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## **Michal Helfman—Eli Petel—Alexandra Zuckerman**

12 aprile - 1 giugno, 2014

Inaugurazione: sabato, 12 aprile 18:30

### **MK Search Art**

Corso Italia 14

San Giovanni Valdarno

MK Search Art è lieta di annunciare “Michal Helfman—Eli Petel—Alexandra Zuckerman” una presentazione di opere degli artisti israeliani Michal Helfman, Eli Petel e Alexandra Zuckerman. Concepite come tre presentazioni concise, ogni artista esporrà in una delle stanze della galleria MK Search Art che si trova in un edificio storico nel centro del paese di San Giovanni Valdarno in Toscana.

Seguendo queste premesse la mostra giocherà sulla varietà di linguaggi, riferimenti e di media, da un lato, sottolineando le visibili differenze che caratterizzano la pratica di questi tre artisti, mentre dall'altro evidenziando possibili connessioni. Le pratiche di Michal Helfman, Eli Petel e Alexandra Zuckerman sono infatti molto distanti tra loro, sebbene questi artisti appartengano allo stesso milieu, si conoscano e in alcune occasioni abbiano perfino lavorato insieme, condiviso idee e si siano messi a confronto l'uno con l'altro.

Lavorando con il video, la scultura, la pittura, il disegno, l'installazione e la performance, il modus operandi di

Michal Helfman (\*1973, Tel Aviv) mira a una profonda analisi di temi come la storia, la violenza e la cultura, che vengono presentati attraverso la nozione di palco scenico e del suo relativo vocabolario. Quasi teatrali, tutti i suoi lavori possono essere visti come “scene” che l’artista, che ha lavorato come scenografa per discoteche di Tel Aviv e ha studiato danza per molti anni coinvolgendo spesso ballerini nei suoi video e performance, costruisce in modo da usarli come canali per la distribuzione di temi che appartengono alla spesso tragica ma sempre avventurosa storia dell’umanità. A MK Search Art Helfman mostrerà il video *A Duet for a Boy and a Flame* (2010).

Impiegando simultaneamente tecniche diverse in modo da creare installazioni e interventi meta-linguistici, alcuni molto spettacolari, altri molto minuti, il lavoro di Eli Petel (\*1974, Gerusalemme) è profondamente radicato nella sua identità di ebreo iracheno sefardita o più genericamente ebreo orientale o in ebraico “Misrakhi”. Detto questo la sfaccettata e facilmente incompresa nozione d’identità è per Petel solo il punto di partenza, una strategia concettuale, una *scusa*, che usa per stabilire un dialogo interiore e semi-spirituale tra l’opera d’arte e lo spettatore. Difatti tutti i suoi lavori possiedono una doppia natura: da una parte analizzano chirurgicamente la storia dell’arte, la storia e l’eredità dello stato di Israele e del popolo ebraico e dall’altra parte sono tutti molto emotivi, spirituali e sentimentali. A MK Search Art, Petel esporrà un autoritratto nell’atto di piangere, *The Whiner* (2010), e un’immagine della sua città natale, *East Jerusalem* (2007-11).

Radicate nella storia della pittura le sofisticate e laboriose opere di Alexandra Zuckerman (\*1981, Mosca) provengono da diversi tipi di tradizioni che l’artista mischia senza soluzione di continuità. Dai dipinti e arazzi medievali e del primo rinascimento ai fumetti; dalle illustrazioni delle favole alle iconiche composizioni di Magritte; dalle leggende est europee, l’artista è nata in Russia ed è immigrata in Israele all’età di 9 anni, alle figure dipinte da Pierre Klossowski: tutti i suoi lavori sono pieni di *déjà vu* e al tempo stesso completamente contemporanei e nuovi. Eseguiti tramite una tecnica unica, molto lenta, inventata dall’artista che preferisce lavorare nel suo piccolo spazio domestico a Jaffa: le tavole di Zuckerman sono finestre aperte su un mondo parallelo. Per MK Search Art presenterà un trittico di matita su carta dal titolo *After The Moon* (2013).

MK Search Art, San Giovanni Valdarno/Nuova Delhi  
Italia: Corso Italia 14, 52027, San Giovanni Valdarno, Arezzo  
India: B-5 Anupam Plaza Srl Aurobindo Marg Hauz Khas, Nuova Delhi 10016  
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Didascalia: Alexandra Zuckerman, *After The Moon*, 2013. Matita su carta, 118 x 94 cm (ognuno).

