

Orit Ishay: Deer Country

Prague City Gallery

House of Photography, Revoluční Street 5, Prague 1

6 June – 10 September 2017

Tue–Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Curated by: Dalia Levin

“Deer Country” is the first solo exhibition of the Israeli artist Orit Ishay (*1961) held in the Czech Republic. It is a selection from her most eminent series that mainly reflect the issues discussed in her native country but, at the same time, distinctly exceed as far as to touching upon international context. All works on display were created in the course of the past decade.

Ishay's investigation and use of the hitherto available forms of representation and interpretation aim at raising social and political issues relevant to Israeli society. She touches upon the most sensitive subjects that influence the civil life in her country, and her approach reflects her deep insight as well as her broad horizon of knowledge.

The works are very personal and closely linked with the place of their origination; however, they are also of global character. Ishay deals in the interactions of man and place, the influences prevalent in the formation of national identity and consciousness. The social, political and security-related changes of the contemporary world are linked to her works, making them both local and universally relevant.

Ishay's approach is based on the historical traditions relating to photography and the creation of images, one she has further developed in her unique way. Presenting a manner both seductive and deceptive, she requires viewers to decipher her code. By deconstructing and then reconstructing anew, she instills places and images with new meanings, providing viewers with a broad horizon of knowledge, and presenting in her remarkable way both the center and periphery, the individual and communal, the nation and army, the city and kibbutz, the early settlers and new immigrants, the bereavement and hope, the past and present. Her works provide a deep acquaintance into the nation and its state, demonstrating to viewers the force of life undefinable by borders, religion or gender.

Each of the two gallery floors is divided into individualized compartments presenting works of art executed in a variety of mediums, including photographs, etchings, video works, and an installation – single chapters from a story sequence stretching the length of a long time axis, creating a logical evolution and interconnecting syntactic links. In keeping with the nature of the works, the bottom floor presents a monochromatic array, while the upper floor displays works in color.

The exhibition title – “Deer Country” – addresses one of the terms used for the Land of Israel, mentioned in

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the Book of Daniel (Daniel 11:16) as a metaphor, an animal of nobility, a symbol of a glorious and beautiful land.

The Israel Postal Service adopted this symbol, the figure of a deer, as its logo. And similarly as the red postal vans, bright red and bearing the deer sign, travel a network that reaches every destination and settlement, so does Ishay's work metaphorically encompass the country, giving this exhibition its name, and the entirety of real and symbolic meanings it carries with it.

Dalia Levin

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Orit Ishay (*1961)

Lives and works in Tel Aviv-Jaffa

Active in the fields of photography, video and installation

Education

2010–2012

Post-graduate, Fine Arts Program, Ha'midrasha College of Art, Beit Berl Academic College, IL

2003–2007

The Naggar School of Photography, Media & New Music in Musrara, Jerusalem, IL

B.E.D, The David Yellin Academic College, Jerusalem, IL

Solo exhibitions

2017

“Deer Country”, Prague City Gallery, House of Photography, the Czech Republic

2015

“Half Moon Half Sun”, The Art Cube Gallery Jerusalem, The Artists' Studios, IL

“Public Domain – Shelters”, The Senate Art Gallery, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, IL

2014

“Terribly Pretty, Awfully Beautiful”, The Kibbutz Gallery Tel Aviv, IL

“These Are Water”, The Gallery in Kibbutz Bee'ri, IL

“Way 2 Way”, Dwek Gallery, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, Jerusalem, IL

2013

“Fire Zone”, Tichonet Gallery, Tel Aviv, IL

2012

“1917” (as a part of the “Attributes” exhibition), MoBY – Museum of Contemporary Art, Bat Yam, IL

2011

“Lucky Numbers”, The Kaye Gallery for the Arts, Kaye College, Be'er Sheva, IL

2010

“Public Domain – Seven Boom, Solution and Evolution, Tina B”, Prague Contemporary Art Festival, the Czech Republic

