ROSENFELD GALLERY

Tamir Zadok: Restoring Order

15.10.26-05.12.26

Curator: Maya Frenkel Tene

A drone lands on a turntable in an art school, setting off a sequence of actions that unfold according to a seemingly familiar protocol. At the center of Tamir Zadok's solo exhibition is **The Art School**, a new video filmed over the course of a year with high-school art students. Moving between the real and the fantastical, the work oscillates between cinematic narrative and a succession of images and visual inventions. Here, Zadok seems to set aside the subversive and deconstructive stance associated with his practice, taking on the role of the "responsible adult," in charge of his students' education, as well as their safety.

When the school day is disrupted, the space becomes a closed system of materials and human resources. Tools, equipment, and teaching aids are transformed, both aesthetically and functionally. In the video, the act of artmaking is multilayered: on the one hand, the traditional teaching of figurative art, with exercises in classical drawing and sculpture, and the projection of art-history slides; on the other hand, the students engage in symbolic gestures that evoke avant-garde practices, from abstraction and formalism to minimalism and installation.

The photographs and objects in the gallery echo the film's aesthetic language while taking on new forms and functions. A monumental slide carousel becomes a circular sculpture that seems to contain the entire history of art; in a photograph of a desert landscape, easels stand in a straight line at evenly spaced intervals; and "surveillance cameras" are transformed into pinhole cameras, inviting visitors to look through them and experience the space from an alternative perspective.

Abandoned by a dysfunctional system, the teacher and his students are left to fend for themselves. A collective takes shape, operating in survival mode, evoking '**Insu-Pu: The Island of the Lost Children**', or perhaps '**Home Alone',** in which the protagonist improvises defenses and fortifications in a "do-it-yourself" style. These makeshift acts of protection become an artistic practice, one that defies the laws of logic and physics. Alongside the collective, the camera highlights the individual, lingering on each student's face. When Zadok appears alone - for instance, carrying pedestals on his back in a Sisyphean effort - his actions evoke key works in Israeli art while retaining the slapstick humor characteristic of his earlier work.

Destruction, repair, construction, and dismantling recur in cycles, underscoring the fragility of routine. The performative sequence shifts between artistic creation and acts of military induction, with each participant knowing their part. The ritual continues until the teacher and students resume their roles, and order is restored.

***

Tamir Zadok (b. 1979) lives and works in Tel Aviv. He graduated from the Academic Excellence Program at Hamidrasha School of Art, Beit Berl College, in 2007, with a B.Ed. in Fine Arts and Education, and received an MFA in Cinema from Tel Aviv University in 2014. He received the Israeli Ministry of Culture's Senior Video Artist Prize (2019), the Gerard Levi Prize for Photography from the Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2016), an Artis Project Grant (2016), and the Israeli Ministry of Culture Prize for Young Artists (2010). In 2017, he presented a major solo exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. His work has been exhibited at museums and galleries in Israel and internationally, including the Jewish Museum Hohenems, Austria (2025), and the Jewish Museum Munich (2026); Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem (2023); HIAP Gallery Augusta, Helsinki (2017); Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2015); the European House of Photography, Paris (2012); Artisterium, Tbilisi, Georgia (2010); Haifa Museum of Art (2011); and Petach Tikva Museum of Art (2008, 2010), among others. He has participated in residency programs at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (2012); Maquis Projects, Izmir, Turkey (2015); and Artport, Tel Aviv (2015–2016). He heads the Visual Arts Department at Ironi Alef High School in Tel Aviv.

ART PORT ארטפורט ارتبورت
מפעל הפיס

The Art School was produced with the support of the Pais Council for Culture and the Arts and Artport.

www.rg.co.il
rg@rg.co.il

1 Hamif'al st.
Tel Aviv Yafo, Israel
המפעל 1, קומה א'
תל־אביב–יפו, 6653511

Mon.	by appointment	ב'
Tue.–Thu.	18:00—12:00	ג'–ה'
Fri.	14:00—11:00	ו'
Sat.	13:00—11:00	שבת