

Noy & Tamir: Previously

02.05.24 — 15.06.24

Curator: Maya Frenkel Tene

The universe of **Noy & Tamir** is a fantastic one; a parallel world made of their own imagination and is in continuous dialogue with the reality around it. This team of artists creates sculptural installations that are laden with details and references, combining video, sound, and light. Their visual language is based on mythological archetypes, recurring motifs, and key characters. Within their carefully constructed and unique theatrical spaces, personal, social, and political events are intermixed.

Noy and Tamir's first solo exhibition in the gallery revisits key moments from their past as a rundown of events - as suggested in the title of the exhibition. It showcases a continuum of artworks relating to formative events in their biography, while in the background is the experience of growing up in Israel as queer teenagers, living under constant war and the daily struggle against political power. From a retrospective point of view, the couple's past is reflected in the current reality through its many crises, its violence, and moral decline. For both artists, the fanatical space offers a way of processing personal and collective trauma, feelings of disassociation, alienation, and a growing sense of living inside a simulacra. The return to previous chapters reflects a sense of standstill in the present moment and the impossibility of ever envisioning a future or any other reality. Like a never-ending telenovela, the next chapter is 'more of the same' - what has been is what will be.

In the center of the gallery a sculpture made of ceramic and iron features an octopus-like figure riding an enormous, monstrous size horse. The title of the work **Disease, War, Hunger and Death**, is based on the four horsemen of the apocalypse from the book of Revelation in the New Testament, it also echoes events of the present moment. The work was created during the Israeli judicial reform and influenced by the massive protests and their experience of horror, as demonstrators facing the police riders on top of their massive horses.

The work **Quest No' 1** is an installation featuring a scene from the worlds of D&D (Dungeons and Dragons). At its center is a ceramic game board design for an imaginary mission. For Tamir, the iconic role-play relates to a formative event of a shooting at a bar in the summer of 2009, "Bar-Noar" was a youth bar he frequented back then. On that particular Saturday he opted to skip the bar for a D&D session that lasted for many hours.

The character of Tamir the teenage boy is gazing at us in the work **OMG it's the guy from T.V #2**, a video based on Previews to news reels he was the host of, on teens TV. Each of the preview-reels opened with a title "Tomorrow!" - as a promise that was almost never fulfilled. This piece is showcased on a tablet with a ceramic frame, inspired by the set design of the educational TV studios in early 2000s.

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.