## Michal Helfman—Eli Petel—Alexandra Zuckerman

April 12 - June 1, 2014

Opening: Saturday, April 12, 6:30 pm

### MK Search Art

Corso Italia, 14

San Giovanni Valdarno

MK Search Art is glad to announce “Michal Helfman—Eli Petel—Alexandra Zuckerman,” a presentation of artworks by Israeli artists Michal Helfman, Eli Petel and Alexandra Zuckerman. Conceived as three concise solo presentations, each artist will exhibit the work in one of the rooms of MK Search Art gallery space, which is located in a historical building in the center of the town of San Giovanni Valdarno in Tuscany, Italy.

Following these premises the exhibition will play with a variety of languages, references and media and on one hand it will underline the visible differences characterizing the practice of these three artists and on the other hand it will highlight possible connections between them. In fact the practices of Michal Helfman, Eli Petel and Alexandra Zuckerman are very distant from each other and yet these three artists belong to the same milieu, they know each other work and in some occasion have even worked together and shared ideas and engaged in conversations.

Working with video, sculpture, painting, drawing, installations and performance, the modus operandi of Michal Helfman (\*1973, Tel Aviv) aims towards a deep analysis of issues such as history, violence and culture, issues that are presented through the notion of stage and its related vocabulary. Almost theatrical, ultimately all her works are “scenes” that the artist – who worked as a set designer for night clubs in Tel Aviv and studied dance for many years and now involves dancers in many of her videos and performances – constructs in order to use it as a channel for the distribution of themes that belong to the often tragic and always adventurous history of humankind. At MK Search Art Helfman will show the video *A Duet for a Boy and a Flame* (2010).

Often employing different media at the same time in order to create meta-linguistic installations and interventions, some very spectacular and some more minute, the work of Eli Petel (\*1974, Jerusalem) is deeply rooted in his identity as Sephardic Iraqi-Jew, more generally defined as Oriental Jew or “Misrakhi” in Hebrew. However the multifaceted and easy to misunderstand notion of identity is for Petel just the starting point, a conceptual strategy, an *excuse* he uses to establish an inner and semi-spiritual dialogue between the artwork and the viewer. In fact all his works own a double nature: on one side they are surgically analyzing the history of art and the history and legacy of the state of Israel and of the Jewish people and on the other side they are all deeply emotional, spiritual and sentimental. At MK Search Art, Petel will exhibit a crying self-portrait – *The Whiner* (2010) – and picture of his hometown – *East Jerusalem* (2007-11).

Rooted in the history of painting, the sophisticated and laborious oeuvres of Alexandra Zuckerman (\*1981, Moscow) result from different kind of traditions that the artist mixes without solution of continuity. From Medieval and early Renaissance paintings and tapestries to comic books; from fairy tales’ illustrations to Magritte’s iconic compositions; from Eastern European legends – the artist was born in Russia and immigrated to Israel at the age of 9 – to the figures depicted by Pierre Klossowski: all her artworks are full of déjà vu and

yet completely contemporary and brand new. Executed through a unique and time-consuming technique invented by the artist – who prefers to work in her small domestic space in Jaffa –, Zuckerman's tableaux are open windows to a parallel world. For MK Search Art she will present a pencil-on-paper triptych entitled *After The Moon* (2013).

MK Search Art, San Giovanni Valdarno/New Delhi

Italy: Corso Italia 14, 52027, San Giovanni Valdarno, Arezzo, Italy

India: B-5 Anupam Plaza Srl Aurobindo Marg Hauz Khas, New Delhi 10016

[www.mksearchart.com](http://www.mksearchart.com)

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Caption: Alexandra Zuckerman, *After The Moon*, 2013. Pencil on paper, 118 x 94 cm (each).

**Michal Helfman**

Born 1973 in Tel Aviv, where she lives and works.

