

## AGE-NDA

With works by Micha Ullman, Aviva Uri, Yossi Breger, Moshe Gershuni, Nurit David, Yitzhak Danziger, Joseph Zaritsky, Raffi Lavie, Sigalit Landau, Avi Sabah, Pesach Slabosky, Israel Kabala, Gabriel Klasmer, Lior Tamim, Yaara Zach

Curator: Noemi Givon

By the list of artists it assembles, "AGE-NDA" charges its chosen title with new meanings, making accents beyond accepted art-historical notions and offering a framework of sorts – an agenda – that ties together the historical with the contemporary.

The title of "AGE-NDA" would seem to point to the present moment, yet with respect to the list of artists represented it comes to indicate a continuous historical narrative, one that has its beginning with the canon of Israeli modernism. Still evolving and ongoing, the story encompasses past chapters that have already been written down and canonized, as well as new ones that are presently being written and those that have yet to come.

The show traces something of an inner art-historical relay race that begins with Joseph Zaritsky, continuing with Moshe Gershuni, Nurit David and Gabriel Klasmer to move to Sigalit Landau, and from there to an artist as young as Lior Tamim, a recent graduate of the MFA program at the Bezalal Academy. Cutting across a variety of art forms and disciplines, the trajectory points to a movement between areas of similarity and differentiation, between instances of fragmentation and continuity in the local story of art. The trajectory cuts across a multitude of sites also in the geographical sense, from Zaritsky's Yehiam paintings to Landau's Dead Sea to the Tel Hai of Yossi Breger's. In traversing these various landscapes, it echoes the structure of ambivalence between the local and foreign as diagnosed by Sarah Breitberg-Semel with respect to artists that became associated with "The Want of Matter," the seminal group show she curated – a period represented here by a collage from Raffi Lavie. The same kind of ambivalence perceivable in Lavie's collage is likewise at work in Yitzhak Danziger's work on view. The "here-versus-there" tension is rearticulated in a work by Landau, confronting the salt of the Dead Sea with snow from the city of Gdansk.

The paintings in the show betray a preference for the tactile and experiential, following this tendency from Zaritsky's "Yehiam" paintings, where the view is turned into corporeal matter – into a meaty alter-corpus – and cutting to the late paintings of Gershuni, works that dramatize events of a chemical and optical repulsion between the paint fluid and the transparent gel applied to the surface.

Underlying the show is an aim to expose, but at the same to outline, a more or less unified framework that, however exposed to critique, encompasses the many splits and breaks that have characterized the social and art-historical story of Israel since the controversial heydays of the "New Horizons" movement and the rule of the almighty Mapai party. In this sense, "AGE-NDA" can be considered as a holistic gesture, in that it lays, and examines the terms for, a common ground in time of the growing fragmentation and polarization such as we have been experiencing in recent decades.

"AGE-NDA" carries on from the "Measure" exhibition that preceded it. It adds a further link in a chain of astutely curated cross-generational shows at the Givon Art Forum, shows that are concerned with the tilted balance in the relationships of politics and aesthetics, the artistic and the social. Aiming to provide an artistic indicator to an outside, overall reality and historical narrative, it does so without forcing art into the illustrative function of neither.

The decision to name the show with English letters only, and to break the title into the units of "AGE" and "NDA," acknowledges the inevitable split that lurks with any attempt at unifying. It is a break that allows for the aged, anterior undercurrents of history running under present-day accomplishments to surge up, while defining the ties and connections from which such accomplishments are threaded from in terms of a discrete commitment – of a non-disclosure agreement.