“Public Domain – Seven Boom”, The Gallery on the Cliff, Netanya, IL

2009

“Public Domain”, The Heder Contemporary Art Gallery, Tel Aviv, IL

2008

“Fire Zone”, The Gallery in the Nachshon Kibbutz, IL

“Blocked”, The Morel Derfler Gallery, Jerusalem, IL

2007

“Regarding Pilgrims”, The Anna Akhmatova Museum, St Petersburg, RUS

2006

“Regarding Pilgrims”, Galicia Jewish Museum, Kraków, PL

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Collections

MUMOK, Museum of Modern Art, Vienna
MOCAK, Museum of Contemporary Art in Kraków
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
Ashdod Art Museum, Monart Center
The Sip, Shpilman Photography Institute
Nahum Gutman Museum of Art, Tel Aviv
Bank Ha'poalim Art Collection
Beit Avi Chai, Jerusalem
Recanati Art Collection, Tel Aviv
A. Ahuvi Art Collection, Tel Aviv
Ayelet Danielle Aldouby, New York
Tod Paonessa, San Rafael, California
America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Tel Aviv
CCA Tel Aviv Video Archive
The Video Archive of the Israeli Center for Digital Art, Holon
BAAD Gallery – Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Jerusalem, Reservoir
Atlas Hotels, Boutique Hotel Chain
private collections

The exhibition curator Dalia Levin is a curator of contemporary art specialized in exhibiting not only established, but also emerging Israeli and international artists. She lives and works in Tel Aviv.

In 1993 Levin was appointed to the position of the Director of The Herzliya Museum. Under her supervision, the institution became The Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, a leading museum in the given field on an international scope. In the meantime, she served in a number of major committees in the Museum, such as The 50th Venice Biennale international committee of judges of the Golden Lion Award, the committees of judges of the Israel Prize in the Arts, and the Wolf Prize committee of judges in the Arts.

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Orit Ishay: Deer Country

Organized by Prague City Gallery

The exhibition is held with the support of the Embassy of the State of Israel in the Czech Republic.

Exhibition curator: Dalia Levin

Exhibition coordinator: Sandra Baborovská

Architectural design: Adam Vačkář

Graphic design: Jan Šerých

Installation and production, head of: Diana Brabcová

PR and marketing, head of: Michaela Vrchatová

Educational programs, head of: Lucie Haškovcová

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Media partners: Art&Antiques, Art for Good, ArtMap, Český rozhlas, Radio 1, protisedi.cz

Place: House of Photography, Revoluční Street 5, Prague 1

Duration: 6 June – 10 September 2017

Opening hours: Tue–Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Admission: full – CZK 120 (adults) / reduced– CZK 60 (students) / CZK 30 (seniors)

Contact for journalists: Michaela Vrchatová, +420 725 818 721, vrchatova@ghmp.cz

For more information, please turn to: www.ghmp.cz, www.oritishay.hostar.org

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ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

Guided tour of the exhibition with the artist Orit Ishay and the exhibition curator Dalia Levin (interpreted to Czech)

Tue, 6 June 2017, 4 p.m.

Saturday art workshops

Sat, 1 July 2017, 1–6 p.m. **Color and Grey Photographic Image**, House of Photography

Sat, 2 September 2017, 1–6 p.m. **Plants as Symbols**, House of Photography

Our artistic responses to Ishay's works will help us differentiate between working in color and in its total absence. In the case of the series of grey monochromic works, we will focus on macro-details of a digital photograph; details which will be, on a much larger scale, re-composed out of grey squares prepared ahead and serving as elements substituting the individual pixels. Our crucial motif will be that of a flower garland as the joint bearer of cultural, social and historical codes. The material for creating our collages and assemblages will be photographic records of plants as well as authentic products of nature, the latter including references to their particular presence in both landscape and space.

Art studio for adults and seniors

Sun, 25 June 2017, 3–6 p.m. **Experimenting with Photography I**, Centre of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun, 3 September 2017, 3–6 p.m. **Experimenting with Photography II**, Centre of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Our experimenting with the medium of photography will reflect upon the oeuvre of the exhibited artist. The workshop will focus on decomposing various printed materials and their subsequent re-composing, which should result in new contexts. As to the form, we will be trimming, cutting out, cutting and finally weaving. The workshop participants will focus on composing and solving pictorial surface and on conceiving a form. They will give new dimensions to the medium of photography: the art work will move on the verge of collage, assemblage and spatial object.

Interactive views of the exhibition for all school types as well as other groups of age and interest, including the opportunity of a subsequent artistic response in the form of the participants' unique artwork. The time, subject and demandingness are always tailored to the requirements of the particular school.

Our weekend programs focus on children, families with children and others of all categories of age, including seniors and the handicapped.

Arrivals to and departures from the programs are individual, i.e. anytime within the delimited time frame.

Booking: till 4 p.m. on the preceding day (does not condition partaking)

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Booking required

Price: children to 10 years, art students, pedagogues – CZK 5; children over 10 years – CZK 20

The above-mentioned events will also be accompanied by other education activities focusing on additional focus groups, such as handicapped visitors and parents with children on parental leave.

Contact: Lucie Haškovcová, lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz, +420 606 612 987, 608 216 418

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