

Act of Change

A joint exhibition of artists from Cologne/Bonn Germany and Israel

Writing down the title "act of change" - here - in this place and especially at this time, can itself be a statement, which has endless faces and interpretations. In the current atmosphere, it can be translated and interpreted in various, changing directions, into paths of learning, a conclusion and an authentic, fateful understanding.

I would like to learn and assimilate the explanation of the French philosopher *Alain Badiou* who interprets the meaning of the term "change". According to his teachings: "Change is undoubtedly an enigma. Politicians promise it, industry sells it and the media markets it. Change is the teacher's responsibility to transfer the meaning of the tradition from generation to generation. In this system there are concepts such as entity, world, object, thing, truth, subject."

The new exhibition in Machon Hamayim, the Weissman Givatayim Municipal Gallery near Tel Aviv, during these days of war, brings 23 dramatic, poetic, creative and thought-provoking interpretations of the term "action of change". This is a group exhibition of artists, who organized themselves into a type of society or association in Cologne/Bonn Germany and who reached out to Israeli artists from all over the country. Each artist in the exhibition brings an intimate inner interpretation from the veins of their soul to the term change, to the longing and hope found in their heart and in their imagination for a new learning. From this aspect, all the artists in the exhibition are actually elucidating Badiou's statement.

The concept of "change" is understood, as mentioned, as an act of change, both in relation to place and in relation to the thing itself, to the thing that is changing. *Franz Kafka's* mythical work "Metamorphosis" (*Die Verwandlung*) examines a state of change in the body and mind, a state perceived differently by the changer, in contrast to the view of those around him - a view that predicts a different form of social reference to bold and unusual behavior. Kafka himself, in a relevant reference to creative work, stated that: "Sight does not master the pictures, it is the pictures which master one's sight. They flood one's consciousness". In other words, the change comes from a personal view, from a personal translation and transfer from the mind to the heart. And Kafka adds, "We do not have time to live all the dramas meant for us - it is a feeling of missing out. Even reality isn't always realistic."

I am looking for a common denominator in the works of the Israeli artists. In this group you can find pieces that refer to family, the household, memories, historical moments that are not free from criticism, but also mainly questions of existential anxiety, or on the contrary, of optimistic hope. The common denominator undoubtedly touches on the practical and clear change of the situation as well as on the action of the "personal part" each artist plays in achieving this goal.

The German artists correspond with artistic and conceptual creative traditions and are more concerned with the symbolic and allegorical interpretation of the term "change". In their works, one can find fascinating artistic languages of expression, which bring a personal translation to feelings of the soul, which interpret in a designed and abstract language the connection to the possibilities of change. Some of the artists in this group

have been involved in recent years in joint projects with other artists in Poland and created a cluster of exhibitions and projects dealing with social aspects.

Although eighty years have already passed between Second World War and the Holocaust, we must admit that Germany-Israel relations in general, and the relationship between the citizens of the two countries and the artistic communities in particular, continue to be fascinating and diverse. Of course, the events of the past cannot be ignored, but especially these days, we must emphasize Germany's very special and unusual attitude towards Israel, the great support and boundless sympathy of its leaders for the local reality here. Also, against this background, it is particularly interesting to deal with the issues that come about due to the meeting of the two groups of artists.

The current project "Act of Change" is presented in the space of the "Machon Hamayim" in Givatayim, a historical site, a water well that became an art gallery, a place of unique significance in Israel's past. The combination of life and death in the hand of fate, precisely in this place, because of its deep historical significance, takes on a particularly strong meaning during the current period. The audience that will visit the exhibition is guaranteed a strong and deep experience, another step in building the common bond between Israeli artists and artists from Cologne/Bonn.

Doron Polak / Curator of the exhibition