

Press Release

New Exhibitions at the Haifa Museum of Art

Opening: November 3, 2007

Closing: February 23, 2008

BoysCraft

"BoysCraft" – the main exhibition in the new cluster of exhibitions opening at the Haifa Museum of art – focuses on the manual, labor-intensive aspects of artmaking, and on the use of handicraft traditions in contemporary art. This exhibition centers upon the sensory experience of excess, materiality, and multiple details, and brings together – for the first time in Israel – works of local and international male artists who share an interest in traditional handicrafts formerly identified with the domain of "women's work," with "folk" art or with functional art.

This is the third in a trilogy of exhibitions curated by Tami Katz-Freiman, Chief Curator of the Haifa Museum of Art, and centering upon key aspects of local and international art today. "Mixed Emotions" was concerned with the emotional narratives at the heart of contemporary artmaking; "FATAMORGANA" focused on vision – on the optical and cognitive experience of perceiving contemporary artworks; "BoysCraft" is concerned with laborious manual processes, with the range of artistic contexts in which they appear and with their multilayered meanings.

This exhibition, which includes works by 41 Israeli and international artists, aims to shed light on the engagement with manual crafts as a cultural and sociopolitical practice. The artists participating in this exhibition present works composed of fabric, paper, beads, thread, wallpaper and other decorative materials in a range of techniques – including embroidery, weaving, beading, knitting and paper cutting. These numerous artmaking processes all engage with the significance of labor-intensive, manual work. Most of the works are centered upon imagery based on "male" or "macho" stereotypes, yet their creation involves techniques that are culturally associated with "female" or "childlike" forms of expression.

Their decorative, ornamental and sometimes obsessive qualities examine changing perceptions of masculinity, of beauty and of the relations between art and craft.

This wide range of works creates a rich tapestry of different cultures, styles and skills. The works of each of these artists is characterized by a demanding time-consuming work process, which involves monotonous and repetitive actions based on age-old craft traditions. "BoysCraft" demonstrates how forms of artmaking that are identified with traditional crafts, and which were marginalized in previous decades outside of the modernist cannon, have penetrated into the heart of contemporary artmaking. Leading artists are now choosing to undermine accepted distinctions between these domains, and thus reflect a new cultural spirit that expresses nostalgia for the predigital age and for concepts of authenticity.

"BoysCraft" reflects the complex processes that have taken place in the aftermath of the feminist revolution. It presents a new generation of artists who have internalized feminist, gender-related and postcolonial theories – and who adopt traditional techniques while making unconventional use of various materials – in order to voice social criticism, or to raise questions concerning gender from a male point of view.

Participating artists:

Ron Aloni (Israel) • El Anatsui (Nigeria) • avaf – assume vivid astro focus (Brazil) • Ramazan Bayrakoğlu (Turkey) • Ben Ben Ron (Israel) • Eliahou Eric Bokobza (Israel) • Jonathan Callan (Britain) • Nick Cave (U.S.) • Dave Cole (U.S.) • Tim Curtis (U.S.) • Leon David (Israel) • Lionel Estève (France/Belgium) • Ashraf Fawakhry (Israel) • Haimi Fenichel (Israel) • Tom Gallant (Britain) • Uri Gershuni (Israel) • Gil & Moti (Israel/Holland) • Jonathan Gold (Israel) • Stephan Goldrajch (Belgium/Israel) • Guy Goldstein (Israel) • Oliver Herring (New York) • Nicholas Hlobo (South Africa) • Erez Israeli (Israel) • Servet Koçyiğit (Turkey/Holland) • Kristian Kožul (Croatia/U.S.) • Haim Maor (Israel) • Ohad Meromi (Israel) • Gean Moreno (U.S.) • Izhar Patkin (Israel/U.S.) • Assaf Rahat (Israel) • Tomás Rivas (Chile)

• **Roe Rosen (Israel) • Jonathan Shilo (Israel) • Lior Shvil (Israel) • Daniel Silver (Israel/Britain) • Goran Tomcic (Croatia/U.S.) • Shaul Tzemach (Israel) • Francesco Vezzoli (Italy) • Gal Weinstein (Israel) • Gil Yefman (Israel) • Guy Zagursky (Israel)**

"BoysCraft" is accompanied by a catalogue (English/Hebrew)

Curator: **Tami Katz-Freiman**

Emergency Exit – New Media Center

NETworking

Works from the Computer Fine Arts Collection

"NETworking" is the first Israeli museum exhibition devoted to Net Art. This exhibition bespeaks the Center for New Media's deep commitment to presenting ongoing developments in technology-based art, and to exploring its social and cultural dimensions. This exhibition examines cutting-edge digital art, and presents 12 works from the Computer Fine Art Collection owned by Doron Golan – one of the first collectors of Net Art. The collection, which includes approximately 170 projects representative of various facets of this new medium, has been functioning since 2001 as an online archive accessible to all Web users. The works included in "NETworking" represent a number of Net Art's fundamental qualities: the visualization of data; open-code access and connectivity ; hacking and online voyeurism, which involve critiques of government authorities and economic powers; a dialogue with traditional forms of artmaking such as painting, and their reinterpretation through technological means; a relationship to experimental cinema; the creation of online behavioral codes and the negotiation of cyberspace from various perspectives; and the replacement of manual crafts with computer programming.

Participating artists:

boredomresearch – Vicky Isley and Paul Smith, Ed Burton, Alex Galloway, Elout De Kok, Andy Deck, Yoshi Sodeoka, Lia, Mark Napier, MTAA – Mike Sarf and Tim Whidden, John F. Simon, Jr., Young-Hae Chang, Jon Thomson and Alison Craighead.

"NETworking" is accompanied by a catalogue (English/Hebrew)

Curator: **Ilana Tenenbaum**

Adrenalin

Emerging Israeli Artists

In Memory of Shifra Turecki

Noa Lidor: Lighthouse

Anat Shalev: House & Garden

These two solo exhibitions vacillate on the axis between two and three-dimensional forms of representation. They address architectural space through the use of unexpected materials, and are based on unusually laborious work processes. In Noa Lidor's wall installation **Lighthouse**, the viewer is presented with a monumental mural composed of hundreds of metal thimbles, which form the silhouette of a lighthouse situated on the coastline. In the installation **House & Garden**, in which "sewn paintings" were created by means of a quilting technique, Anat Shalev represents the interior of a home and various items of furniture – while poetically referring to the surrounding garden, which is reflected in the window. This work is concerned with the elusive essence of the concept of home.

These exhibitions are accompanied by a printed brochure (English/Hebrew)

Curator: **Tal Yahas**

Corner Specific:

Edna Ohana: Filiality

avaf – assume vivid astro focus: Butch Queen 4

Edna Ohana's sculpture **Filiality** is a white wax cast of a male figure bent over a sewing machine, as if frozen in mid-work. This sculpture is presented against the background of avaf's **Butch Queen 4** – a large-scale, kaleidoscopic expanse of

wallpaper. This wallpaper installation, which is part of the exhibition "BoysCraft," has been tailored to the Museum's entrance walls. Ohana's fragile white sculpture stands out in contrast to the colorful, intensely psychedelic wallpaper pattern. The connection between these two works gives expression to avaf's concept of artistic collaboration by negating the hierarchy between different kinds of art, effacing the artist's ego and forming an inclusive creative environment.