



Press Release

# SIRAH FOIGHEL BRUTMANN & EITAN EFRAT ORIENTATION

OPENING FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER, 6PM ATTENDED BY THE ARTISTS EXHIBITION FROM 15 OCTOBER 2016 TO 2 APRIL 2017

The exhibition is presented as poetic and documentary research on two public sculptures designed by Israeli artist Dani Karavan.

The first sculpture, *Passages*, was created in memory of German philosopher and writer Walter Benjamin. Completed in 1994, this memorial is located at the edge of a cliff near the municipal cemetery in Portbou, Spain. The second sculpture, *White Square*, commemorates the founders of Tel Aviv. It is located on the highest point of the eastern part of the city, and was completed in 1989. Central in each sculpture is a staircase leading the visitor to a framed viewpoint. Both in Portbou and Tel Aviv, these points of view are secured by a glass panel, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

As an attempt to describe the collective experience produced by these public monuments, Sirah Foighel Brutmann and Eitan Efrat present a montage of videos found online as well as original material that was created on the sites of the sculptures. Between the desire to frame perspectives and memories, and the poetic failure that results from a singular point of view on history, both video works suggest a passage to a secondary abandoned monument.

Alongside the two video works presented in 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.

The term *orientation* derives from the Latin word for *rising (oriens)*, referring to the direction of the rising of the sun in the east. *Orientation*, in its meaning as alignment in a certain direction, originates in the Western Jewish tradition of positioning the entrances of synagogues towards east, facing Jerusalem. An *oriented* synagogue therefore faces east. The synagogue de Delme, built in a typical Oriental style, is facing north-east, and is therefore *disoriented*.

The title of the exhibition *Orientation* refers to directing a collective view from a common place of assembly to the consequences of that collective directionality, intertwined with collective memory and oblivion.

## **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 — 5pm 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 by 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.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Opening:** Friday 14 October at 6 pm. Exhibition from 15 October to 2 April 2017. Wednesday-Saturday, 2pm-6pm. Sunday 11am-6pm. **Admission free.** 

Guided tour every Sunday at 4pm.

### CONTACT DETAILS - HOW TO GET THERE

Centre d'art contemporain la synagogue de Delme 33 rue Poincaré 57590 Delme +33(0)3 87 01 43 42 info@cac-synagoguedelme.org www.cac-synagoguedelme.org

#### PRESS CONTACT

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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

This exhibition is specially sponsored by the stair contractor Escaliers Somme.



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



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 ${\tt La\ synag}$ ogue de  ${\tt Delme\ Centre}$  for Contemporary Art is grateful for support from:











Image: Orientation, deValence