



Noy & Tamir: Renaissance

27.07.23 — 02.09.23

Curator: Maya Frenkel Tene

Noy and Tamir are a couple of artists who create large sculptural installations that are detail-oriented, combining video, sound and light. The artists' visual and creative world evolves from one project to the next and crystalizes into a comprehensive body of work with a unique visual language. The artists use their studio and their intimate relationship as a space where reality can be processed and rearranged, and as a tool to cope with social and personal conflict. Their visual language leans on mythologic archetypes, recurring motifs, and key characters; it incorporates a fantastical nature of a grotesque esthetics with the contemporary reality of the state of Israel.

In the center of the exhibition **Renaissance** the artists erected a wall piece that is asking to appropriate the esthetics of altarpieces from the Middle Ages, where demons, gods and humans appear to be engaged in a surrealistic battle over power and control. This relief, whose center depicts a caricature-like courtroom scene, was sculpted during June 2023 against the backdrop of the judicial reform in Israel, as the artists travel between their studio space and the protest demonstrations. The relief, on its saturated creme-color palette, represents a grotesque reality subjugated to a monstrous system - an order of a male world that is perverse, cruel, based in a system of persecuting the powerless. In this context, the concept of "rebirth" alludes to its opposite meaning - pointing to the impossibility of salvation and to cultural regression: it is a renaissance of the dark ages, or the waiting for the dark ages to end and for renaissance's salvation to begin.

On July 18, 2023, during a protest he participated in, Noy Haimovitch was violently arrested by Israeli Police. This was followed by a futile attempt to bring him before a judge, a case which was finally dismissed. The trial protocol, which reflects the absurd mishandling of both the prosecution and the police force, is presented right next to the relief in the exhibition. Finally, the scenes of the trial - both the scene made in the studio and the one which followed in reality - seem to curiously clash and echo each other in an unpredictable way.

Noy&Tamir live and work together for about a decade. Noy Haimovitch holds a B.A. in Visual Communication and an M.F.A. from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (2016, 2019). Tamir Erlich holds a B.F.A. from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (2017) and an M.F.A. from the Royal College of Arts, London, specializing in Sculpture (RCA, 2020, where he received The Clore-Bezalel Scholarship). The couple exhibited their work world wide and held solo shows at the Israeli Center for Digital Art, Holon (2018), Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art (2021), Petach Tikva Museum of Art (2021), Barbur Gallery (2022), ACC Gallery Weimar, Germany (2022), Tel Aviv University Art Gallery (2023) and at Hamidrasha Gallery (2023). Noy&Tamir received numerous awards among which are the Gilbert Bayes Charitable Trust for sculptors, Aileen S. Cooper Award, Artis support to ACC Residency, Mifal Hapais Exhibition Grant for their exhibitions at the Israeli Center for Digital Art and at The Tel Aviv University Art Gallery.