



VISITOR'S GUIDE

**SIRAH FOIGHEL BRUTMANN &
EITAN EFRAT**

ORIENTATION

EXHIBITION

FROM 15 OCTOBER 2016 TO 2 APRIL 2017

The term "orientation", used for the title of the exhibition, derives from the Latin word *oriens*, which means "rising" and makes direct reference to the direction of the rising sun in the east. Etymologically, orientation consists in directing something eastward. It originates in the Western Jewish tradition of positioning synagogue entrances so that they face Jerusalem. An oriented synagogue therefore faces east, whereas Delme, built in an Oriental style, has the particularity of being slightly "disoriented", facing north-east. By the same token, the exhibition offered in Delme by artists Sirah Foighel Brutmann and Eitan Efrat is presented as an invitation to slightly shift our perspective.

Orientation is poetic and documentary research on two public sculptures, Passages and White Square, designed by Israeli artist Dani Karavan and located in Portbou and Tel Aviv respectively.

Through two films, a sculptural installation, texts and sound pieces, the artists explore memory in its relationship with oblivion.

How can a public space be the medium of collective narratives that frame reality and orient attention in a single direction, and how can one imagine another collective experience that would be capable of renewing our relationship with the past and with history?

Central to the two public sculptures explored in the exhibition is a staircase leading the visitor to a panorama of the landscape. In Portbou or Tel Aviv, each viewpoint is framed, secured by a glass panel, and overlooks the Mediterranean.

Sirah Foighel Brutmann and Eitan Efrat present two video works that mix videos found online with original material created on the sites of these two sculptures, in an attempt to describe the collective experience produced by these public monuments. Between the desire to frame views and memories, and the poetic failure that results from a singular point of view on history, both video works suggest a path that, in each case, lead from Dani Karavan's official monument to a second abandoned monument, and everything is accompanied by an original sound composition that mixes ambient sounds with the wind sweeping through the Tel Aviv sculpture, or the strident blowing of the trumpet of a jazzman, invited to improvise while the film was being shot in Portbou.

Alongside the two video works presented at the exhibition, the artists created a monumental spiral staircase that leads visitors from the synagogue's central space to the balcony upstairs. The new staircase coexists with the synagogue's original staircase, inducing a redistribution of symbolic and spatial hierarchies, between the high and low, between the women's space upstairs and the men's space on the ground floor, as designated in the old synagogue. It enables visitors to experience their own movement of ascent and descent in a space that is infused with various strata of memory and history.

The installation is completed by mural texts that transcribe extracts of the artists' interview with Dani Karavan, who talks about how he devised the two sculptures. Visitors can hear the voice of the sculptor during the interview, as well as the voice of Sirah Foighel Brutmann, who reads a French translation of Karavan's words.

Between the three staircases in Portbou, Tel Aviv and Delme, between visible places and less visible places, what secret links are suggested and reconsidered? By inviting us to go up and down a staircase, the artists suggest we follow new, nonlinear paths, and take a different view of the places that surround us.

During the exhibition, the raw wooden staircase will get covered by the traces passing visitors, and will transform over time. When the exhibition ends, it will disappear from the space for which it was designed, and its future use remains undecided. Between reconstruction and abandonment, it is situated in that same space which separates official monuments from those we have forgotten.

BIOGRAPHY

Both born in 1983 in Tel Aviv, Sirah Foighel Brutmann and Eitan Efrat respectively studied dance and the visual arts in Brussels, where they currently live and work. In their films or in their photographic installations, they explore how private or collective narratives cross time and space, how images mark and inhabit history, shaping both memory and oblivion.

Their work has recently been the subject of solo exhibitions: at the Kunsthalle Basel (2013) and at the Argos Centre for Art and Media in Brussels (2014). Their films have been presented at numerous international film festivals such as the International Film Festival Rotterdam (Holland), the Images Festival (Toronto, Canada) and the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (Germany).

For more information: www.messidorgroup.be

RELATED EVENTS

EN REGARD / IN REGARD : Drinks/meeting/performance with the artists

5 November – 5 pm at the Synagogue de Delme

Admission free

Free shuttle leaving from Place de la Comédie in Metz at 4:15pm, returning at 7:30pm.

Reservations: +33(0)3 87 01 43 42

How does one evoke the memory of someone who has passed away? How does one speak of an absence? How can the deceased be revived by words? These are the questions raised during this performance conceived for the occasion. It will be followed by a visit to the exhibition with the artists, whose films are pervaded by many themes dear to Chantal Akerman, such as memory, traces, monuments, as well as private and collective identity.

This event is part of the festival *Je tu il elle nous manque*, regards sur l'oeuvre de Chantal Akerman, in partnership with 49 Nord 6 Est – Frac Lorraine, Arsenal, Bibliothèques-Médiathèques de Metz, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Ciné art, Ferme du Buisson, Java, European Days of Jewish Culture, the bookshop La Cour des grands, L'oeil à l'écran, Osez le féminisme, the Bloggers Cinema Club, Université de Lorraine.

L'oeil à l'écran, Osez le féminisme, The Bloggers cinema Club, Université de Lorraine.

“BIG IDEAS, SMALL HANDS” WORKSHOP > FOR CHILDREN FROM 6 TO 11 YEARS OLD > 2-5 pm

Wednesday 9 November 2016

Wednesday 11 Januar 2017

Wednesday 8 February 2017

Animated by Camille Grasser, head of educational program, and Katia Mourer, artist, this workshop allows children to explore the current exhibition through a playful and practical approach of the works on display. Free, upon reservation.

“HAND IN HAND” WORKSHOP > FOR FAMILIES

Saturday 4 February 2017: 3-5 pm

The art centre is offering a workshop for children and their parents! Whether you're young or not so-young, come and have fun playfully discovering works and being creative in connection with the exhibition The value in mathematics.

For children aged 5 to 12 accompanied by their parents. Free, upon reservation.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Exhibition open:

Wednesday-Saturday: 2-6 pm.

Sunday: 11am-6pm. Free entrance.

Guided Tour every Sunday at 4 pm.

Closed from 24 December 2016 to 3 Januar 2017 included.

CONTACT EDUCATION SERVICE

Camille Grasser

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LOCATION AND ACCESS

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info@cac-synagoguedelme.org

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FROM PARIS (by train 90 mins):

TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy

FROM METZ (by car, 30 mins):

D955, formerly route de Strasbourg

FROM NANCY (by car, 30 mins):

N74 towards Château-Salins

then D955 towards Metz

PARTNERS

La synagogue de Delme Centre for Contemporary Art is grateful for support from:



La synagogue de Delme Centre for Contemporary Art is a member of DCA-Association pour le Développement des Centres d'Art, Art en Résidence and LoRA - Lorraine Art Contemporain.



Label Artcolor by the county concil



PARTNERS OF THE EXHIBITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The exhibition was conceived in close collaboration with Anne Stevens and Egil Franssen of the DJAKE Architecture Office in Brussels.



Sound design : Laszlo Umbreit

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