



Roe Rosen: A Group Exhibition

Curators: Gilad Melzer, Joshua Simon

Closing – Saturday, April 30, 2016

Markus B. Mizne Gallery, Mark and Gabrielle Rich Wing – Laurence Graff Gallery of Contemporary Art; Gina and Gabriel Katri Gallery – Herta and Paul Amir Building

The wild and fascinating world of the artist Roe Rosen is featured in the first comprehensive exhibition of his works at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. This exhibition constitutes a mid-career retrospective for Rosen, whose paintings, video works, installations, multimedia works, artist's books and texts have been exhibited worldwide for over three decades.

Rosen periodically creates new projects around a specific theme or fictional character whose world is presented to the viewers. Curators Joshua Simon and Gilad Melzer chose to present this solo exhibition as a group exhibition, which features the worlds and figures that Rosen creates or impersonates. This wide-ranging oeuvre is now on display in several different galleries at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

The blurring of boundaries between documentation and fiction, present and past, and the concern with historical traumas, bifurcated identities, seduction, and ironic humor are characteristic of Rosen's oeuvre as a whole, and are reflected in the different exhibition galleries.

A central part of the exhibition is devoted to the artists invented by Rosen in the course of his career: **Justine Frank** (1900–1943), a Jewish-Belgian writer and artist who was affiliated with the Surrealist movement in Paris and later lived in Tel Aviv in the 1930s; and **Maxim Komar-Myshkin** (1978–2011), the most recent character

invented by Rosen – a young Russian émigré who established an artistic collective named "The Buried Alive" in Tel Aviv, creating a Russian cultural ghetto at the heart of the Israeli art scene.

The project "**Live and Die as Eva Braun**," which is considered a key work in the context of artistic representations of the Holocaust and of Nazism, presents a virtual scenario – an experiential journey with Eva Braun, Hitler's lover, during the last days of the war in a Berlin bunker.

The group exhibition space contains "other" works by Roe Rosen, including his **Martyr Paintings, Frosted Self-Portraits, Funeral Paintings**, and Israeli superhero **Ziona**. The exhibition also features the artist's book **The Blind Merchant**, which is being published 25 years after its creation.

Rosen's films will be on display in the Laurence Graff Gallery of Contemporary Art –

In the film **The Confessions of Roe Rosen** (2008, 56 minutes), foreign female works present the artist's confessions without understanding what they are saying. This film was first screened at the FID Marseilles International Film Festival, where it received honorable mention, and has since been screened in numerous venues worldwide.

The film **Out** (2010, 35 minutes) centers on a sadomasochistic scene that is transformed into a political exorcism. This film was screened at the Venice International Film Festival, where it was awarded the Orizzonti Prize for best medium-length film, and has since garnered numerous international awards.

The film **Hilarious** (2010, 21 minutes) explores the collapse of comic mechanisms. The virtuoso performance by Hani Furstenberg consists of a monologue that ends with an epic joke unfolding in the Twin Towers during their collapse. This film premiered at the Tate Modern in London.

The premiere of Rosen's latest film, **The Dust Channel**, will be celebrated in the course of the exhibition.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue with articles by **Gilad Melzer, Joshua Simon, Ekaterina Degot, Oded Wolkstein, Iris Pappo**, and **Olaf Möller**, which offer new and insightful interpretations of the multiple points of view presented in this exhibition.

The exhibition and catalogue are supported by the Friends of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in Israel, the Ostrovsky Family Fund, Israel Lottery Council for Culture and Art, Beit Berl Academic College, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, and Rosenfeld Gallery, Tel Aviv.