



Press Release

YUVAL YAIRI CYPHERS & CYPRESSES

FABIENNE LEVY

Avenue Louis-Ruchonnet 6, 1003 Lausanne

4 December 2019 - 18 January 2020

Fabienne Levy Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of Cyphers & Cypresses, Yuval Yairi's first solo show in Switzerland.

The exhibition features photographs, drawings, and installation works.

The show unveils a short film that illustrates the artist's work process.

In one part of the exhibition, Yuval adopts the semi-fictional figure of a "surveyor" as a partner and a vision aid for examining his surroundings and for introspection and personal soul searching, as he tries to come to terms with certain episodes of his past.

With the help of the surveyor, Yairi revisits experiences from his military service, confronting unresolved ethical and moral questions. He formulates a coded language and with symbolic actions and objects, he expresses thoughts and feelings about these experiences, which he cannot share publicly.

In the other part, Yairi shifts away from the contemplation of his personal experience towards a broader and multifaceted examination, which reflects many perspectives about the state and future of the Israeli space, in a personal, political, and geographical context. He chooses the cypress tree as a measuring tool and a symbol of memory.

Each of Yuval's works starts from direct photography, capturing a moment of truth or reality. Out of thousands of such photographs, he recomposes on an extensive grid all the fragments of time in the virtual space of a computer. He strings together non-sequential times into a timeless photograph.

YUVAL YAIRI (born in Israel, 1961)

Lives and works in Jerusalem, Israel.

Yuval graduated from the visual communications department at WIZO Haifa Academy of Design and Education in 1988. Between the years 1988-1999 he served as the director of a design studio in Jerusalem, where he produced and directed short films and documentaries. Since 2004 Yairi's work has been devoted to artistic research and practice, working mainly with photography and video.

Yairi explores historically, culturally, or politically charged local places that are also associated with his personal biography and memory. Whether it is a Leper Hospital or a writer's library, an abandoned Arab village, a cheap hotel room or a museum undergoing renovation – all are transformed through his personal perspective, deconstructing and recomposing spaces, times and events.

Yuval has exhibited internationally, including at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; Heifa Museum of Art, Israel; Tel Hai Museum of Photography, Israel; Orlando Museum of Art, United States of America; The Israel Museum, Israel; City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand; Bat-Yam Museum of Art, Israel. He also had solo exhibitions at Espten Gallery, United States of America; Zemack Contemporary Art, Israel; Andrea Meislin Gallery, United States of America; Alon Segev Gallery, Israel.

His work is part of major public and private collections in Europe, the Americas, and Asia including: the collection of The Israel Museum, Israel; Tel Aviv Museum Collection, Israel; Roundabout, Israel; Schusterman Center, United States of America; Sabag collection, Israel; Lahat collection, Israel; Livnat collection, Nederland; Kukoff collection, United States of America; Berman and Bloch Collection, United States of America; Naggar collection, United Kingdom. He is a recipient of the prestigious Ministry of Culture Award for Visual Arts, Israel, 2017.

Image credits: Yuval Yairi, *Survey #3*, 2016, Archival pigment print, 90 x 200 cm, edition of 5.
Courtesy of the artist and Fabienne Levy.

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#YuvalYairi #YuvalYairiCyphers&Cyresses

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