Education:

1994-98: Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem

1996: School of Visual Arts, New York

Selected solo shows:

2013: CCA Tel Aviv

2012: Yaffo 23, Jerusalem

2010: Sommer, Tel Aviv

2009: Cardi Black Box, Milan; Tel Aviv Museum of Art

2007: Israel Museum, Jerusalem

2003: Sommer, Tel Aviv

2002: INOVA, Milwaukee

2001: San Francisco Art Institute

2000: Sommer, Tel Aviv

1999: The Herzlyia Museum of Art, Israel

1998: The Hamidrasha Gallery, Kalmania, Tel Aviv

Selected group shows:

2013: Anti Anti, Tel Aviv University Gallery; Special project with Anna Roethlisberger Dance Company; Mythographies, Yaffo 23, Jerusalem

2012: Recent Acquisitions, Israel Museum, Jerusalem

2011: Backerstasse 4, Vienna; Recent Acquisitions, Tel Aviv Museum of Art; ArtTLV and the Herzlyia Biennial

2010: Jaffa Cakes, Rove Gallery, London; Creativity Encouragement Award Winners, Herzlyia Museum

2009: Wild Exaggeration, Haifa Museum of Art, Israel

2008: ArtTLV, Tel Aviv; Real Time Art in Israel 1998-2008, Israel Museum, Jerusalem; The Colony, Ein Harod Museum of Art

2007: Special project for the City of Tel Aviv; Rear, Herzlyia Museum of Art; The Invisible Snake Show, Sommer, Tel Aviv

2005; Mafnum, Herzlyia Museum of Art

2004: Romantica, Sommer, Tel Aviv; Don't Touch the White Woman, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy

2003: Venice Biennial

1999: Art Focus, Jerusalem

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**Eli Petel**

Born in 1974 in Jerusalem. He lives and works in Tel Aviv.

Education:

1996-2000: Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem

1999: Cooper Union, New York

Selected solo shows:

2010: Bialik House, Tel Aviv

2009: Dvir, Tel Aviv

2007: Tel Aviv Museum of Art

2006: Helena Rubenstein Pavilion for Contemporary Art at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art

2005: Line 16 Gallery, Tel Aviv; The Hamidrasha Gallery, Kalmania

2003: Dvir, Tel Aviv

2001: The Artist Studios, Tel Aviv; The Artist House, Jerusalem

Selected group shows:

2013: Honey, I rearranged the collection, The Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Israel

2012: Search Engine, CCA, Tel Aviv

2011: Blowing on a Hairy Shoulder/Grief Hunters, ICA, Philadelphia; Formally Speaking, Haifa Museum of Art, Israel

2010: Videozone V, Tel Aviv; Di Goldene Keyt, Dvir, Tel Aviv

2009: Forbidden Junctions, The Israeli Center for Digital Art, Holon

2008: Baken -/ Sammler, Dvir, Tel Aviv; ArtTLV, Tel Aviv; Artfocus, Jerusalem; Traces du sacré, Haus der Kunst, Munich, / Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Depletion, Works from the Doron Sebbag Art Collection, Tel Aviv Museum of Art

2007: Voyage autour de ma chambre, Dvir, Tel Aviv

2006: Mixed Emotions, Haifa Museum of Art

2005: Alphabet – Israeli Contemporary Art, Gaevle Kunstcentrum, Kristinehamns Kunstmuseum, Sweden; Die Neuene Hebraer, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin

2004: Half-board, Dvir, Tel Aviv; A Point of View, Tel Aviv Museum of Art,

2003: Guess Who Died, Dvir, Tel Aviv; Young Israeli Art – O’Hana Collection, Tel Aviv Museum of Art

2002: Mother Tongue, Ein Harod Museum of Art, Israel

2001: Self Portrait, Bezalel Art Gallery, Tel Aviv

2000: Trash, Heinrich Bell Foundation, Tel Aviv

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Alexandra Zuckerman

Born in 1981 in Moscow. Lives and works in Tel Aviv.

Education:

2008-2010: Biology Department, Tel Aviv University

2002-2006: Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem

2005: Stadelschule, Frankfurt am Main

Selected solo shows:

2013: Noga, Tel Aviv

2011: Art Cologne (under the auspice of Christian Nagel)

2008: Christian Nagel, Berlin

2007: Noga, Tel Aviv.

Selected group shows:

2014: The Drawing Room, Magasin 3, Stockholm.

2012: Bathing Season, Noga, Tel-Aviv; Mazonit, Sommer, Tel Aviv; Monkeys, 9 men #4, Alenbi Passage, Tel Aviv

2011: Painting Camp 4, City Gallery, Ramla, Israel

2009: As if words meant nothing, Kunstbuero Temporary Gallery, Vienna; Heaven, Noga, Tel Aviv.

2007: Herzliya Biennial of Contemporary Art; Paper, Noga, Tel Aviv; Artik 9, America-Israel Cultural Foundation Exhibition, Tel Aviv University Gallery

2006: Garbage Man Please Garbage Me, Brun, Düsseldorf