Tel Aviv

Tamir Zadok
TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART
27 Shaul Hamelech Boulevard
September 19–December 16

Nothing is what it seems in *Art Undercover*, 2017, the centerpiece of Tamir Zadok’s solo exhibition. The video traces the artist’s quest to find a lost oil painting by Charduval, purportedly a French artist who lived in Egypt in the early 1950s. With only a poor black-and-white reproduction of the piece and some anecdotal evidence, Zadok heads to Cairo to see the collection of the Egyptian Museum of Modern Art—what follows is a chronicle that reveals more via its meandering progression than any conclusive discoveries.

Viewers eventually learn that the artistic persona of Charduval provided cover for an Israeli intelligence agent named Shlomo Cohen Abarbanel while in Cairo. What better role than that of “artist” to avoid tricky questions about one’s agenda when traveling or living abroad? As Zadok searches for traces of the “French” painter’s legacy in Egypt, he begins to perform a variety of stealth research tasks himself. With a fresh haircut and a new suit, he approaches a Western curator at an exhibition opening about presenting his own work in Egypt. At first hesitant, the curator becomes more receptive once Zadok subtly switches the accent on his name, changing its pronunciation from the Hebrew, Tamir Zadok, to the Arabic, Tamer Sadek.

The artist’s earlier work also plays with the boundaries between political realities and fictional narratives, such as in *Gaza Canal*, 2010, a mockumentary (also on view) of an Israeli-run visitor center in Gaza built after the Israeli government pushed the territory into the sea. This Swiftian satire gives way in *Art Undercover* to internal reflection about art, nationalism, authenticity, and the mixture of exhilaration and trepidation that...
accompanies border crossings and secret missions of all kinds.

— Chelsea Haines

William Cordova  
Minneapolis
  Dave Muller

Toronto
  Amalia Pica

London
  “Melancholia. A Sebald Variation”
  Terre Thaemlitz
  “Everything we see could also be otherwise (My sweet little lamb)”
  Grace Weir
  Gianfranco Baruchello
  Nicola Tyson
  Andy Holden and Peter Holden
  Cookie Mueller and Vittorio Scarpati

Berlin
  Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet
  Alice Neel
  Harun Farocki
  Rodrigo Hernández
  Irma Blank
  Michel Majerus

Milan
  Osvaldo Licini

Rome
  Betty Woodman

Venice
  “Intuition”
  “The Boat Is Leaking. The Captain Lied”

Bern
  Tilo Steireif
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