



FALLING IN LINE

Maya Attoun | Hilla Ben Ari

Curated by Giorgia Calò

Exhibition opening: Wednesday December 14 2011, 6 p.m.
 Galleria Marie-Laure Fleisch | Vicolo Sforza Cesarini 3A | Rome
 December 14, 2011 to February 25, 2012

On Wednesday December 14 2011, the Marie-Laure Fleisch gallery is presenting, for the first time in Italy, the work of two Israeli artists, **Maya Attoun** and **Hilla Ben Ari**, in the exhibition *Falling in Line*.

The exhibition is the first in a series of four exhibiting events the gallery has scheduled over one year (December 2011 – December 2012). The whole project, titled *About Paper. Israeli Contemporary Art*, curated by Giorgia Calò, will see the participation of Hilla Ben Ari, Maya Attoun, Yifat Bezalel, Maya Zack, Ety Abergel, Yael Balaban and Ofri Cnaani. These seven artists belong to different generations and work on different themes, whose common denominator is paper, adapted to their individual research for the creation of site-specific installations. The artists focus on various themes, ranging from meta-communication to reflections on female vulnerability, from the representation of an illusory, strongly aesthetic dimension, to the depiction of epic places, from the presence/absence of man to the ephemeral nature of memory.

As can be deduced from the exhibition's title, *Falling in Line*, the visual processes of Maya Attoun and Hilla Ben Ari are characterized by linear elements that give birth to a shared, single installation, thus activating a relationship between their respective works and the space that contains them. The combined effect of lines crossing and zigzagging through imaginary or real grids and textures, generates intermittent movements that are intended to cause tension between a rational sense of order and a more introspective, chance-driven tendency.

The exhibition's title also reveals a phonetic similarity to the expression "Falling in Love", thus introducing another issue tackled by the artists, namely the inextricable relationship between physical and emotional oscillation.

Maya Attoun is showing a series of installations that go beyond the idea of drawing itself, involving various media such as sculpture, found objects, wall paper and sound. Each work combines visual themes, scientific notions and literary, mostly neo-gothic, references. For instance, *Rope (Ofelia)* is a black pencil drawing on two paper sheets, which depicts two hands holding a rope. A wall paper work showing a black dripping will cover part of the gallery wall, on which the drawing itself is exhibited, reaching the ground and becoming part of another work titled *Moving*. The latter is a sound installation consisting in a record player with a broken ceramic turntable. The needle emits sounds as it bounces on the turntable's crack, evoking a strongly emotional state of being.

Hilla Ben Ari is exhibiting a series of works she especially created for this exhibition, among them a large-size piece depicting three female figures connected to each other by a woven texture, formed by paper stripes and yarns. The frailty of paper, and the movement determined by its particular texture, creates 'animated' figures in space, which almost become three-dimensional, thus emphasizing an approach characterized by perpetual instability. In the second gallery space, recently recast as a "project room", Hilla Ben Ari is also presenting her video "Dusk", where the image of a female figure placed horizontally and slightly raised above the ground hovers in a sort of sterile detachment.

Images, above, left to right: Maya Attoun, *Rope (Ofelia)*, 2010, pencil on paper, 80x200 cm, photographer: Elad Sarig, courtesy: Givon Art Gallery. Hilla Ben Ari, *Dusk*, 2011, video still, Petach Tikva Museum of Art.

MAYA ATTOUN

born in Jerusalem in 1974, lives and works in Tel Aviv.

Personal exhibitions:

- 2011 *Equations for a Falling Body*, Givon Art Gallery, Tel-Aviv
Threshold of Hearing, Lohamei Ha'getaot Gallery, Kibbutz Lohamei Ha'getaot
- 2009 *Entre Chien et Loup* - Finalists Exhibition, the Gottesdiener Foundation Israeli Art Prize 2008, Tel Aviv Museum of Art
- 2008 *Modes of Application*, Habres+Partner Gallery, Vienna
- 2007 *Blood Related*, Yanko-Dada Museum, Ein-Hod
Heart of Gold, Levontin Exhibition Space, Tel Aviv
- 2006 *SoulSeek*, Lohamei Ha'getaot Gallery, Kibbutz Lohamei Ha'getaot

Select group exhibitions:

- 2011 *Making the Cut, Recipients of the Oded Messer Young Artist Award*, The Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery, Tel-Aviv
Life: A User's Manual, the Ruth Young Wing for Art Education, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 2010 *2 3 D* (Double show with Edgar Orlaineta), Water Institute Gallery, Givataym
Caught in the Thicket, the 4th Drawing Biennale, Artists' House, Jerusalem
Thrice Upon A Time, Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm
The Culture and Sport Ministry 2009 Art and Design Awards Recipients, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya
Shelf, Whitstable Biennale, UK
JaffaCakes TLV, Rove Gallery, London
- 2009 *Up Against The Wall*, Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Center, Athens
League, Amihad Center, Jaffa
Real Sci-Fi, Bezalel Gallery, Tel-Aviv
- 2008 *Neues Sehen* – Young Israeli Art, Syker Vorwerk center for contemporary art, Germany
Short Cuts, Habres+Partner Gallery, Vienna
Open Studio, Triangle International Artists' Workshop, DUMBO, New York, NY
Real Time: Art in Israel 1998-2008, Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 2007 *Swamp* (Double show con Orly Sever), "Saf" Project, Artists House, Tel Aviv
The Beautiful Void, Gallery 39, Tel-Aviv
It's a Small World, Isn't It?, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv
Highlights of the Israeli Art Collection, Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 2006 *Collaboration on Site*, Kiasama Museum for Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
Goods to Declare, MFA International, 100 Anniversary to Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Terminal 1, Ben Gurion

HILLA BEN ARI

born in 1972, lives and works in Tel Aviv.

Personal exhibitions:

- 2008 *The Left Shoulder*, Gallery 39 for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv
- 2007 *Hibernation*, in 'Internal Tourism', The Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv
- 2004 *Diana*, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya
- 2003 *Starkiss*, Kalisher College, Tel-Aviv
- 2002 *Orange / Cut Off*, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem
- 2001 *To Hold*, The Kibbutz Gallery, Tel-Aviv

Select group exhibitions:

- 2011 *Curators & Co*, Petach Tikva Museum, Petach Tikva
Scales and Measures, Pavillon am Milchhof, Berlin
Numerator and Denominator, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art
Homade 4, Loop Festival, Barcelona
- 2010 *Footwork*, (Double show with Uriel Miron), Gallery 39 for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv
Culture Shock, Vancouver, Canada
Videoholica: International Video Art Festival, Varna, Bulgaria
- 2009 *2009 Asian Art Biennial*, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan
Videonale 12: Festival of Contemporary Video, Bonn Museum of Art, Bonn
Natural History Museum, Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Petach Tikva
Paperworks, Ticho House, Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 2008 *Optica: International Festival of Video Art*, Madrid, Gijon and Paris
Unparalleled Lunapark, Tel Aviv's Seasons Art Festival, Tel Aviv
- 2007 *The Beautiful Void*, Gallery 39 for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv
Sweet 16, Bat Yam Museum of Art, Bat Yam
- 2006 *Israeli Artists*, Tache-Levy Gallery, Brussels
- 2005 *High Heels in the Sand*, Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Petach Tikva
Togetherness, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv
- 2004 *The Last Dance*, Ha'aretz Art Festival, Tel Aviv
- 2003 *Overcraft*, Haifa University Gallery and The Artists' House, Tel Aviv