

Contemporary Issues in Video Art

Rothschild 69 and the Institut Français in collaboration with the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art and the Centre Pompidou (France) are honored to invite you to the conference *"Contemporary Issues in Video Art,"* which is being presented leading up to the exhibition *"Neo-Barbarism"*.

The conference will take place on Sunday, November 28, between 9:30–15:00, at Rothschild 12 (entrance from the rear), Tel Aviv.

Program

9:30 – 10:00 **Welcome and reception**

10:00 – 11:00 **Documentary Practices in Video Art**

Moderator: **Doron Solomons**, artist, editor and reporter for Channel 2 news
Sinai Abt, Artistic director, Dokaviv, The Tel Aviv documentary film festival
Nira Pereg, video artist and winner of the Gottesdiener Israeli art prize
Dor Guez, curator and researcher of photography at Tel Aviv University

Different video art practices that in the past had been limited to narrow definitions have expanded and grown broader in recent years. Documentary is one of the main genres whose definition and character has changed significantly. In this discussion we will question the essence of documentary video art: Where does the documentary begin and the feature end and how does video art fit between the two? Are there ethical codes that must be abided? If such codes exist, are they being violated? Does direction of the participating "characters" render the work art and does art have freedoms that documentary cinema lacks? Does a pure documentary method, without the interference or direction of the object of filming, still exist and can it be considered art? Our discussion will also deal with whether such definitions are relevant in our time. The current inherent connection between different genres has created a new archetype, and the discussion will attempt to delve into this connection.

11:00 – 11:30 **Recess**

11:30 – 12:30 **Neo-Barbarism and the Discourse of Betrayal of the Minor Artist**

Moderator: **Naomi Aviv**, curator
Roee Rosen, artist and head of graduate studies at Midrasha School of Art at Beit Berl College
Sharon Eyal and **Guy Bachar**, choreographers
Gilad Ratman, video artist

Within the framework of the exhibition “Neo-Barbarism,” which is based on video installations, curator Naomi Aviv will lead a discussion about relevant topics, such as: What is neo-barbarism? Have there been developments in the field of barbarism? Why has it been linked to video art? What is the new “discourse of betrayal” and what affinity does it have to the “discourse of loyalty” that has been imposed on Israelis in the wake of the government’s recent decision to require citizens and immigrants to take an oath of loyalty to Israel as a Jewish state? Is it possible to apply to artists a “law of minority” as described by French philosophers Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari in their book *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*? Has Israeli video art gained international recognition? How does that happen? And what did New York Times critic Roberta Smith mean when she said “a certain chemistry often exists between Israel...and young artists wielding video cameras”? Many of the works presented in the exhibition have a clear performative dimension, and to a large extent the artist himself or an actor portraying the artist is performing. What significance is bound to the artist’s performance as an actor in his film? Can this be connected to the larger phenomenon that can be called “the return to theater” in the age of reality TV?

12:30 – 13:00 Recess

13:00 – 14:15 **Beyond the White Cube: Video Art as an Index of Our Time**

Moderator: **Ilana Tenenbaum**, curator and director, New Media Center at the Haifa Museum of Art

Christine Van Assche, curator of new media at the Centre Pompidou, Paris

Amitai Mendelsohn, curator of Israeli Art at the Israel Museum

Dalia Levin, curator and director the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art

New media works that take place in real time and often require the viewer’s participation have challenged exhibition practices as well as museum collection and preservation practices, which have traditionally been based on rare and fixed art objects. These art forms have presented a symptomatic measure of the zeitgeist and have appeared in recent decades as a “cultural dominant” of social and economic circumstances, as allegorical and analytic tools to describe contemporary culture. This discussion will deal with the philosophical, conceptual and practical aspects of curatorship, exhibition, documentation and collection within the museum space.

Admission to the conference is free

The conference will be conducted in Hebrew with the exception of the third discussion