

RADICAL HUMANISM

IRENE DE CRAEN IN CONVERSATION WITH MIKI CARMI & TAMY BEN-TOR

Anybody invited to realize a project in 1646 is asked to engage in conversation with a previously unknown correspondent.

This conversation takes place via e-mail and stretches through the whole period during which the artists develop their initial idea into final results. 1646 invites the correspondent at the other end of this contact to figure his/her way through this actual process.

In trying to picture what result the artists' work is going to, such exchange can become a reflection on the amount of otherwise untraceable choices of the moment which make up to the artists' practice.

This issue is part of the exhibition by Miki Carmi & Tamy Ben-Tor *Radical Humanism*, February 14 2014 in 1646.

This artist
Miki Carmi & Tamy Ben-Tor

This correspondent
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Concept and design
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FEBRUARY 4: Irene de Craen [IdC] to Tamy Ben-Tor [TBT] and Miki Carmi [MC]

Dear Tamy and Miki,

What a nice way to make your acquaintance. There's not much time to do this, so let's just jump right in: what are you planning to show at 1646?

All the best,
Irene

TBT - IdC

Hi Irene nice to meet you! Miki and I are opening a show in Israel tomorrow night and we're in the midst of resolving some major technical issues. It will take us a couple of days to reply. Please excuse the delay.

Kind regards tamy and miki

FEB 5: MC - IdC
Hi Irene

We are in the process of finishing the installation in Tel Aviv... So nice to meet you virtually as to your question: We are planning to have an installation of collaborative videos, photo works, works on paper, large scale head paintings, talking head videos and a performance.

We still did not see the space, but I have the feeling it will be more experimental and less tight than the current installation. According to that logic we have picked looser works and more ambiguous ones.

Miki

IdC - TBT & MC

Are there any recurrent themes in your work that we can also see in the work planned for 1646?

MC - IdC

Yes. It is always the moment of an endless attempt to translate a radical humanistic occurrence into an aesthetic icon.

IdC - TBT & MC

And is there a specific humanistic occurrence being translated into an aesthetic icon in this exhibition?

TBT & MC - IdC

The entire show is fragments of this attempts, some more successful some less

IdC - TBT & MC

The title of the exhibition is Radical Humanism. Humanism is a broad and sometimes ambiguous term that knows a long history. What or whose definition do you adhere when you use the term, or more specifically: how should one see the radical humanism put forward in this show?

TBT - IdC

We use the term radical humanism to push forward the content of the works, the magnified examination of the contemporary human condition which we amplify and seclude in both our works. By using exaggeration and grotesque gestures we actually want to touch upon a very fragile, very ephemeral part of the psyche.

FEB 7: IdC - TBT & MC

Can you give a specific example; explain some of the process, of how this sense of humanism is translated in your work?

FEB 8: MC - IdC

My protagonists are the embodiment of a broad humanistic approach. They represent the act of personal engagement contrasted by an unsentimental look upon the closest people in your life. The act of documenting the deteriorating relative is contrasted by the translation of it into an aesthetic vocabulary.

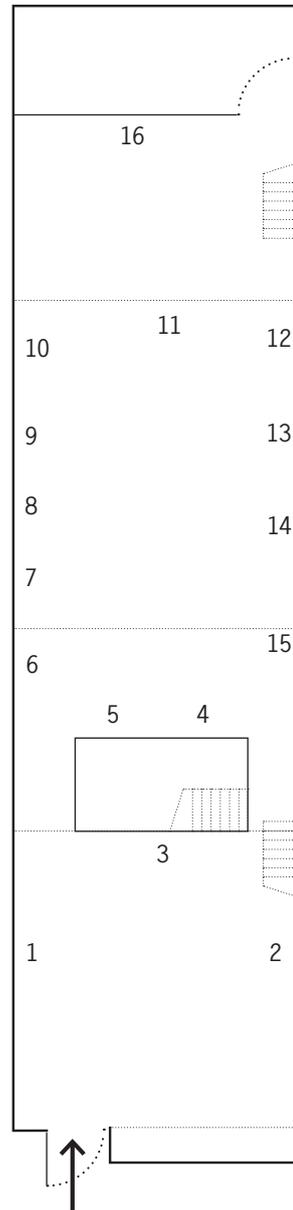
Miki

IdC - TBT

Tamy, I understand that you are doing a performance the day before the opening. What can you tell about this performance and how does it relate to the rest of the show?

TBT - IdC

The performance is parallel to the paintings, in a way that they both mark our individual practices. The performance is a live examination of some of the themes which exist in the rest of the works such as the grotesque theatricality of banal states of mind. The fact that it is live brings a different intensity to it; it is a huge part of my practice.



1. Ensor
2. Girl Power
3. Natural History
4. The Kitchen
5. The Curator
6. The Homeless
7. I'm Uzbek
8. The Clown
9. Big Grandma
10. The Tear
11. Mom
12. The Eye
13. Broken Nose
14. Spots
15. Abortion
16. The Curator 2