nauman, Moshe Kupferman, Tamar Getter, Benni Efrat and Ido Bar-El**. Another part reveals a different dialect of contemporary art represented in the collection: Pop Art and the links between the avant-garde and the media. Images that have emerged into the world from a 'Pandora's Box' opened after the 'great falls' and from the hybridization and linguistic debris of an 'old world order'. The artists who belong to this group include **Elad Lassry and Elad Laron**.

Nomadism, journeys and migration are central images and avenues of activity in contemporary art and culture. In the context of the exhibition, these subjects coincide with the dispersion of Babylon's builders to all the corners of the earth after the tower's construction had been stopped. As in the contemporary television series *The Vikings*, an ancient history is etched with current hues, as biblical memories about the gouging out of King Zedekiah's eyes during the Second Babylonian Exile are considered in relation to

images of blindness in contemporary art. Thus we encounter visions of shadows, light versus darkness, journeys in the dark (**Elham Rokni**), an interrupted journey towards the horizon (**Doug Aitken**), the figure of the nomad (**Avner Ben Gal**) or the preparation of instruments of passage based on ancient images (**Joseph Beuys**). These journeys summon wisdom, erudition and historical memories in which an 'exiled' culture has given rise to a knowledge-rich corpus. The memories of the Babylonian Exile are evoked through images of the Beth Midrash (in a painting by **Gil Shani**), the National Library (in a photograph by **Ariel Caine**) and the figure of Maimonides (in an installation by **Ido Michaeli**).

A variety of activities will be held in the gallery as part of the exhibition, including lectures, gallery talks with artists and curators, tours, workshops and guided activities for children.

Alongside the exhibition Potent Wilderness the University Gallery will be showing the solo exhibition Masha Zusman: Side Wind, winner of the *Michel Kikoïne* Prize for 2013.

The Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery

Tel Aviv University, Entin Square, Corner of Haim Levanon and Einstein St.
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Opening hours: Sun-Wed 11am-7pm, Thu: 11am-9pm, Fri 10am-2pm

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